

# Bighorn Audubon Society

## Annual Report



May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Members and Supporters:

The Bighorn Audubon Society's mission to help protect birds and their habitats continues on multiple levels. Threats to birds' ability to survive and thrive are growing. The dedication, expertise, and compassion of our all-volunteer board, along with engaging members, and amazing support from contributors allow us to persevere in this mission under rising conservation issues. Bighorn Audubon also values partnerships, strongly believing that birds and our communities benefit from working together. Without these efforts and support, the surging challenges facing birds would be even more problematic - now and in the future.

Some of our past fiscal year efforts in bird advocacy, education, and surveys include:

- The inspirational *Birds of the Rocky Mountain Region* juried 40-piece art exhibit, programs, and catalog, in partnership with The Brinton Museum, wrapped up in July of 2023. Plans are confirmed for the 2025 *Birds of the Rocky Mountain Region* exhibit in the Johnston Gallery, expanding the exhibit and catalog along with educational programs. Many thanks to the artists, The Brinton staff, and our supporters. These exhibits further nurture a love for birds.
- In partnership with the Bighorn National Forest, our 4<sup>th</sup> year of Tensleep Canyon raptor surveys and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Forest sagebrush habitat surveys are underway; 1<sup>st</sup> year of American Goshawk monitoring assistance begins in June; Audio monitoring began in the Forest and at The Brinton. We are grateful for funding, volunteers, and Bighorn National Forest biologists. The efforts we have engaged in have resulted in protecting raptor nesting areas. Our goal is to identify and protect critical bird habitat.
- Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Spring Counts, and BLM Eagle Surveys were conducted in great force. Huge thanks to our many compilers and participants.
- Continued our monthly traditional (and fun!) Birding at The Brinton.
- Bighorn Audubon's website and monthly email newsletters continue to be great avenues to share issues and events pertinent to our mission. Board members also contributed to articles in local, regional, and statewide media, both print and digital.
- *Wyoming Birds for Kids*, a wonderful children's book by fellow board member Pam Moore, was given to all elementary school and public libraries within our seven-county chapter with Bighorn Audubon funding. Complimentary copies will also be mailed to 34 government officials.
- Participated and/or presented in community programs such as the SAGE Community Meet-up, Story Garden Club, Girl Scouts, Science Kids, elementary schools, and Sheridan Community Land Trust.
- The Powder Horn Native Plant Project plan was developed, and a committee is in place for 2024.
- Implemented Bighorn Audubon Important Bird Areas using Audubon Rockies protocol which allows our chapter to recognize public and private lands with significant biological bird habits.

- Maintenance continues and increases for the hundreds of nest boxes, mostly in the Forest, thanks to dedicated volunteers. Years of this undertaking have increased populations of Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows by thousands in our region and beyond.
- Attended meetings and/or submitted official comments advocating for birds to industry and government agencies which include: Sage Grouse Management BLM and State of Wyoming; BLM Conservation Management Plan; BLM Industry Bonds; Forest Service Climbing Plan; Forest Service Pole Creek Vegetation Management Plan; PRE Corp power line removal; and Sheridan County Open Spaces meetings.
- Last but not least, we would like to extend our appreciation to Bighorn Audubon's Advisory Board. Their experiences, knowledge, and support of birds, our region, and Bighorn Audubon are greatly valued. Thank you Chuck Bailey, Joan Wallick, Scott Johnson, Jackie Canterbury, Hal Corbett, D.J. Purcell, Julie Rieder, and Leslie Horsch.

Bighorn Audubon is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership and contributions, whether large or small, help our feathered friends within our region and beyond.

With gratitude for your support,

JoAnne Puckett, President

Jill Morrison, Vice-president

Pam Moore, Secretary

Ariel Downing, Treasurer

Anne Montgomery, Director

Andy Sutphin, Director

Kay Wallick, Director

Chris Kirol, Director

Carol Mavrakis, Director

#### **HELPING BIRDS SINCE 1970**

**Bighorn Audubon Society - P.O. Box 535 - Sheridan, WY 82801**  
**[www.bighornaudubon.com](http://www.bighornaudubon.com)   [bighornaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:bighornaudubon@gmail.com)**