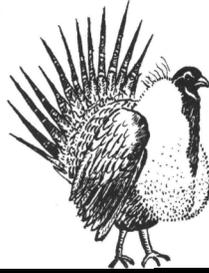


PLAINS & PEAKS



Vol. 44—Iss. 4 — MAY—2010

MURIE AUDUBON

Casper Wyoming - Monthly Publication
<http://www.murieaudubon.org>

NORWEGIAN FJORDS AND SVALBARD WILDLIFE

Bart and Liz Rea will be sharing their experiences in Norway and the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard at our May 7 meeting. Norway is Europe's northernmost country and the Kingdom of Norway (as it is officially known) is famed for its mountains, spectacular fjord coastline, as well as its history as a seafaring power. Their trip, in July 2009, began in Bergen, the country's cultural center and gateway to the fjords region, followed the coast north, then culminated at Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard group. Internationally important seabird populations are located along the coastline in the northern two-thirds of the country. Colonies with six-figure numbers of breeding Atlantic Puffins and Black-legged Kittiwakes are found in several places.



Svalbard, the northern most part of Norway, is about midway between mainland Norway and the North Pole. Originally a whaling base in the 17th and 18th centuries, Svalbard is now home to coal mines, and also relies upon research and tourism as important supplementary industries. With an arctic climate, the Arctic fox, Svalbard reindeer, and the polar bear are the only indigenous land mammals of the area. Sea mammals include the bearded seal, walrus and various species of whales. Svalbard does have a very rich bird life in summer. The

CALENDAR

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Svalbard Rock Ptarmigan is the only bird known to remain on the islands throughout the year. The most common birds are auks and gulls; some (in particular the Arctic Tern) fly extremely long distances during migration. There are no trees in Svalbard, but the polar willow and the dwarf birch form small bushes a few centimeters high. Most common are mosses, lichen, and fungi. But there are also about 170 vascular plants (like saxifrage and Arctic bell-heather) growing on the islands.

Norway also enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world, in part due to the discovery in the late 1960s of offshore oil and gas deposits. The country is richly endowed with natural resources: petroleum, hydropower, fish, forests, and minerals. In fact, only Saudi Arabia and Russia export more oil than Norway. Norway's rich, sea-faring tradition and its lengthy, rugged coastline have been central to its development. More than a thousand years ago, Viking raids on the coasts of Britain and France were commonplace. The Vikings also mounted expeditions to the coast of North America. Later, the Norwegians began to trade. Originally, the coastal waters provided fish for export.

Due to some scheduling difficulties, we have moved this program to the first Friday in May.

Please plan on coming to see this program to learn more about this fascinating country on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 7 pm at the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Building at 2211 King Blvd. As always, the program is free and open to the public!

Program Chair—Bruce Walgren
(Photo: Walrus by Bart Rea)



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Publication of the May edition of *Plains & Peaks* together with our General Meeting on Friday, May 7th (note change from our usual second Friday of the month) mark the informal conclusion of the Murie Audubon year, but not the end of activities. Check out the events planned for late Spring and Summer, highlighted in this newsletter, and be alert to additional field trips publicized from time to time in the local press. If you have an e-mail account and are not yet receiving reminders of Murie events, you can sign on by contacting Bruce Walgren, Program Chair, whose e-mail appears in this newsletter.

On another note, the end of June marks the second and last year of my term as President. I've often joked that the Society runs itself, which of course is a tribute to the core of dedicated volunteers who get things done. Singling out folks for thanks bears the risk of overlooking someone, so I apologize in advance for geriatric oversight. Knowing that Vice President Harry Martin was ready and able to take over meetings when I went AWOL was a comfort. He's helped in many other ways, including the assembly of a weather station for the Audubon Center.

Backed up from time to time by J. P. Cavigelli and Donna Walgren, Secretary Laurie Fletcher recorded our proceedings for posterity and reworked Murie's application to TogetherGreen for funds to acquire and integrate Garden Creek stream flow data with existing studies of the creek's ecosystem.

The handover of Treasurer's duties from Chris Michelson to Stacey

Scott was seamless due in large part to the former's meticulous records and the latter's accounting background. In his "spare time," Stacey organized and conducted several field trips.

Bruce and Donna Walgren, as always, juggled a variety of tasks including but not limited to organizing the birdseed sales, lining up speakers, dispensing information at general meetings, administering favorite backyard birds (the list, not the birds), chairing the Eagle Fund Dispersal committee, serving on the Murie Board and coming up with conservation ideas.

Rose-Mary King's dedication to producing a quality newsletter is evident in what you're holding in your hands or viewing on your computer screen. And the large crowd attending the Annual Banquet she chaired is a testimony to "build it and they will come."

Thanks to Jan Whitney for negotiating the mysteries of bulk mail and maintaining membership records, not easy tasks.

As Education Chair, Ann Hines has over the years engaged thousands of children with nature through the Audubon Adventures Program.

June Calmes worked diligently to grow the Murie Audubon Society by developing ideas to attract new members, her efforts frequently co-publicized on TV by well known media personality J.P. Cavigelli.

As Hospitality Chair, Betty Krause ensured availability of delectable treats at our general meetings.

The counsel of emeriti Board members Bart Rea and Bob Yonts kept us pointed in the right direction. And three cheers for all Board members and for all the other volunteers!

Without the generosity of the

Bailey family and Audubon Wyoming in making the Audubon Center available to us, Murie would be a ship without a port. In the current economic climate, funds for staffing the Center are limited, so all the considerable demands of fulfilling its mission of education and community outreach fall on the shoulders of just one person, Wanda Peters, the Center Supervisor. Much as we'd like, we can't clone her, so anything you can do as a volunteer to help Wanda will go a long way towards keeping the Center's doors open.

President—Jim Brown



BIRD NOTES

Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds are singing on territory, flocks of Turkey Vultures are being reported, Mountain Bluebirds are showing up, and the Greater Sage-Grouse are strutting on the leks – Spring Migration is here!!! (This is probably the favorite “season” of many birders!!). Shorebirds have also started to show up – there have been reports of yellowlegs, avocets, Black-necked Stilts, and Western Grebes. Other sightings include Ospreys, Common Loons, Sage Thrashers, and Loggerhead Shrikes. A more unusual sighting – Betty Rickman found a Cattle Egret west of the Natrona County Airport. Great Horned Owls are on nests and chicks are starting to hatch. The owl that has been on the nest at the Sun-

rise Shopping Center here in Casper has now hatched at least one chick; she has been “checked on” by many people and so far seems to be handling all the attention reasonably well. We all hope the chick-rearing goes well with little or no complications raising offspring in this rather perilous location.

March yard birds – For the month of March, Wayne and I received 196 yard bird selections from 16 states plus Yukon Territory, Netherlands, and Grenada, with 83 different species reported. Bluebirds, Spotted Towhees, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Meadowlarks are showing up, along with scatterings of Sandhill Cranes, sparrows, swallows, and warblers. Robins are definitely making their presence known – they were the most reported species. No. 2 was Spotted Towhee; Western Meadowlark was in third place. Fourth place was a tie between American Goldfinch and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Wyoming Yard Birds

Casper: Pat Classen – Red-winged Blackbird, Cecil Foote – Western Meadowlark, Chris Michelson – Sharp-shinned Hawk, Jeff Morton – Brown Creeper, Casper College Greenhouse – Ring-billed Gull, Rose-Mary King – Cedar Waxwing, Tammy Brown – Evening Grosbeak, Chris Brown – Great Horned Owl, Bruce Walgren – Common Raven, Donna Walgren – American Robin; **Cheyenne:** Barb Gorges – Mountain Chickadee; **Crowheart:** Anna Moscicki – Short-eared Owl; **Du-Bois:** Michael Kenney – Sharp-shinned Hawk; **Lovell:** Glen Olsen – American Robin; **Riverton:** Suzanne Hargis – Hooded Merganser, Bob Hargis – Double-crested Cormorant.

Thanks to all who helped with the Yard Bird Project in March!! Send your bird notes and yard bird reports to Donna Walgren, 4311 S. Center St., Casper, WY 82601, or email to Piranga@bresnan.net, or

phone 234-7455. Good Birding!!!
Donna Walgren

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE YARD BIRD PROJECT

Wayne Tree from Stevensville, MT started this project in Sept, 1998. The basic premise was that a lot of people enjoy seeing the birds in their yards – some have bird feeders, some just put out that necessary commodity, water; other people just enjoy seeing the different birds that happen to come through their yards. The objective of the Best Yard Bird Project is: each month you pick the bird species you most enjoyed seeing in, over, or from your yard.

I was newsletter editor of *Plains and Peaks* at that time and Wayne emailed me, outlined the Project, and asked me to help promote it in Wyoming. I thought it was a great way to get people involved in observing the different birds that visited their yards and neighborhoods, so when Wayne asked me to help, I immediately said yes!! These monthly yard bird reports would give us a snapshot of what was being seen in neighborhoods around Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain region, and across the country.

In October, 1998, we had 64 “yard bird selections” turned in from 8 states with 39 different species reported. We now average 195 yard birds from 17 states with 80+ species. Most reports are from the Rocky Mountain region, but we are getting more people from other states (and countries) involved.

Since then, Wayne and I have expanded the project to say a “yard bird” can be from a place you are visiting. When Bruce and I visit my brother or his mom in

Nebraska, we usually also each pick a bird from there or maybe from a town between there and Casper. And we get birds from overseas where people are vacationing (or stationed – we have received “yard birds” from people in Iraq). We also have a regular contributor from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

We only list the Wyoming Yard birds in the *Plains and Peaks* newsletter; if you would like to see the complete list, let me know and I will send you a copy by mail or by email. And if you would like to help with the Yard Bird Project, send me your species choice for the month and the location where you observed the bird.

Donna Walgren

AUDUBON CENTER AT GARDEN CREEK HAPPENINGS

Spring has most definitely arrived. Since I have not yet completed a full year in Wyoming, I'm not familiar with all the usual signs. Every day seems to be filled with some new sound or sighting or bloom that begs to be identified and recorded.

This morning however, the spring temperatures brought an unexpected “crisis”. The worms in the worm bin got too warm and started crawling out. (not unlike cattle getting outside of their fencing) I'm talking a mass exodus of thousands, which was more than a bit troubling and necessitated immediate action. These are not merely everyday earthworms, they are *Eisenia foetida*, or red wigglers, which most of the time are happy to eat certain food scraps and turn them into a rich dark compost for

houseplants or garden. They showed me that a change was in order and it became my signal that we had indeed made it through our first winter, albeit a very mild one from what I hear.

The month of May brings school groups, Bird Classes, International Migratory Bird Day and a trip to Spokane, WA to witness my youngest daughter graduate from college. But most importantly, it's the time for the Annual Bird-a-thon. In past years, Bart Rea and Bob Yonts have solicited pledges and spent a very long day birding, to raise money for the Center. Not many of us like to ask for money, and there's not many of us that have an excess of the green stuff. But this fundraiser is crucial to the continued operation of the Center. The budget has been trimmed and saving measures continue to be implemented, but when it comes right down to it, it just takes money to be able to keep the lights on, and the programs going. There's some other “teams” that have formed to give these distinguished gentlemen a bit of competition and keep them on their toes. Ann Hines and Rosemary King, will be birding on May 15, and JP Cavigelli, Will Waterbury and myself will use May 28 to beat the number of species seen in a 24 hour period. I've heard talk of other teams forming, so please consider joining one of them or making a pledge. Your continued support is important to keep this Community Nature Center functioning.

Summer will bring preschool programs, Evening Walk and Talks, yoga classes, and nature activities for young and old. There will be “discovery backpacks” for young naturalists to check out and use while they are on site, thanks to a generous donation by Jim and Gloria Lawrence.

The ever popular Jr. Bird Day Camp will be held on July 19 and 20 for 9-12 year olds, and on July 21 and 22 for 5-8 year olds. The cost of

the camp will stay at \$25. Check the web site and the papers for more detailed information as the reality of summer gets nearer.

On the needs/wish list right now: Printer Ink, suet, sugar for hummingbird nectar, clippers, pruners, shovels and other tools for trail and garden maintenance (used is A-ok!), cutting board.

Thank you for your visits, support, and help. I look forward to seeing you at the Center!

WANDA PETERS

(Ed.'s Note: Wanda is always in need of volunteer help at the Center for various activities, office needs, staying at the Center while she is out—that way the Center is open for visitors!—etc. Give her a call at 473-1987 to check out the possibilities to fit your schedule and her needs. **VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!**)

WYOMING BIRD REHABILITATORS

In 2005, Murie Audubon was appointed to receive restitution funds from the Federal District Court to distribute to licensed rehabilitators in the state of Wyoming. Since that time over \$81,500 of restitution money has been distributed to rehabbers in Wyoming. Currently (including Lois Layton), there are five active rehabbers in Wyoming.

Most readers of this newsletter should be aware that Frank and Lois Layton cared for injured birds, and releasing the birds that they so skillfully rehabilitated until Frank's passing in March of 2008. Since that time Lois, Donna and I have continued a scaled-back triage approach to the care of injured birds in and around Casper. We advise the public about what to do with injured birds and take injured raptors to receive veteri-

narian care, and then place the birds that can potentially be released with licensed rehabilitators in Wyoming. Since Diane Morse's Northeast Wyoming Raptor Center is the closest facility, she has been kind enough to take in the birds that need further care. This brings me to the topic of this article - the other rehabilitators in the State of Wyoming. I pestered these very busy people to provide me with their histories and backgrounds, and have only shared portions of what they sent me here. Hopefully, I haven't edited their stories beyond recognition. I have included contact information for each of them should anyone need assistance in your locale. You all should know that they all share a passion for birds and spend countless hours caring for them - thank you!!! Check out Murie Audubon's web page (<http://murieaudubon.org/>) for lots of pictures that these rehabbers have shared with us.

Center (N.E.W. Bird) was formed in 1990 in response to the need for bird rehabilitation, public education, and wildlife conservation in the area. Founder Diane Morse and volunteers of N.E.W. Bird are dedicated to the care and potential release of injured and orphaned raptors. A native of Midwest, Wyoming, Diane credits her interest and passion for birds to her early years on the ranch where "every injured or orphaned critter that ended up on our porch was cared for to the best of our knowledge and abilities." She then acquired experience with cage birds through her work in a pet store in Gillette, plus keeping birds in her own home. She also credits her early volunteer work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, specifically Olin Oedekoven, and Murie Bird Hospital's

tors, reinforcing the rehab center's objective of raptor assistance. For their continuous efforts, Diane and her volunteers have received recognition from the Wyoming Wildlife Federation as well as Wyoming Game and Fish.

In 2009, N.E.W. Bird admitted 89 raptors. Of these 89 birds, 10 died, 23 were euthanized, 42 were released and 14 will be released later this spring.



Northeast Wyoming Raptor Center - Gillette, WY 307-682-2532 or 307-689-6483 (cell)
Northeast Wyoming Raptor

Lois Layton for help in getting N.E.W. Bird up and running. For a decade, the rehab program cared for small mammals and all migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species. In the year 2000, due to an overwhelming number of "patients", a difficult decision was made to focus N.E.W. Bird's limited resources on birds of prey.

The rehab center has served northeast Wyoming for 20 years and works closely with local law enforcement, state and federal agencies, landowners, and various industries in the area. The increase of industrial and residential development in the region has led to a corresponding increase in affected rap-

Ironside Bird Rescue, Inc. - Cody, WY - <http://ironsidebirdrescue.blogspot.com/> 307-527-7027

Born in Downers Grove, IL, Susan Ahalt moved to Cody in 1981, after living in Boulder, CO for many years. Because she enjoyed the outdoors and spent many weeks up in Wyoming going on horsepacking trips with friends, she decided to move here. Ironside Bird Rescue was started in 1987 after finding an orphaned starling baby that had fallen out of its nest near her house. One thing led to another and after 23 years the facility now has many different sized mews and flight barns for the exercise of raptors so they will be strong enough for release. Susan lives in an 125+ year old log cabin with a corgi mix dog, a couple cats and many birds in a free flight aviary attached to the

house. Susan is now retired from her "real job". Along with rehabbing birds, she spends a lot of hours volunteering at the local Buffalo Bill Historical Center in the graphics department. Ironside Bird Rescue accepts birds in need of larger facilities (for exercise prior to release) from Janet Britt, Kathy Kavanagh as well as Derek Craighead. Ironside Bird Rescue admitted 108 birds (not all, but mostly raptors) with a 56% release rate in 2009.



Teton Raptor Center – Wilson, W Y
 h t t p : / / tetonraptorcenter.org/ 307-200-6019

Teton Raptor Center was established by Roger Smith and Margaret Creel in 1997. In 2009, they admitted 35 birds to their facility, four were released and one transferred. Their educational programs have reached 5,000 people via classroom visits, on-site tours, and community programs. The Center has been supported largely through the donation of time by Roger and Margaret, and by limited contributions.

Both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Wyoming have issued permits for the Center to provide raptor rehabilitation and educational programs. The Center currently has four "educational" birds, which it uses for its outreach programs: a Great Horned Owl, a Red-Tailed

Hawk, a Peregrine Falcon, and a Golden Eagle. Although they don't have a flight barn, they now have a master falconer on staff, Jason Jones. With Jason in charge, we have been able to exercise birds prior to release.

Janet Britt - Riverton, WY
 307-856-1290 (h) 307-335-2127 (w).



Riverton native Janet Britt worked as a raptor biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for 8 years. While she was at home in Riverton in

1984, she met her future husband Wyoming Game and Fish Warden Tim Britt. Tim was often called out on injured raptors or young birds that were starved. At that time, only the Laytons were doing rehab work and they often could not take all the birds that were hurt or starved. So the G&F policy was to put the bird down. With her years of experience of working hands-on with raptors of all species, it was easy for her to make the transition to work with the birds in rehabilitation. When they lived in the game warden house, the Britt's had no facilities, so they kept the birds in the basement in boxes for washers and dryers. After experiencing several escapes in their home, they built cages in the backyard for the birds. When they moved to the country after Tim became the waterfowl biologist for Wyoming, they built an indoor facility that was heated and a small outdoor flight cage/bird barn. This is where she does her rehab work now. She

has one great horned owl with an amputated wing that serves as a surrogate parent. Janet is a Conservation Project Coordinator for the Wyoming Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Kathy Kavanagh - Lander, WY
 307-332-5030 (h) 307-857-3653 (w)

Kathy grew up in suburban Chicago, always having a love for animals. After college and then law school, Kathy worked for the Cook County State's

Attorney spending the next 15 years in Chicago prosecuting violent criminals. She did find time to do some canine search and rescue in the Midwest, training several dogs, and in the process and learning valuable lessons along the way. Five years ago, she lost her job with the Cook County State's Attorney's office, and decided to search nationwide. She applied to an open position in Fremont County, ultimately moving to Lander, and is now the Assistant County Attorney for Fremont County. Always fascinated with raptors, but never having the time and the regular schedule to devote to the "internship" program available in the Chicago area, she was determined to hook up with any rehabbers available in the area. Inquiries around the area lead her to Janet Britt, who welcomed her, and eventually she became her sub-permittee.

In conclusion, we would be remiss in not acknowledging the skill and dedication of the veterinarians who provide their expertise in these endeavors – that's another article. But I'll share Kathy Kavanagh's thoughts (and mine) about the future of rehabbers in Wyoming: "None of us are

getting younger, and someday sooner than I would like, they will retire. I worry about that day. So if any younger people are out there, with a passion for raptors, I invite you to take on the challenging but rewarding and fascinating work that these people have been doing. Sure, you have to get past the rats and the mice, (their horrible smell in the microwave if you actually cook them rather than just defrost them), the hawks shooting their poop on the walls, and the pellets being deposited in places you never really noticed before. But it's all worth it when you see that hawk or owl take flight for the first time in weeks or months, and soar through the air relishing their freedom and their health. Nature will take its course. They may or may not survive, but we know that we were there to improve their odds at a time when they needed that help. For now, at least, when we look up into the skies, they grace us with their beauty and the wonder of nature.



(Photo by Susan Ahalt)

Bruce Walgren

BIRDING IN SARATOGA AREA

The Wings Over Carbon County Birding Club is having a special birding weekend June 18, 19, and 20 in Saratoga. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in joining us for a fun filled weekend. The main focus of the weekend will be on just plain fun. This will be a no frills event. Everyone is responsible for their midday lunch and beverages plus transportation to and from the birding areas. The cost of this weekend's fun will be \$60 per person before June 1st and \$70 after that date. Please plan on registering early as it makes planning a event such as this much easier. Birding Field Trips are subject to change according to weather conditions.

Schedule Of Events

Friday Evening June 18—6 to 8 PM. A picnic will be hosted by club members in the backyard of Francis and Janice Bergquist, 1104 Club Court. The backyard gate on Rangeview St. will be open and marked for everyone's convenience. We will discuss the weekend activities at this time. Directions to the home will be provided upon request via email or by calling 307-326-8073.

Saturday June 19—7 AM to 2 PM. A field trip is planned for the Battle Creek area where we have birded in past years. Club members will provide a continental breakfast but bring your own lunch and beverage.

5:30 PM--A sit-down dinner, included in the fee, will be held at Medicine Bow Lodge. Steve Loose from the US Forest Service will be our guest speaker again this year. Drawing for door prizes and silent auctions will be held during the evening's events.

Sunday--June 20—7 AM to 10 AM. Saratoga Wetland field trip to view the many bird species that live in that area.

10:30 A.M. Club members will provide a hot breakfast at the home of Bob and Carol Randall and we will close out the weekend with some more bird watching on their property along the Platte River

Cabins are available for rent at the Medicine Bow Lodge for around \$100 per night. This includes meals. Please call 307-326-3439 for reservations.

Please email Francis Bergquist—fcbjmb@hotmail.com or Joanne Jensen—anker@uniontel.com for more information. Please send your check for registration to: Joanne Jensen, PO Box 725 Encampment Wyoming 82325.

(Ed.'s Note: I have attended this birding weekend for several years and each year it only gets better! The birding club members are gracious hosts, excellent cooks and great birding guides. If you haven't attended before, please plan to—you won't regret it!)

CHAPTERS SUMMER CAMPOUT

Audubon members across Wyoming are planning a free birding campout June 25-27 in the Lander area. Anyone interested in Wyoming bird watching is welcome to attend the weekend activities.

Participants can meet Friday evening at 7PM in the Sinks Canyon Visitor Center parking lot for a little birding, and again Saturday morning at 8AM at the front of Lander City Park, by the park department office at 405 Fremont Street, for a day of birding—pack your lunch. At 6PM we will have a potluck at the gazebo next to the office.

Accommodations are on your own. Free camping in Lander City Park is available on a first come, first served basis, with pullouts

along the river for campers and a grassy area for pitching tents. There is an RV park in town, camping at Sinks Canyon State Park outside of town, or motels, if you prefer.

While we have no organizational expenses requiring participants to pay a registration fee, we would appreciate you letting us know if you plan to attend so that we can give you any updates. Please provide both an email address (if you have one) and your phone numbers, especially the cell phone number you use on the road to Barb Gorges 3 0 7 - 6 3 4 - 0 4 6 3 or rbgorges4@msn.com. Include how many people will be in your group and where you think you will be staying Friday and/or Saturday night.

Local birders Bob Hargis, Eva Crane and Jim Downham plan to give us a tour of their favorite birding hotspots.

Bob writes: "Sinks Canyon is a spectacular natural wonder just 10 minutes from downtown Lander. The towering canyon walls will be great spots to hear and see Canyon Wrens and White-throated Swifts soaring above the cliffs. The canyon riparian Popo Agie River has nice trails that have Lazuli Buntings, Green-tailed Towhees, Western Tanagers, Violet-green and Tree Swallows. Yellow, Yellow-rumped and even Virginia's Warblers nest here as well. The hill-sides are good for assorted sparrows, finches, and towhees.

"Ocean Lake is about 25 miles away from Lander northwest of Riverton. It is over 12,000 acres of wonderful marsh and waterfowl habitat. Clark's and Western Grebes will be nesting and gulls, loons and ducks should be in good numbers in late June. Sandhill Cranes, Forster's Terns, Califor-

nia Gulls and Double-crested Cormorants should be nesting as well as Sora and Virginia Rails. Rarities are always possible around this great lake.

"Twin Creek area east of Lander is good for waterfowl at the Dry Lake overlook off Hwy 28. Off Hwy 287 is the Juniper and riparian area around Twin Creek. Birding here is good for Black-throated Gray Warblers, Gray flycatcher, Pinyon Jays and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers as well as raptors."

Barb Gorges

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2010-11 SLATE OF OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT.....Harry Martin
VICE-PRESIDENT.....OPEN
SECRETARY.....OPEN
TREASURER.....Stacey Scott

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bob Yonts, Chris Michelson, Amy Olsen, Fred Eiserman, Kathy Davis, Will Waterton, Karl Oswald

Election to be held at the May 7th meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 15. We will meet at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek at 8:00 AM for a trip to Edness Kimble Wilkins State Park to see migrating birds. This trip is in conjunction with our spring bird class, and will be led by JP Cavigelli.

Monday, May 31, Memorial Day. We will meet at the Audubon Center at Garden Creek at 8:00 AM for a trip to Bates Creek on the Garrett Ranch. We will walk up the creek looking for the resident birds. Call Stacey Scott at 262-0055 for details or questions.

WHAT A TEAM!

One of the critical parts of getting the newsletter in the mail is the **FOLDERS!**

I want to thank the following for their help in folding the newsletter, whether they came one time or multiple times, this past year: Ida Anderson, Chris Michelson, Jan & Ed Whitney, Fred Eiserman, Dick and Doris Von Holdt, Bobbie Roberts, Wanda Peters, Ann Hines, Stacey Scott, Dave Baskett, Betty Rickman, Jim & Jean Herold, Larry Keffer and any others that were drafted on the spot! We are mailing an average of 550 newsletters a month and they are usually 12 pages (three 11" x 17", double-sided). Each newsletter had 2 folds, 3 pieces of tape and then is labeled! We have quite a production line and it usually takes 1 1/2 hours. More folders would make less work for everyone. If you are interested in volunteering less than 2 hours a month for this activity, please call me at 577-0568 or email at king7453@bresnan.net. Additional help would be most welcome!!!!

Please let me know, also, if you would like to receive a paperless newsletter via Murie's website—www.murieaudubon.org. Electing to do this will lower our printing and postage costs as well as saving TREES! The web newsletter is always more colorful, has active web links within articles, and more pictures than space allows here. Even if you are an arm-chair reader with your in-hand newsletter, you can always check the online version.

