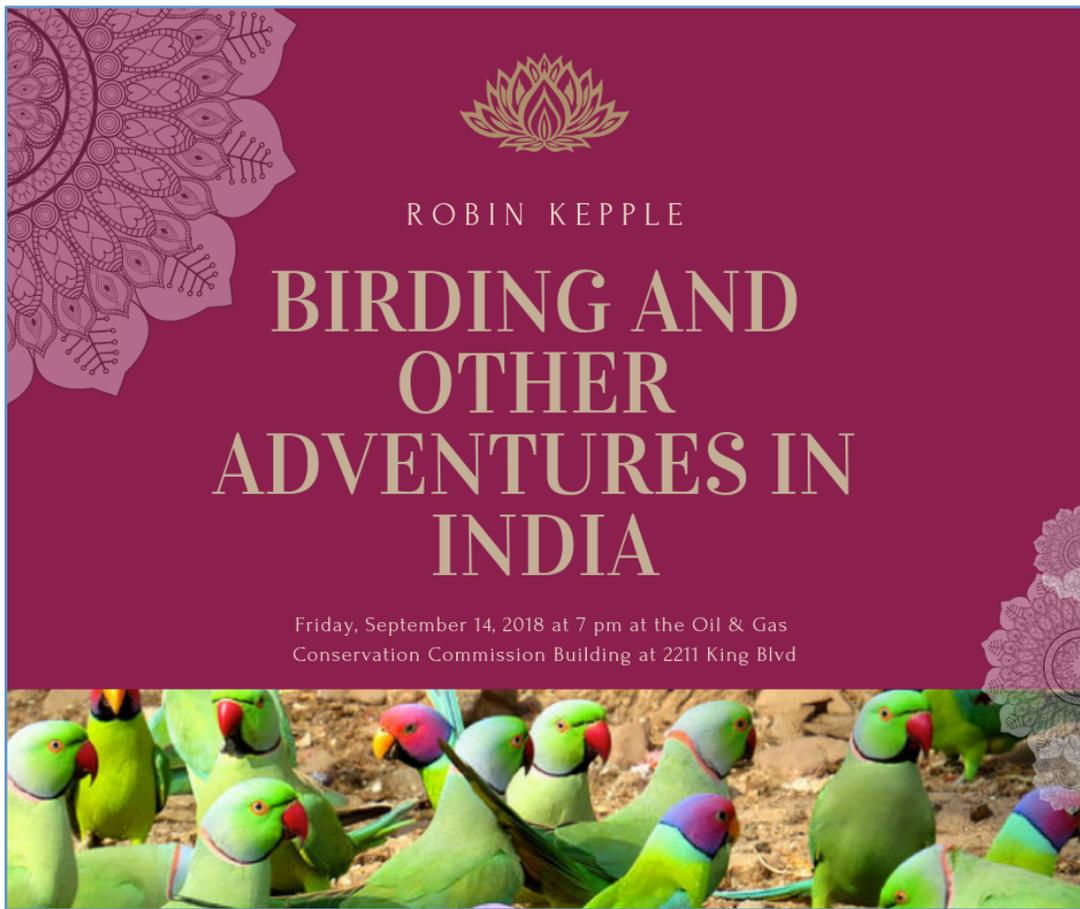


MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOL. 52 ISSUE 5

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ROBIN KEPPLER

**BIRDING AND
OTHER
ADVENTURES IN
INDIA**

Friday, September 14, 2018 at 7 pm at the Oil & Gas
Conservation Commission Building at 2211 King Blvd

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 14th *Birding and Other Adventures in India*
MAS Program
7:00 pm at the Oil and Gas Commission Building
2211 King Blvd.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Kid's Corner pg 2
Watch out for the Birds!

***Nearly Every Seabird on
Earth is Eating Plastic***
pg 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES

Greetings, and Welcome back!

