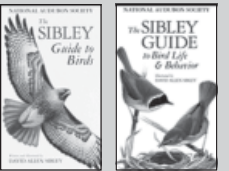


Help support Wyoming's wildlife and wild lands by purchasing your copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (\$42.50) and *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (\$32.50) from Audubon Wyoming! Other titles also available. Stop by 101 Garden Creek Road to browse our selection!



Join a Christmas Bird Count. Find information at:  
[www.audubonwyoming.org](http://www.audubonwyoming.org)

## Make a Difference for Wyoming's Wildlife & Wildlands!!

### JOIN/DONATE

Membership — \$30.00  
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**  
358 North 5th 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 Community Naturalist in your area for volunteer opportunities.





Wyoming State Office  
National Audubon Society

# Audubon Wyoming News

Vol. 10, Issue 1
SUMMER 2009



## AUDUBON WYOMING'S FIRST ANNUAL BIOBLITZ A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



Audubon Wyoming held its first annual BioBlitz in the Shirley Basin June 20-21.<sup>st</sup> Over 50 men, women and children showed up for the event. The volunteers helped catch bugs, count birds, find reptiles, seek mammals, and survey plants in the set 24 hour period. There was no rest for the weary but everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about our sagebrush ecosystem in the process...which was a main goal of the "blitz."

Many of us have driven through the Shirley Basin or across I-80 thinking, "when is this ever going to end?" The sagebrush steppe can seem, at a glance, a sterile environment, not much going on. However, as we discovered over the course of the June weekend, quite a lot is "going on" in our sagebrush. As the team leader for the plants, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database botanist Joy Handley put it "It's amazing, when you really stop to look, how many plants there are." The

inventory activities began on Saturday afternoon, when Arthur Kneeland, a graduate student studying entomology at the University of Wyoming, led a group of participants through various insect-catching methods. Arthur employed sweep nets to survey the insects flying at the tops of the sage while the pit-fall traps captured the insects inhabiting the ground. "Insects are the base of every ecosystem," Kneeland said. "We see them as the enemy so often, and really we could not survive without them." While bugs and plants were being surveyed, Doug Keinath of Wyoming Natural Diversity Database and a band of volunteers set small mammal traps and Tim Banks of Laramie Audubon and Bird Brained Tours laid out the bird count transects. By 7pm, everyone returned to camp and settled in for Dutch oven cherry cobbler and s'mores. Around the campfire volunteers discussed what they had seen and counted that day and signed up for more surveys the next day. Sunday morning brought high winds and cloudy cool skies, but did nothing to dampen the excitement of the mammal and bird surveys. Each mammal trap checked felt like Christmas morning, what would we find? The kids especially enjoyed opening the salamander traps. In the end, Audubon along with its partners, Laramie Audubon Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the University of Wyoming met the goals of the event which were:

1. To collect data to give to land managers so that they might enhance and inform management and monitoring decisions,
2. Educate community members about the critical role sagebrush ecosystem plays in our landscape and how diverse it really is, and
3. Have FUN!

Cheryl O'Mally, a fifth grade teacher at Indian Paintbrush Elementary School, who participated in the event to enhance her science teaching, and Wanda Peters, the new Audubon Center at Garden Creek educator put it best when they said: "I thought, there are so many plants and animals of the sage area that I don't know!" and "There is so much to look at, it is so fun!"

Audubon hopes to continue the BioBlitz event every year, moving it around the state so as many people as possible can participate. This year's BioBlitz event was made possible by a Together Green grant, funded by Toyota through the National Audubon Society.



### Highlighted Species & Species most commonly seen at the BioBlitz surveys

Birds	Mammals	Amphibians/Reptiles	Insects	Plants
Greater Sage-grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Deer Mouse <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Short-horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i>	**This section needs further study to determine species - check our website for more information.**	Wyoming Big Sagebrush <i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis</i>
Mountain Plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		Bird's Foot Sage <i>Artemisia pedatifida</i>
Brewers Sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i>	Pronghorn <i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Northern Leopard Frog <i>Rana pipiens</i>		Carpet Phlox <i>Phlox hoodii</i>
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	White-tailed Jack Rabbit <i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Bull Snake <i>Pituophis catenifer sayi</i>		Sandburg Bluegrass <i>Poa secunda</i>
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Northern Pocket Gopher <i>Thomomys talpoides</i>			Winterfat <i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>
American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	White-tailed Prairie Dog <i>Cynomys leucurus</i>			Green Rabbitbrush <i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>

**AUDUBON WYOMING**

The state office of the National Audubon Society is the primary contact for education, conservation, and outreach in the state of Wyoming.

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**WILDLIFE AND WIND ENERGY:  
THERE IS ROOM FOR BOTH**

The growing demand for green power, both as a consumer choice and as a public policy in many parts of the country, is a welcome development. As demand grows it is generally focused on renewable energy and comes with the growing need to be done with sensitivity to the environmental impact. Recognizing the important global benefits of renewable sources of energy must be balanced with the care necessary to mitigate the very real local and regional impacts of large scale development.