Editor—Rose-Mary King

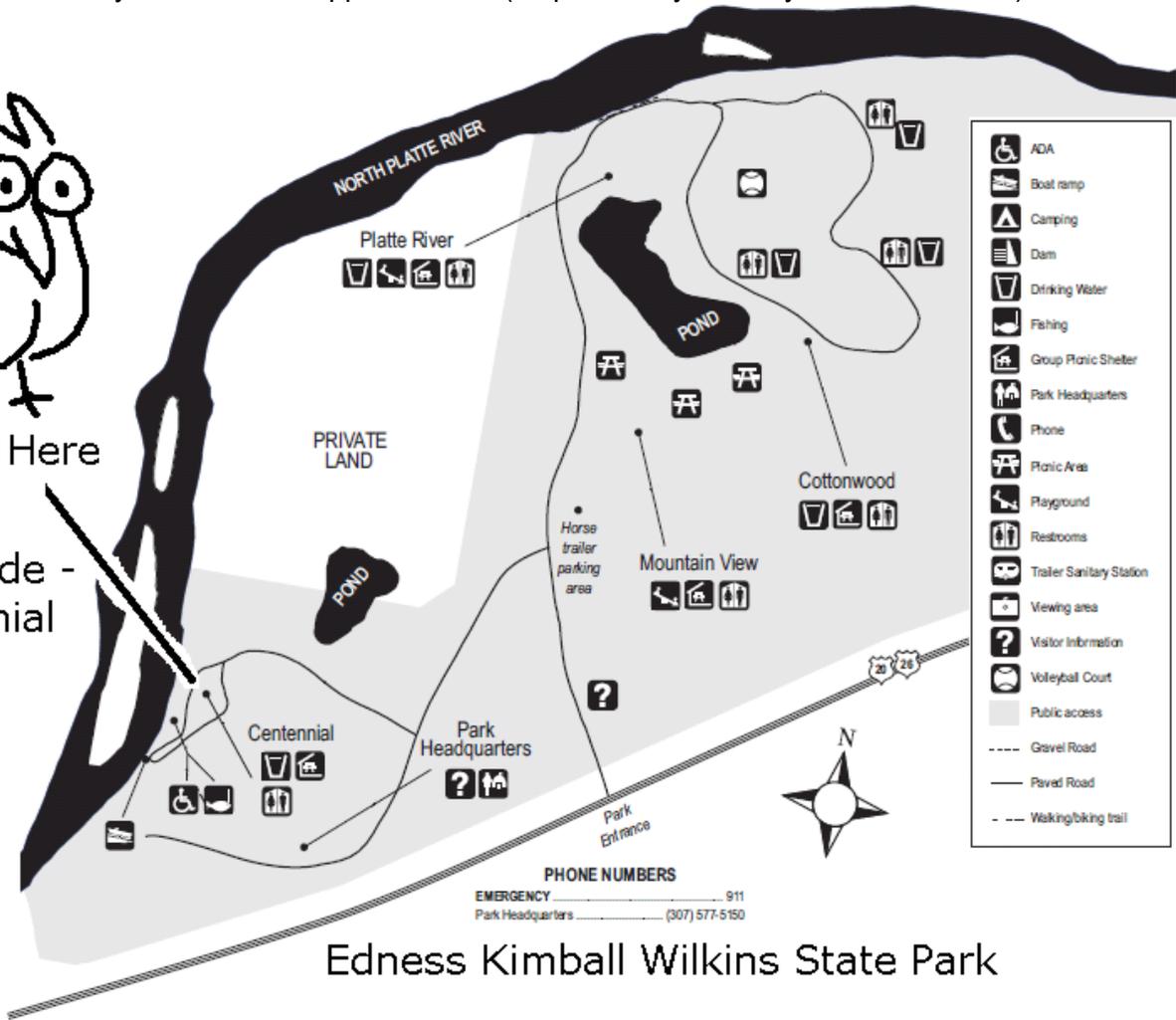
MURIE'S SUMMER PICNIC

Our annual summer picnic will be Tuesday, Aug. 10 at the **WEST-SIDE CENTENNIAL SHELTER** at Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. Please call Ann Hines—266-3160 or Gloria Lawrence—266-2574 to let them know you plan to come. Meat will be provided, so don't forget to put your name in the "pot"! Bring a covered dish and your own plate service. Bring a birding friend and introduce them to the group and Murie's many activities and opportunities. (Map courtesy of Harry Martin. Thanks!)



Meet Here

West Side - Centennial Shelter



Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park

ACGC FUNDRAISER

A committee is forming to hold a fundraiser to benefit ACGC, scheduled for Aug. 6 from 5-7 PM at ACGC. If you are interested in helping with this activity, please call Ann Hines at 266-3160.

Have A Great Birding Summer