Wow, president is such a loaded word, and I'll be honest, I'm a bit nervous about this new undertaking. I've heard myself saying several times, "what did I get myself into?" And I am still not sure I understand the full extent of the title. The good news is, we have wonderful and supportive people within Murie that I'm certain will help.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Jenny Edwards, your new Murie president. My first encounter with Murie was when my eighth grade class went to the center at Garden Creek. I believe this was just prior to MAS actually formalizing the center.

Regardless, I fell in love with the wildness I encountered there. In college, I visited the center often, bird banding, watching owlets, and tracking a swarm of honeybees, or simply finding peace at the feeders. That piece of land and the people I encountered there inspired me to become a science teacher to provide others with opportunities to experience 'place' and to understand connections to the land.

As I begin my term, I'm going to challenge our group to evaluate our decisions. Our mission is conservation through education. Will our decisions inspire young people in our community to conserve habitat? Will our decisions inspire others to educate our community about birds, and beyond? Though we face challenges: our community has changed, we no longer have a center, and we find it difficult to reach young people, I'm confident that we will continue to meet our mission.

Thank you so much for your hard work and support!

Jenny Edwards



Birds to See in September

Fall migration is well underway at this time. Since mid August there have been an increase in wood warbler reports. Edness Kimbal Wilkins State Park is a good location to see migrant warblers. As I write this in the fourth week in August there have been 13 migrant species recorded. Nashville warbler and Tennessee warbler being the most unusual so far. The yellow-billed cuckoo is still being seen and heard in this park. Shorebirds have been moving through the area since sometime in July. Goldeneye Reservoir is a good place to look for these species. High water has reduced the amount of shore so check the exposed shoreline. As the water level drops in the North Platte River the newly exposed shoreline is a good place to watch. As always be alert for anything because birds don't read and follow the expected migration paths.

**Good birding to all.
Chris Michelson**

KIDS' CORNER



Watch out for the Birds! As summer vacation comes to an end, and you're going back to school, your parents and teachers have warned you of hazards and how to be safe. For example, using a crosswalk when you cross the street and wearing your seat belt. Birds encounter hazards also. We are entering into fall migration; so many birds will be traveling through Wyoming. Humans can cause safety problems for birds. The biggest hazards for traveling birds are house cats and windows. As you go back to school, take on some of these things to make your area safe for birds traveling.

1. Keep your cat indoors.
2. Turn off lights during the night in rooms you're not in (birds are attracted to the light).
3. Use curtains or blinds so that birds don't think the reflection in the window is outdoors.
4. Move indoor plants away from window so that birds can't see it and think to land on it.
5. Reduce/Reuse/Recycle plastic products to keep away from wildlife

NEARLY EVERY SEABIRD ON EARTH IS EATING PLASTIC BY LAURA PARKER, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

So much plastic trash is flowing into the oceans that 90 percent of seabirds eat it now and virtually every one will be consuming it by 2050. That finding, revealed in a new study published this week, tracks for the first time how widespread plastics have become inside seabirds around the world. “That was shocking,” says Chris Wilcox, a research scientist with Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and lead author of the study. “Essentially, the number of species and number of individuals within species that you find plastic in is going up fairly rapidly by a couple percent every year.”



Juvenile Herring Gull, *Larus Argentatus* with plastic rubbish in its beak, Newquay, Cornwall, UK.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDUCATION IMAGES, UIG/GETTY

Scientists have been tracking plastic ingestion by seabirds for decades. In 1960, plastic was found in the stomachs of fewer than five percent, but by 1980, it had jumped to 80 percent. The most disturbing finding, Wilcox says, is the link between the increasing rate of plastics manufacturing and the increasing rate at which the material is saturating seabirds. “Global plastic production doubles every 11 years,” Wilcox says. “So in the next 11 years, we’ll make as much plastic as we’ve made since plastic was invented. Seabirds’ ingestion of plastic is tracking with that.” Wilcox and his team reviewed research dating to 1962 for their report, which was published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The scientists then combined that data with map

showing the range of 186 species of seabirds and the global distribution of marine debris to construct a model that predicts which species consume the most plastic.

