

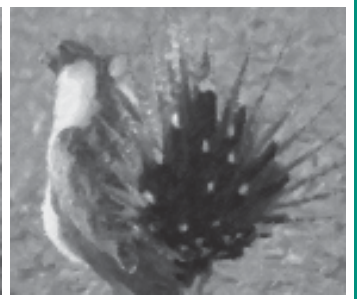


Wyoming State Office
National Audubon Society

Audubon Wyoming News

Vol. 9, Issue 3

WINTER 2008 / 2009



AUDUBON WYOMING PARTNERS WITH KINGFISHER BIRD TOURS

These tours represent a new arrangement between Audubon Wyoming and Kingfisher Bird Tours, a Montana-based birding tour company. Bird tours are offered to our members, and these tours are a fund-raising event for Audubon Wyoming. A portion of the tour fees are for a tax-deductible contribution (which the participant will be able to claim) to Audubon Wyoming. Thus, your participation in these tours helps contribute to the conservation efforts of Audubon Wyoming! These tours are designed for Non-Smoking participants who enjoy spending a full day in the field. They are guided by John Shipley, owner of Kingfisher Bird Tours. 2009 destinations include Ecuador and Pelee Island, Canada.

Complete details and tour itineraries are online at www.audubonwyoming.org.

Ecuador-Andes tours: (See about 400 bird species, including such gems as Andean Cock-of-the-rock,

Toucan Barbet, Golden Tanager, Sword-billed Hummingbird, and Andean Condor. We should see 40+ species of dazzling hummingbirds and 60+ species of flashy tanagers, interspersed with toucans, trogons, and antbirds. We stay at superb lodges, and the meals are excellent. Limited to 8 participants. Fees are \$3,995 from Quito. For more information go to www.audubonwyoming.org.

Pelee Island, Canada tours: (These Warbler Weeks will feature hundreds of warblers, of 25-30 different species. See such beauties as Bay-breasted, Palm, Blue-winged, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Kentucky, Blackburnian, Canada, Black-throated Blue, and many more. Stay at a charming B&B while enjoying non-stop birding on this vibrant island, situated in Lake Erie. Limited to 6 participants. Fees are \$1,695 from Detroit. For more information go to www.audubonwyoming.org.



Audubon Co-Authors Featured in New Publication

This winter, a spectacular book, *Red Desert: A History of Place*, will be available to the public. In this "biography of a place," Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx, photographer Martin Stupich, and a group of experts explore this world class landscape which is threatened by oil and gas development. Three Audubon Wyoming representatives wrote chapters for this impressive work: Andrea Orabona and George Jones — both Audubon Wyoming Board Members and Mac Blewer, Audubon Wyoming's Grassroots Organizer. Ms. Orabona wrote a chapter about the desert's birds, Dr. Jones wrote a chapter about the sagebrush vegetation of the desert and Mac wrote an article about the history of conservation efforts to protect the desert.

States Dr. Jones, "The Red Desert is a good place to just sit, or walk, and enjoy the space. No doubt a person can learn a lot about the Red Desert by studying Martin Stupich's photos and reading the different chapters. Maybe the book will even give people some kind of understanding. But what a person misses by reading the book in the comfort of the easy chair is the aridity and the wind. By the end of a day in the Red Desert, you're ready for the sun to go down and the wind to stop blowing. Even the shade and shelter of an automobile take some of the edge off the Red Desert."

Mrs. Orabona says, "This book provides a wonderful opportunity to share with readers the incredible diversity of bird species that inhabit the

Red Desert. I encourage anyone who is interested in birds and the habitats on which they depend to read this book, and then explore and discover for your-self the avian riches of the Red Desert."

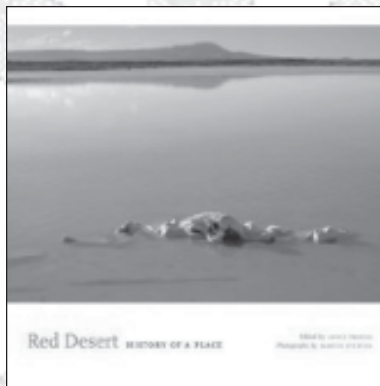
The Red Desert is one of the last undeveloped landscapes in the United States, as well as one of the most endangered.

It is an Audubon Important Bird Area and a last refuge for many species of wildlife. Sitting atop one of North America's largest untapped reservoirs of natural gas, the Red Desert is a magnet for energy producers who are damaging its complex and fragile ecosystem in a headlong race to open a new domestic source of energy and reap the profits.

To capture and preserve what makes the Red Desert both valuable and scientifically and historically interesting, writer Annie Proulx and photographer Martin Stupich enlisted a group of scientists and scholars to join them in exploring the Red Desert. Their essays reveal many fascinating, often previously unknown facts about the Red Desert — everything

from the rich pocket habitats that support an amazing diversity of life to engrossing stories of the transcontinental migrations that began in prehistory and continue today on I-80, which bisects the Red Desert.

Complemented by Martin Stupich's photo-essay, which portrays both the beauty and the destruction that characterize the region today, *Red Desert* bears eloquent witness to a unique landscape worth fighting to protect.



H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S !

AUDUBON WYOMING

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

www.audubonwyoming.org

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Gros Ventre Riparian Complex IBA Restoration Project: Building a Better Home for Trumpeter Swans

Audubon Wyoming applied for and was granted \$120,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help restore and rebuild wetland habitat for nesting Trumpeter Swans within the Gros Ventre IBA (located within the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, WY). Audubon Wyoming's primary role in this project on the Gros Ventre IBA was to facilitate the restoration and reconstruction of critical habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl and shorebirds as well as create Trumpeter Swan nesting habitat. Through this restoration project Audubon Wyoming met a major goal of the IBA program, which is to conserve designated Important Bird Areas for long-term biodiversity.



To that end, Audubon, in partnership with the National Elk Refuge, Wyoming Game and Fish and Wyoming Wetland Society is proud to announce we have completed the Trumpeter Swan restoration project! The project was a lot of work (just ask the Refuge and our contractor) but we look forward to the anticipated benefits of our actions this coming spring.

The project goals that were accomplished during this project were strengthening the dike at Pierre's Pond #1, one of the existing ponds within the wetland complex, by installing rock filled gabions. We also worked on stabilizing 420 feet of the river bank, which will protect the entire wetland complex from being "wiped out" during the spring run off. In another area of the wetland complex (Pierre's Pond #2) we restored the area's water control structures and reconstruct the wildlife incompatible dikes.

Audubon Wyoming and its partners can't wait until the spring 2009 to observe just how all the waterfowl, shorebirds, Neo-tropical migrants as well as the Trumpeter Swans enjoy their new summer home. If you are in the Jackson area this summer, check it out!

Chapter Highlights

A recent grant from the Bighorn Audubon Society enabled the Mountain Plains Heritage Park to add a small apple orchard to homestead enhancements at the Park east of Buffalo. The funds came from the Society Sanctuary Fund which is made up of memorials and donations from members, collected over the years. It was learned that in the homesteading era the planting of apple trees, either by seeds or seedlings carried by the immigrants from their eastern homes, was an important addition to their new life. The apple trees brought shade and wood, blossoms in the spring, nesting areas for birdlife, and fruit that attracted the deer as well as providing food and drink to the homesteaders. The six apple trees that were planted in this "orchard" are well protected with a log fence around each tree.

The Mountain Plains Heritage Park is a 100+-acre complex belonging jointly to the City of Buffalo and Johnson County, and comprises several separate entities, each with a real purpose: the Buffalo Wetlands/Wildlife Project; the Vivienne Hesse homestead cabin; common areas for recreation, community events and celebrations; and the Historic Bozeman Trail and Wyoming Railway Terminus sites.

Together these projects provide educational, recreational and entertainment opportunities and increased awareness of the history and natural resources of the area. The wildlife pond is under the jurisdiction of the City of Buffalo, and the remainder of the Park is administered by a Joint Powers Board for the City and the County.

The High Plains Audubon Society has, for more than 20 years, sponsored the Audubon Award at the Laramie County School District #1 Science Fair each spring. The elementary schools send their winning 4th, 5th and 6th graders and their projects to compete for District awards, as judged by people in the community who have scientific training. A committee from the chapter then walks through the exhibits to look for those projects pertaining to the environment and wildlife biology.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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Kids' Corner



Name This Track

Hint: This large mammal stands nearly 7 feet tall and once roamed the great plains in huge numbers.

Santa's Tips for an Eco-Friendly Holiday Season

- If you want to be Earth-friendly this year, use comics or bandanas to wrap your gifts. If the average person wraps twenty gifts during the holidays, and if just three of the twenty were wrapped in newspaper or bandanas, the new paper saved could cover 45,000 football fields!
- Cut along the seam of an empty potato chip bag. Turn it inside out, wash it and wrap with the silver side out.



Did you know...

Although polar bears spend most of their time on the ice, they are excellent swimmers and can stay underwater for as long as two minutes.



A single snowstorm can drop 40 million tons of snow, carrying the energy equivalent to 120 atom bombs.

Foxes sometimes nip at the heels of cattle, causing them to stomp. This makes mice and other rodents come out of the ground for the fox to eat.



Elephant seals are air-breathing mammals, but they can also hold their breath for up to two hours while diving. They also have the most flexible spine in the animal kingdom.



Sheep can survive for up to two weeks buried in snow drifts.



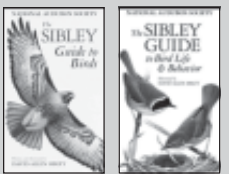
Winter Word Search

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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

 Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.

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

JOIN/DONATE

Membership — \$20.00

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

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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.



A little song for you all: (Sing to Jingle Bells chorus)

*Chickadees, Chickadees, the Chickadees
need feed*

*Oh what fun it is to see the cardinal in the
snow Oh*

*Sparrows here, Sparrows there, Sparrows in
the barn*

*Donate now and help us keep the birdies safe from
harm.*

