



# oice of the Meadowlark

Newsletter of the  
Meadowlark Audubon Society  
of the Big Horn Basin and Northwest Wyoming

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## President's Letter

Season's Greetings to All Meadowlark Members!

We are moving into the winter bird survey months, which offer great opportunities for citizen-based science efforts. People who participate in the Cody and Kane Christmas Bird Counts are a part of the largest citizen-based monitoring project of all time. The Mid-winter Eagle Survey within the Bighorn Basin is one of the longest ongoing citizen-based winter eagle surveys ever conducted. It is pretty exciting to have these opportunities nearby and I encourage everyone to try and participate if you can.

This winter is projected to be another good year for vagrants—birds that stray far beyond their expected migrating ranges. Last year, record numbers of Snowy Owls came southward into the United States; several were seen in the Bighorn Basin and throughout northern Wyoming. Food shortages in Canada have been cited for possible reasons for this phenomenon. More Snowy Owls are expected this year, and we also appear to be in the midst of a winter finch invasion. I have seen more Common Redpolls this year than ever before, and others have mentioned the same thing to me. It will be

interesting to see the tally at the end of the Christmas Bird Count!

Just as whales utilize the power of ocean currents to navigate the globe, so too do vagrant and other migrating birds use wind currents as they journey. Two artists, Fernanda Viegas and Martin Wattenberg, who specialize in helping people visualize data, have put together a really neat resource—a “living wind map” that uses National Weather Service forecast data to generate a real-time portrait of wind currents across the United States. Below, for example, is an image of the map showing the wind outflow from Hurricane Sandy when it made landfall in late October:



Seeing this map, you can easily imagine the disruption a storm like this brings! After a big storm like this, I may have to consult my Eastern Birds guide, otherwise I might be completely confused! Viegas and Wattenberg are constantly updating their living map, which can be viewed at <http://hint.fm/wind>. You can click on the map and zoom in to see the direction of wind flow, and the average speed, within a given area. Such a tool illustrates how we might end up with these vagrants. Check it often and see if you can predict which birds may be blown in and where they might wind up!

As the year draws to an end, I would like to request that you provide any feedback you may have. Our Board has worked hard to make our organization efficient and fun. However, you may have suggestions on how we can improve these efforts. If so, please let another Board Member or me know what is on your mind. We want to be sure to maintain the vitality of this wonderful Meadowlark Audubon Society and we treasure any feedback. Thank you, as always, for your continuing interest and support!

On behalf of everyone on the Board, Happy Holidays to you, along with our hopes that you will return safely from any holiday travels that you may have planned.

—Destin Harrell

## **113th Christmas Bird Count**

*Editor's note: Inadvertent delays mean that this issue of the newsletter will reach members after the date of the Kane Christmas Bird Count,*

*which took place on Saturday, December 15. We regret the delay, but thank Jennifer and Neil Miller for organizing the Kane count, and everyone who took part in it. Look for complete count results in the Spring 2013 newsletter!*

The National Audubon Society's 113th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place from December 14, 2012, through January 5, 2013. Throughout the Americas and in other parts of the world, scores of thousands of volunteers will take part in this adventure, one that has become a family tradition for many. CBC data are the foundation of scores of peer reviewed studies, of state and local conservation plans, and of headline-making news. Data collected during previous counts inspired Congress to pass and fund vital legislation such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that benefits species across the Western hemisphere. Current counts will help predict future impacts on both birds' ranges and habitat health, and help guide conservation action.

This year's CBC brings two important changes. First, participation in the CBC is now free! Audubon has discontinued assessing the \$5 fee charged in previous years. However, voluntary donations are welcomed and appreciated. Second, participants will no longer receive a printed copy of *American Birds* reporting CBC results. Instead, *American Birds* will be published electronically, and Audubon will make CBC results available online.

If a rare bird is seen during a CBC, the observer(s) will need to fill out a CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form noting location, distance, viewing conditions, bird's plumage, shape, behavior, etc. If possible, observers are asked to make a sketch of the bird at

the time it is seen, noting their observations, and if a camera is available, a photo of the bird can be very helpful, even if not of the best quality.

Birds Data							
Cody WYCO [44.500000000, -109.050000000]							
Click on column header to sort							
Drag a column header here to group by that column							
Count	Year	Species	Scientific Name	Number	Number / Party Hr.	Flags	Editorial Codes
106		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	11	0.13213		
108		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	72	0.93506		
109		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	25	0.37736		
110		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	85	1.21864		
111		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	20	0.26667		
112		Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	54	0.78832		
106		Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Junco hyemalis	10	0.12012		
107		Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Junco hyemalis	12	0.16783		
108		Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Junco hyemalis	19	0.24675		
109		Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Junco hyemalis	6	0.09057		
110		Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Junco hyemalis	5	0.07168		
106		Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	Junco hyemalis	28	0.33634		
107		Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	Junco hyemalis	75	1.04895		
108		Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	Junco hyemalis	14	0.18182		
109		Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	Junco hyemalis	10	0.15094		

Historical data from previous CBC's, including aggregate totals and tallies for individual species, may be viewed at <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation>.