The highest concentration of plastic in birds, Wilcox says, can be found in populations in southern Australia, South Africa, and South America -- where coastlines are closest to loosely-concentrated collections of ocean debris in the southern Pacific, southern Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. "It's at the edge of the gyre and the edge of the seabird distribution that are at the highest risk," Wilcox says. Large birds, such as the albatross, eat large amounts of plastics. But that doesn't mean large birds eat proportionately more plastic. Parakeet auklets, a small, diving bird that lives in the Northern Pacific near Alaska, shows the highest predisposition toward eating plastic, Wilcox says.

Albatross are more prone to eating plastic because they fish by skimming their beaks across the top of the water, and inadvertently take in plastics floating on the surface. Petrels and shearwaters, which live on offshore islands and forage over large areas of sea, also contain large amounts of plastic in their stomachs.

Plastic found inside birds includes bags, bottle caps, synthetic fibers from clothing, and tiny rice-sized bits that have been broken down by the sun and waves. The health effects of plastics on seabird populations have not been fully measured. But observational data collected is troubling enough, Wilcox says.

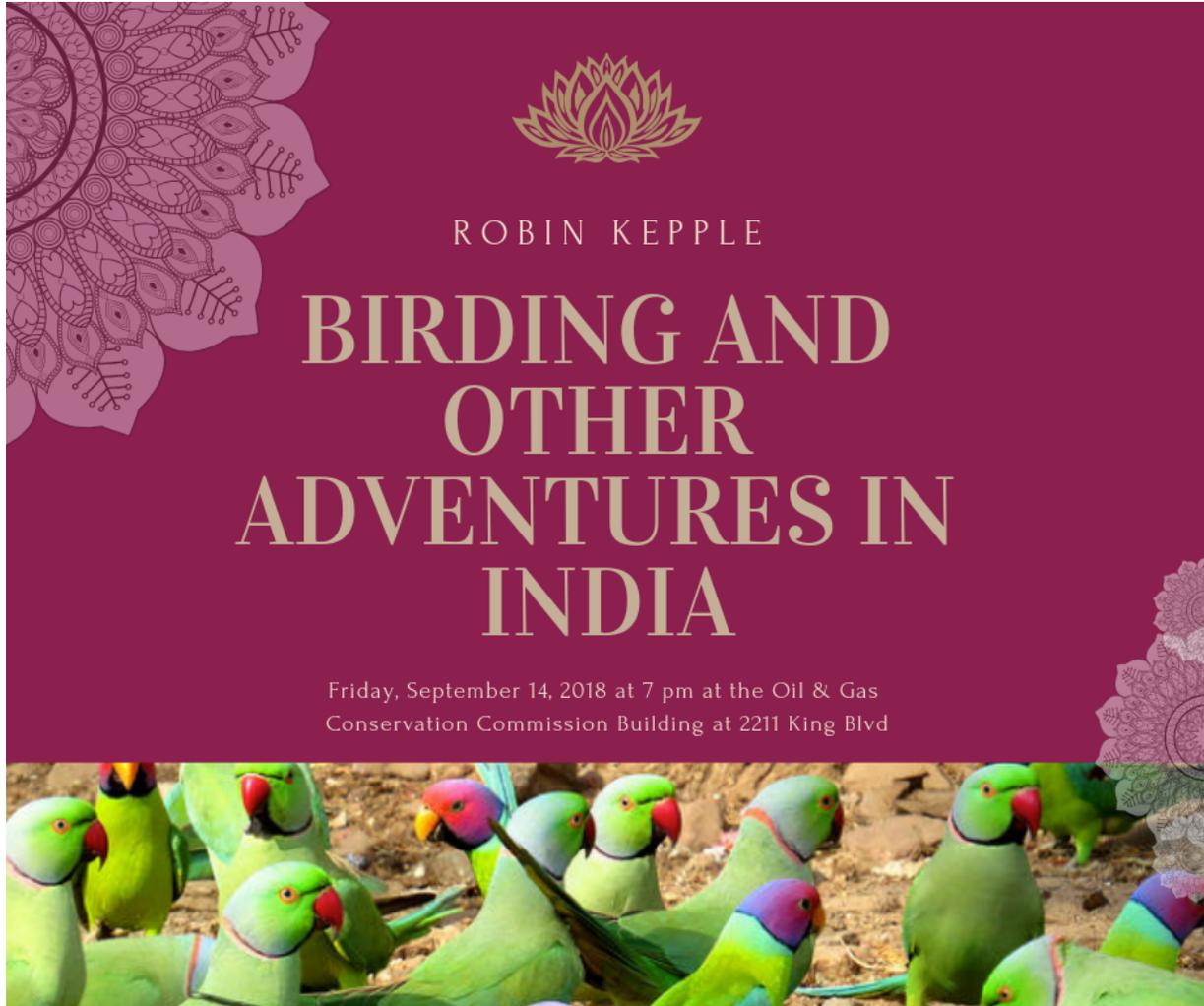
Sharp-edged plastic kills birds by punching holes in internal organs. Some seabirds eat so much plastic, there is little room left in their gut for food, which affects their body weight, jeopardizing their health. One bird examined by scientist Denise Hardesty had consumed 200 pieces of plastic.

"If you add more plastic to the gut, it will eventually make a difference," Wilcox says. "The trend suggests that it's going to keep increasing." A recent study found a 67 percent decline in seabird populations between 1950 and 2010. "Essentially seabirds are going extinct," says Wilcox. "Maybe not tomorrow. But they're headed down sharply. Plastic is one of the threats they face."

PARKER, LAURA. "Nearly Every Seabird on Earth Is Eating Plastic." *National Geographic*, National Geographic Society, 2 Sept. 2015, news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/15092-plastic-seabirds-albatross-australia/.



MURIE AUDUBON PROGRAM PRESENTS



ROBIN KEPPLER

BIRDING AND OTHER ADVENTURES IN INDIA

Friday, September 14, 2018 at 7 pm at the Oil & Gas
Conservation Commission Building at 2211 King Blvd



Robin Kepple, former Casper resident and information specialist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, will give a presentation on her birding tour of India with the American Birding Association in 2016. The trip focused on two famous wildlife reserves: the wetlands of Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), and Ranthambhore National Park. With their snappy-looking bar-headed geese, peafowl, gregarious jungle babblers, painted storks, sloth bears, leopards, elephants, nilgai, prehistoric-looking gharial, beautiful Indian rollers, and numerous other species, both sites rewarded the travelers richly. As if that wasn't enough, Robin and her husband tacked on a few extra days to visit Corbett National Park in northern India in hopes of seeing endangered Bengal tigers. Join Robin as she shares her adventures of birding among 1.3 billion friendly, curious people who call the land of the Jungle Book story their home. Please join us on Friday, September 14, 2018 at 7 pm at the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Building at 2211 King Blvd. for this exciting program. As always, the program is free and open to the public!

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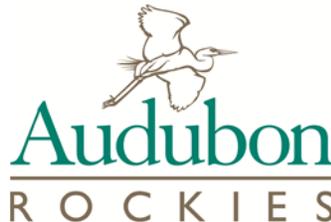
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## MAS VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Murie Audubon Society is to instill  
a passion for nature in present and future  
generations through awareness, enjoyment,  
understanding, appreciation, conservation, and  
advocacy.

## MAS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Murie Audubon Society is to  
promote the conservation of birds and other  
wildlife through education and enhancement  
of natural habitats, understanding,  
appreciation, conservation, and advocacy.

## NOTICE TO FRIENDS OF MURIE NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

The membership wizards have updated the mailing label process. If you think your P&P will expire and you are not sure when, check your P&P Newsletter label. Your expiration date will show when your subscription should expire. After that, your name gets flagged and the subscription stops until you renew. You will receive only two more issues after your expiration date. If you feel this is in error, please contact Harry Martin (307-258-1255) to make any corrections. Thanks! Please Note: There is a computer involved with maintaining membership records and so if there are any errors, I am most likely to blame because computers don't make mistakes (so I am told). ☺

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