

MURIE AUDUBON'S  
PLAINS & PEAKS

October 2019 VOL. 53 ISSUE 5

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Regenerative Agriculture

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 11 Regenerative Agriculture**

7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

**October 5-November 3 Saw-whet Banding**

5:30 PM Casper Mountain

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

**Kid's Corner pg 2**

Saw-whet Owl

**News From Harry pg 7**

Murie Updates

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES



Hello and welcome back everyone!

We are currently undergoing a membership drive! In efforts to streamline our membership records, we invite all of you to renew your membership either with Murie Audubon Society or National Audubon Society this month. Murie Audubon Society members will have the added benefit of continuing to receive this monthly newsletter. Harry, has been working hard on our website, and you can sign up for membership using paypal. If you're a National Audubon Society member only, your MAS newsletter subscription will expire in January. This change is represented in our new by-laws and can be a bit confusing. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

On another note, I'm now a county folk. I recently moved out west to Bessemer, and I have realized how inadequate my birding skills are. I've always considered myself a slight step above novice, but this tiny green and yellow bird is challenging me. Any help in that area would be greatly appreciated!

Speaking of birds, don't forget Zach's Saw-whet Owl banding will be kicking up again. He's looking for volunteers or you could even sign up to attend. It is a great, spooky experience for the whole family. I love going every year.

Enjoy your fall migration!

Jenny Edwards  
President

## KIDS CORNER



Northern Saw-whet Owl

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is a small, short-bodied owl with a short tail. The large rounded head has no ear tufts. The face is light brown, outlined in dark brown and white streaks. They have brown-and-white striped chests and bellies. Their large eyes are yellow. The white eyebrows connect in a 'Y' over their beaks. Like other raptors they have strong grasping talons for killing prey, and a hooked upper beak for tearing meat. The Saw-whet Owl's name comes from the "skiew" call that is made when alarmed. This sound has a resemblance to the whetting of a saw. This owl breeds from southern Alaska eastward to Nova Scotia, southward to northern United States, and further southward in mountains. They winter throughout the breeding range, and southward across the United States. Northern Saw-whet Owls inhabit all forest types.

Source: [http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/northern\\_saw-whet\\_owl\\_k6.html](http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/northern_saw-whet_owl_k6.html)

MURIE AUDUBON PROGRAM PRESENTS



Regenerative Agriculture

## REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Regenerative agriculture is a relatively new farming and grazing method with the potential to be as large a change as the green revolution was in the 1970's. It was derived by examining the natural world and attempting to imitate and utilize what millions of years of evolution have achieved. It also recognizes that the soil is much more than just a substance that allows plants to grow, and that soil health is extremely important. We are just starting to realize how the soil functions, and how the millions of organism's function in this ecosystem.

The 5 principles of soil health can be followed in a small garden as well as the largest farms and ranches with very good results. While the principles are the same everywhere, how they are applied can be different in every case. In other words, what works on a farm in the corn belt will be very different from what works in Wyoming, but the principles followed will be the same.

The goal of Regenerative Agriculture is to reduce inputs while increasing production by sequestering carbon. The best practitioners have eliminated government subsidies, fertilizer and pesticides, while increasing production. In part this means changing the mind set of traditional methods that tend to destroy microorganisms to practices that encourage soil health and carbon storage.

Combating global warming requires virtually eliminating fossil fuel use and sequestering carbon. If you listen to the media, sequestering carbon is very expensive and a not very proven technology. However, agriculture can sequester huge amounts of carbon. Each one percentage point improvement in the organic matter in the soil sequesters about 7,500 pounds of carbon per acre. Gabe Brown, a farmer in Bismarck, North Dakota, has increased his organic matter from about 1.5% to over 6% on 5,000 acres. If we did that on a million acres of farm land (less than 1% of the farm land in this country), we would be talking about sequestering billions of tons of carbon.

Rancher Stacey Scott and retired engineer Dan Cooper will present a program about the principles, practices and challenges of regenerative agriculture for the October program. Join us on Friday, October 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse located at 4205 Fort Caspar Road to learn more about this alternative approach to farming and ranching.