Two 2012 Christmas Bird Counts are taking place within Meadowlark's four-county region (Park, Bighorn, Hot Springs, Washakie): Kane and Cody.

## Cody CBC

The Cody CBC will be held on Saturday, December 22. In the event that we need to reschedule due to poor weather conditions, the backup date will be the following Sunday.

An informational letter, a route map, and route partner names and phone numbers will be sent to each participant prior to the count. Route partners are responsible for contacting each other to arrange a meeting place.

Following the count, we will gather at 6 pm for a potluck supper and tally in the hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 825 Simpson Avenue, in Cody. All CBC participants, including spouses and children, are

invited to join us. Hot soup, donated by Sunset House restaurant, beverages, dishes and utensils will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share with the others. After supper, we will share our observations and tally the count.

For more information or to register to participate, please contact Joyce Cicco at 307-527-5030 or [jcicco00@tritnet.net](mailto:jcicco00@tritnet.net), or Susan Ahalt at 307-527-7027 or [thebirdlady@tctwest.net](mailto:thebirdlady@tctwest.net). Thank you!

— Joyce Cicco

## 2012 Fall Bird Count

A warm day with sunshine and blue skies, surrounded by friends, viewing birds on a small lake or pond—what could be better than this to start out a Monday morning? That is just how several of us spent our Monday mornings at Beck and Alkali Lakes and the new Cody Reservoir for nine weeks this fall. And, although not all of our mornings were that perfect, we did have good weather most days while counting.

We tallied 52 species this fall. They represented all the usual waterbirds (grebes, cormorants, pelicans, ducks, gulls, sandpipers, etc.), along with the typical assortment of raptors, blackbirds, sparrows, finches, and other land-dwelling birds. Particularly welcome and noteworthy, however, was a White-billed Ibis, a species not regularly seen in this area.

The Fall issue of the newsletter contained some erroneous information about the average numbers of

birds and species seen each week during the fall counts. Here are the corrected numbers:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF BIRDS</b>	<b>AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPECIES</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>2369</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>1597</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>1959</b>	<b>20</b>

I would like to thank fellow birders Jackie Anthony, Dorothy Bunn, Joyce Cicco, Jo Cook, Joyce Harkness, Lolly Jolley, Colleen Model, John Osgood, and Nancy Ryan for taking part in this year’s Fall Count. We always welcome new participants and encourage anyone interested in taking part to contact me. Please join us if you can for the Spring 2013 Count!

— Donna Haman

## **Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Meadowlark’s Territory**

Along with climate change, habitat loss and habitat fragmentation constitute the most serious threats facing global bird populations. To help safeguard habitats and increase public awareness of these threats, in the mid-1980s the European-based BirdLife International began identifying “Important Bird Areas” [IBAs]; in 1995, the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society launched a North American IBA initiative. As defined by Audubon, an Important Bird Area (IBA)

comprises a “nesting area, crucial migration stop-over site, or wintering ground that provides essential habitat to one or more species of birds during some portion of the year.” An IBA may range in size from a few to thousands of acres, may consist of public or private lands or a mixture of both, and may be protected or unprotected. Audubon’s national IBA program began in 1995; in 1999, Audubon Wyoming (now part of Audubon Rockies) initiated a statewide IBA program and established four standardized, science-based criteria for designating qualifying sites:

1. Sites or site complexes important to endangered, threatened, or species of concern in Wyoming.
2. Sites or site complexes important to species of high conservation priority in Wyoming.
3. Sites or site complexes that contain rare or unique habitat, or represent exceptional examples of intact natural habitats, and that hold important species or assemblages of species largely restricted to a distinctive habitat.
4. Sites or site complexes where significant numbers of birds concentrate for breeding, migration, or over-wintering.

Using these criteria as a basis, local Audubon chapters, including Meadowlark Audubon Society, along with other organizations, agencies and concerned citizens, identified and nominated sites for IBA designation. To date, 44 sites have been designated as IBAs in Wyoming.

Reflecting the range, diversity and significance of birding habitats in this area, as well as Meadowlark’s efforts to designate them, our four-county territory (Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie) contains one of the largest concentrations of IBAs in Wyoming. How many of them can you name? Here’s

the rundown, keyed to the numbers on the accompanying map:



**Beck Lake/Alkali Lake [1]:** IBA Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4; