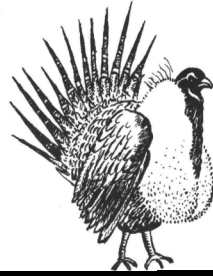


# PLAINS & PEAKS



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**MURIE AUDUBON**

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## BOLTON CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION INITIATIVE

**A**l Conder, Regional Fisheries Supervisor with the Wyoming Game and Fish Casper office, will be our guest speaker at our next monthly program where he will tell us about the ongoing Bolton Creek Riparian Restoration project.

This project will restore the riparian (cottonwood, willow and riparian grass) communities within the Bolton Creek watershed, southwest of Casper. There are remnant cottonwoods and willows, but head cuts within the stream have drained the adjacent floodplains, which have left several reaches of these communities high and dry. The Bureau of Land Management has excluded from grazing a stretch of Bolton Creek to determine cottonwood and willow response, which has been extremely favor-



### CALENDAR

**October 4—Board Meeting , 7 PM  
ACGC, 101 Garden Creek Road**  
**October 14—Membership Meeting,  
7 PM, Oil & Gas Conservation  
Building, 2211 King Blvd.**  
**October 22—Field Trip—info on Pg.  
4**  
**October 24—Deadline for Novem-  
ber newsletter articles**  
**Every Thursday—Brown Bag Lunch  
with the "Birds", ACGC, 101  
Garden Creek Road—12 Noon**

**SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE—READ  
YOUR NEWSLETTER AT MURIE'S  
WEBSITE—CONTACT ROSE-MARY  
KING—[rking7453@bresnan.net](mailto:rking7453@bresnan.net).**

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able, but these communities are still at risk due to the lowering of the water table. Game & Fish currently assists the beaver with dam building materials and food sources in order to increase their activity in the watershed. Beaver dams will gradually raise the water table and prevent further head cut events. Over time beaver dams will raise the stream bed to a point where the disconnected floodplain will once again become reconnected and serve as a fully functional floodplain that will dissipate energy during flood events. Later evaluation will be made to determine if the cottonwoods and willows will naturally propagate the riparian area, or if it will be necessary to augment the cottonwood and willow restoration with some plantings.

Restoring a riparian corridor back to cottonwood, willow and riparian grass will provide food, shelter, and water for wildlife, especially during drought years. Furthermore, this project will improve the hydrologic functions of Bolton Creek, which will reduce sediment loads into the North Platte River, thus improving trout habitat. Moreover, the cottonwood-willow community will provide improved habitat conditions for neotropical migrants (songbirds), cavity nesting birds, non-game mammals, non-game fish, amphibians, and potentially trout. In addition, sage grouse late brood-rearing habitat will improve due to the raising of the water table, which will increase native riparian herbaceous plant species, such as Nebraska sedge and basin wildrye.

Please join us on Friday, October 14, 2011 at 7 pm at the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Building at 2211 King Blvd. for this very interesting presentation. As always, the program is free and open to the public!

**Al Conder and Bruce Walgren**



## ALONG THE PATHWAY WITH HARRY

**S**ummer is over and the chill is here. The leaves change color announcing another change in season. This is a good time to visit

the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. The falling leaves and changing colors paint a different scene for all to enjoy. Birds are migrating from the north to here, and from here South for the winter.

My sons and I get the last bit of paddling in before the weather gets too cold. Most of the tourists are gone now and it seems like we have Alcove Lake and the North Platte River to ourselves. But even now, we store the kayaks away, the summer too short as usual.

I haven't thought too much about birding lately as I'm so busy with work and family, but there is one thing I'd like to focus on this year and that is membership. This is one area where I would like to concentrate my energy. I know we are competing with iPods, television, games, and many other distractions the digital world has to offer, but this is one area that really needs focus. I wish to encourage folks to get up and go birding. Invite your friends to our general meetings. Invite your friends to join MAS. If you're not a birder, go walking. Get out of the house, get off your behinds and enjoy nature. Stretching the legs, getting fresh air, and take time to really look at what's out there. Carry a magnifying glass and really look at the details up close. You might see something new.