By Stacey Scott



## SAW-WHET BANDING

Hello friends of Audubon Rockies!

Saw-whet owls have started their migration to wintering grounds throughout the US. In an effort to gain knowledge for conserving this small forest owl, we will be banding these owls starting October 5th. Consider this your INVITATION to join Audubon Rockies for an evening (or more) of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls. Read below to learn how you can register for these fun-filled and knowledge-packed evenings.

Here are the details for registering:

### PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

1. Location
  - a. Casper Mountain, WY
  - b. Meeting Location - Communication towers at the end of Micro Rd
  - c. GPS Pin Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/5ZQa1V8h95g3rJrh6>
  - d. Directions are listed at the bottom of this email
2. Dates
  - a. October 5th - Nov 3rd (see registration for exact dates)
  - b. ALL dates are subject to cancellation due to weather, access, etc
3. Time
  - a. 5:30 pm - 12 am
    - i. You are not required to stay until midnight, but most owl captures do not occur until after 10 pm.
    - ii. If you cannot arrive at the meeting location at 5:30, please let me know and we can plan to meet later (but no later than 6)
4. Registration
  - a. Registration is required.
  - b. Please register here: <https://forms.gle/TeFCBFxrx1VKa6J6>
  - c. If you would like to bring a large group (10+ participants), contact me and I will reserve a whole night for you.

- d. All ages welcome.
  - e. Please note, you are welcome to select 5 dates in the registration link. I highly anticipate ~30% of bandings will be canceled.
5. Thank You
- a. A HUGE thank you to Bart and Liz Rea for allowing us back to their property for another year!
6. Other Information
- a. We enter and leave the property as a group. We allow for early departures, though we try to minimize traffic on the road.
  - b. Dress WARM
  - c. Bring dinner, snacks, etc
  - d. No pets
  - e. No flash photography
7. Owl Adoption
- a. This year we will be offering an opportunity for Owl Adoption. Adopting an owl will support our local conservation and education work! Some benefits of adopting a banded owl include naming the owl, a photo with the owl, a photo of the owl, and a certificate of appreciation. You will also be notified anytime the owl is recaptured, allowing you to track the bird's travels.

Also, **I NEED YOUR HELP!** In preparation for the banding sessions, I need help preparing the cabin and station for our October arrival. So, I am looking for volunteers for next Wednesday, September 25th. Anyone who helps will be given priority on banding evenings! If you can help prep the cabin and station, please email me or call me ASAP at (307) 247-0700.

### Directions from the Tate Geological Museum

Tate Geological Museum  
125 College Dr, Casper, WY 82601

Head north toward WY-251 S/Casper Mountain Rd  
236 ft

Turn left toward WY-251 S/Casper Mountain Rd  
184 ft

Turn right onto WY-251 S/Casper Mountain Rd  
7.1 mi

Keep right to continue on Hogadon Rd  
1.3 mi

Turn left onto Micro Rd

1.1 mi

Slight left to stay on Micro Rd  
0.3 mi

Slight left to stay on Micro Rd  
Destination will be on the right  
144 ft

Zach Hutchinson  
Community Naturalist  
c: 307.247.0700

Audubon Rockies  
116 N College Ave, Suite 1  
Fort Collins, CO 80524  
[rockies.audubon.org](http://rockies.audubon.org)

Photo From: [http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/northern\\_saw-whet\\_owl\\_k6.html](http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/northern_saw-whet_owl_k6.html)

## NEWS FROM HARRY

Item 1.

Newsletter renewals. Dear Murie Members, please note that our bylaws have changed. You can read a draft copy on our website. All memberships must be renewed by September 30, 2019. By the time you read this, you will be past due. Please send your membership renewal to Murie Audubon Society using our membership form, or renew on line using our PayPal button if you have an account. Recent renewals will be grandfathered in if you already renewed before that date.

Item 2.

We really need your help with newsletter submissions. Most of the time, it is Board members who submit articles to the newsletter. The newsletter is our platform to educate and get the word out. If you have something to write about, please share and submit to the newsletter editor. It can be anything. Monthly Birds to look for list-??

Kid's Corner-?? Some sort of Science, Conservation, Historical, of interest Article.-? As our President Jenny says..."It takes a village."

If you have anything you wish to share, we can add it to the newsletter and possibly our website. The editor will gladly accept any submissions for consideration. Maybe your favorite bird photo? Not sure how to do any of this? Give Harry a call. He can help with resizing images, cropping, or converting to a suitable format.

### Item 3.

Are you a member of National Audubon but not a Murie member? You could lose out on receiving any more Plains & Peaks Newsletters. Our bylaws have changed and we now have two membership categories. You are now either an "Affiliate" National member, or a "Regular" Murie Member. What's the difference? If you are not a Regular Murie Audubon Society Chapter member, then you will no longer receive the hard copy of our Newsletter. This will start in about 90 days. After 90 days, if we do not receive your application to become a Full member, you will no longer receive the newsletter. If you have questions about this, please give Harry a call or email me. Look for an updated membership form in the next newsletter.

## BIRDS ARE VANISHING FROM NORTH AMERICA

By Carl Zimmer  
Published Sept. 19, 2019

The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past half-century, scientists find. The skies are emptying out.

The number of birds in the United States and Canada has fallen by 29 percent since 1970, scientists reported on Thursday. There are 2.9 billion fewer birds taking wing now than there were 50 years ago.

The analysis, published in the journal *Science*, is the most exhaustive and ambitious attempt yet to learn what is happening to avian populations. The results have shocked researchers and conservation organizations.

In a statement on Thursday, David Yarnold, president and chief executive of the National Audubon Society, called the findings "a full-blown crisis."

Experts have long known that some bird species have become vulnerable to extinction. But the new study, based on a broad survey of more than 500 species, reveals steep losses even among such traditionally abundant birds as robins and sparrows.

There are likely many causes, the most important of which include habitat loss and wider use of pesticides. "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's prophetic book in 1962 about the harms caused by pesticides, takes its title from the unnatural quiet settling on a world that has lost its birds:

"On the mornings that had once throbbled with the dawn chorus of robins, catbirds, doves, jays, wrens, and scores of other bird voices, there was now no sound."

Kevin Gaston, a conservation biologist at the University of Exeter, said that new findings signal something larger at work: "This is the loss of nature."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html>

# BIRD BANDING 2019



# HELP SUPPORT MURIE AUDUBOND SOCIETY CHAPTER BECOME A 'FRIEND' OF MURIE AUDUBON

The annual cost of being an individual or family 'Friend' is a donation of \$10 or more.

Benefits include:

\* Free monthly programs \* Field trips \* Monthly subscription to Plains and Peaks newsletter

Your generous donations support:

\* MurieAudubon.org - our website \* Local conservation efforts \* Local Environmental Education

\* WYOBIRDS email list server \* Audubon Adventures \* Annual Banquet

~~~~~ All of your funds are used locally here in Wyoming ~~~~~

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 One Year \_\_\_\_\_

Audubon Adventures (\$46.65 per classroom) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Please Designate) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Not shared with anyone - honest!)

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I want the Plains & Peaks newsletter delivered to the above address.

I want to save a tree and postage. DO NOT SEND ME SNAIL MAIL! I will download a digital copy of the Plains & Peaks Newsletter from <https://MurieAudubon.org> ☺

Please make checks payable to:

Murie Audubon Society

PO Box 2112

Casper, WY 82602

Thank you for your support!

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Harry Martin  
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### AUDUBON ROCKIES - REGIONAL OFFICE OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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**Audubon Rockies website** - <http://www.rockies.audubon.org>  
**Facebook** under Audubon Rockies



### 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

Those who have not paid in one year or more should see “Expired” and a date of expiration on your mailing label, on the same line as your name. You will only receive one more issue after this one. If you feel this is in error, please contact Harry Martin (258-1255) to update details.

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