Based upon the National Renewable Energy Laboratories estimates we have 152 times the amount of renewable energy resources needed to power our Country in 2030 if we invest in green energy today. This means the choice between protecting our planet and country from global warming or protecting areas of high biological value today IS A FALSE CHOICE. With the abundance of renewable energy resources in the United States, coupled with the ability of biologist to map critical wildlife areas, there is ample room in this coun-

try for BOTH wildlife and renewable energy. Audubon recognizes that impacts of renewable energy development on wildlife will likely occur with the large scale industrial development of renewable energy at specific development locations. However, it is also clear that doing nothing to curb global warming today is just delaying a tragic environmental outcome into the not to distant future. Given these choices, Audubon recognizes the need to act today. By doing rigorous science and having research biologists map the areas with the highest biological value, we can minimize impacts of renewable energy development by allowing development to occur in areas with less biological value. The good news is we have so much more renewable electricity than the United States is projected to use in 2030 that we as a society have a lot of options of where these industrial development projects can occur. By working together Audubon strongly feels we can keep green energy green.

**Audubon Wyoming  
Welcomes Two More To Its Family**



**Wanda Peters** loved catching grasshoppers and lightening bugs and hearing the crickets and birds. They were part of her everyday life growing up in her Eastern Pennsylvania childhood home. Wanda graduated Prescott College in Arizona with a degree in Environmental Education/Natural History. Sharing nature with others became her passion and her life's work. She has been a classroom teacher in alternative schools, park ranger for the National Park Service in both Prescott and Flagstaff, Arizona, freelance environmental educator, naturalist, and residential outdoor school program coordinator in Washington State, site supervisor for Northwest Regional Outdoor Science School on the Oregon coast, and a trip leader for an eco tour company in the northwest. Her favorite job though is being mom to two wonderful daughters, Krista, 24 who lives and studies in London, and Kelly age 22, who is attending Whitworth University in Spokane, WA.

Wanda would like to invite and encourage you all to visit or revisit the Audubon Center at Garden Creek, where there's always birds at the bird feeders and a few squirrels, raccoons and deer as well.



**Daly Edmunds** is the new Regional Policy Coordinator for Audubon Wyoming, based out of Laramie. In this brand new position, Daly is responsible for furthering the Sagebrush Ecosystem Initiative on a regional scale - providing valuable opportunities to work with government representatives, elected officials, conservation organizations, and community leaders throughout Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Those in the Saratoga Valley may begin to recognize Daly around town. She'll be working with members of the community on various projects oriented around the neighboring sagebrush landscape and the rich bird and wildlife community that it supports.

Daly received her masters in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming, on pronghorn antelope research in southwestern Wyoming. Prior to joining Audubon in 2009, she worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Wildlife Federation, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation. In her spare time Daly enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, attempting to capture wildlife with a camera, and camping with family & friends.

**CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**Murie Audubon Society**

Casper  
**Jim Brown, President**  
(307) 472-0278  
tbarbarb@tribcsp.com  
Murieaudubon.org

**Red Desert Audubon Society**

Lander  
**Andrea Cervoski, President**  
(307) 332-7723  
Andrea.cervoski@wgf.state.us

**Rendezvous Valley**

**Audubon Society**  
Pinedale  
**Steve Smith**  
sbsangler@hotmail.com  
(307) 367-4629

**Bighorn Audubon Society**

Sheridan  
**Wayne Schatz**  
wshatz1@bresnan.net  
(307) 672-0224

**Cheyenne High Plains**

**Audubon Society**  
**John Cornelison, President**  
jcornelison@bresnan.net  
(307) 634-1075

**Laramie Audubon Society**

**Vicky Sue Henry, President**  
VickiS@uwyo.edu  
(307) 766-2628

**Meadowlark Audubon**

**Society**  
Big Horn Basin  
**Dennis Saville, President**  
(307) 587-6702  
dtsaville@wyoming.com  
www.meadowlarkwyo.org

**Powder River Audubon**

**Society**  
Gillette  
**Jacelyn Downey**  
(307) 756-3941  
jdowney@audubon.org

**Community Naturalist Updates**



**Bird Banding**

Bird Banding is in full swing. With stations in Laramie, Casper, and near Keyhole Lake, Audubon Wyoming has been busy collecting valuable information for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. For dates and times please go to [www.audubonwyoming.org](http://www.audubonwyoming.org).

**Summer Education**

Northeast Wyoming: Community Naturalists will be helping with camps in Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright. Casper: Junior Bird Academy will take place from July 20-23. For more information call (307) 473-1987.

**Sagebrush Education**

Audubon Wyoming Community Naturalists, using a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, have commissioned artist, Sherrie York, to illustrate a Sagebrush-steppe Ecosystem poster. This poster is available in our new Sagebrush Exploration trunk. Teachers, community leaders, as well anyone wishing to learn more about the ecosystem that makes up more than 50% of our state can request to use the trunks. For more information, please visit [www.audubonwyoming.org](http://www.audubonwyoming.org).

**Kids' Corner**



*Insect Word Find*

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

**Did you know...**

- The scales of all snakes and lizards are made of Keratin, the same material that your hair and fingernails are made of!
- Wyoming Horned Lizards (commonly called horny toads), can shoot a spray of blood from their eyes to scare off predators.
- Rattlesnakes have heat sensing pits between their eye and their snout.
- Counting the "buttons" on a rattlesnake is not an accurate measure of its age. They get extra buttons in conjunction with how often they shed, and they may shed several times a year. The bottoms also may get broken off during the snakes lifetime.
- During the mating season, a male tiger salamander may impersonate a female in order to sneak up on another female and deposit its spermatophore on top of rival males!



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