Speaking of something new, Wanda Peters has asked for assistance in fighting off the raccoons which habitually attack the bird feeders at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek. They are masters at raiding the feeders for sunflower

seeds. They manage to rip off the tops and clean out the seed overnight. Bart Rea and I have been discussing strategy to ward them off. The first steps taken were to drill holes in the tops of the feeders to install locking safety pins. The pins were made from the ever so handy construction material, clothes hanger wire. They were installed after refilling the feeders late in the afternoon with hopes that they would keep the lids from being torn off. The next morning, the feeders were checked and lo and behold, some success! We are working hard to reduce the seed waste from these masked bandits. I believe we are making some progress. We managed to slow the thieves down, but we still need to prevent them from climbing the poles. The next step is to install some sort of baffle to stop the bandits from scaling the poles.

The next item I'm pleased to announce is that Peter Arnold has granted Murie Audubon Society (MAS) permission to publish his excellent birding photos on our website (<http://murieaudubon.org>) and for education programs hosted by MAS and Audubon Center at Garden Creek, providing we give him due credit. For those folks who are familiar with Peter's photos, they know he is a top notch photographer on the look out for nature photos. He carries an excellent weapon of choice to frame and shoot very difficult pictures with a full frame CCD digital camera. Please visit our website for more photos, and I look forward to seeing more of his talent in our website, newsletter, and education programs.

Lastly, I need to mention that MAS is not a bird or animal rescue. As tough as it sounds, we are just not equipped to receive birds or other animals that are lost or possibly injured. I know that Bruce and Donna Walgren are equipped to receive some injured birds, to stabilize them, take them to a veterinary and then transport to a licensed rehabilitator—sort of the EMTs of local bird rescue. Please know that we are all concerned about injured animals, but that we are just unable to handle the many special cases that

are unique to each and every animal that needs care. Please contact the many Animal Control/rescue Services in Casper first to see if they can help you.

Good birding to all!

**Harry Martin, President, 307-251-0939**



## THE RIPPLING WAY

(Audubon Center at Garden Creek and Audubon Wyoming)

**T**he smell of sage after a rain, the sights of Boxelder Maple bugs thermo-regulating everywhere, and the nights that have a different kind of chill...nature has a way, it seems, of transitioning easily and without regret. I have much to learn.

The summer here at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek was filled with much activity; well over 1000 recorded visits just in the months of June, July, and August. There was bird banding, nature programs for young and not so young, a steady stream of visitors, and the Sweet on Birds Fundraiser, which netted \$1,133 for the Audubon Center. Thanks to the hard work of many Murie members, for this event, but especially Ann Hines, whose energy, dedication and time went above and beyond.

On the Audubon Wyoming and the larger National Audubon front, there is a renewed focus

on birds, on flyways and on protecting, saving and restoring those habitats on which birds depend. What can we do here in Casper as individuals and as a group to make a positive impact on the birds and wildlife we enjoy so much? Actions, large and small, make a difference, whether it's picking up litter, re-using, writing letters, attending meetings or launching campaigns on behalf of birds. Hopefully in the coming year, the center will provide you with a way to not only learn and connect but to also actively engage in conservation work.

Take note that the Audubon Wyoming office has moved to Fort Collins to be part of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, which at this time includes Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. (See Contact Info. under "Contacts" on Home Page.)

Thanks to the support and the help of many of you, the Center is alive and growing. From preschoolers, to college students, to those of us more experienced with life, are all benefiting from having the Audubon Center at Garden Creek close to where we live and work. Because of some grants and the generous donations, I am closer to making the Center self-sustaining. As you know there are always expenses, always things that need fixing, always the bills for electricity, phone, garbage, ink for the printer. If you can help with a monetary donation, great, but just as important are your visits, your time, and your willingness to bring friends, families and neighbors to the Audubon Center. Challenge them to leave their cell phones, Ipods, Facebook, TV, internet behind for just a few hours.

"And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair" - Kahlil Gibran

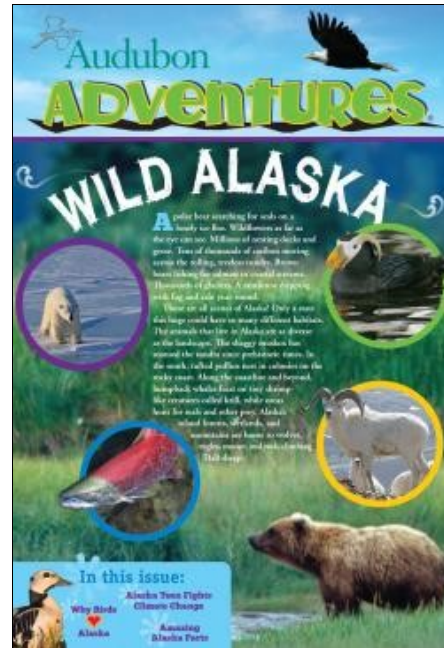
See you on the trail, along the creek, delighting in the wind and the birds and the crisp Fall days!

**Nature Center Supervisor—Wanda Peters**

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES

The order for Audubon Adventures has been sent. I've ordered a total of sixty-eight. A few teachers chose not to con-

tinue and we had four new teachers. Most six grades have now gone to Junior High Schools and I do not have access as to who they are. Also, according to National Audubon's web site, AA is not available to six grade this year. This is a change of which



I was not made aware.

I would like to thank Mary MacQuire and Kathy Davis for sponsoring a class for this year. Also, Beecher Sturbe for sponsoring more than one class.

What a great start for the new school year.

**Education Chair—Ann Hines**

## FIELD TRIP

The October field trip will be on Oct. 22. We will meet at the Audubon Center and leave about 7:00 am. We will visit Healy Reservoir, Lake DeSmet and the Story area, if time allows. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. If the weather is bad, then the trip will be canceled.

**Chris Michelson (234-8726)**



## HELP LOCAL HABITAT

### BUILD A BIRD FEEDER FROM A RECYCLED MILK CARTON

Putting up feeders attracts birds to a place where you can enjoy watching them, and makes sure they have enough food, especially in winter.

#### You will need:

- A used paper milk carton, any size
- Scissors
- Strong twine (jute or sisal twine is best... and natural!)
- Field guide to local birds (printed or online)
- Birdseed for wild birds

#### Suggested time:

About 30 minutes to make one bird feeder

#### Preparation:

1. Wash out the milk carton and let it dry thoroughly.
2. Cut two windows on opposite sides of the carton. Make them large, but don't cut all the way to the bottom. You'll be filling the carton with birdseed up to the level of the bottom of the windows.
3. Make a little ledge where birds can sit as they

eat at the feeder. On the bottom of each "window," cut down about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch on each side. Then fold the bottom edge down.

4. If you want to decorate your carton, use crayons. Ink from pens or markers can be toxic. Also avoid tape and glue, which can stick to the birds.

5. Poke a hole through the top of the carton, pull the string through it, and tie a knot at the top.

6. Add birdseed - black oil sunflower seed will attract the most bird species. If you want to attract a particular kind of bird that is native to your area, find out what that bird likes and use it in your feeder.

7. Find a good place to hang your birdfeeder:

a. Find a place that's not too windy and has trees or bushes nearby.

b. Place the feeder well off the ground, but where you can reach it to refill it.

c. Fill the feeder only with as much food as the birds eat in 2-3 days.

d. Keep the area under the feeder clean by raking up seed that falls on the ground.

e. Provide water near the feeder. A clay saucer works well. Place it on the ground or on a stump. Refill it regularly, especially if the water gets dirty. Keep the saucer clean.

(From National Audubon websight—Audubon Adventures pages)

## SUET RECIPE

2 c. quick oats

2 c. cornmeal

1 c. flour

$\frac{1}{3}$  c. sugar

1 c. solid shortening

1 c. peanut butter



Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Melt shortening, add peanut butter, mix well. Pour this over the dry ingredients and mix well. Pat into a 13x9 inch pan lined with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Cut to fit suet feeder. (From *Birds & Blooms* Oct. Nov. 2011—Joyce Devitt, Hephzibah, GA)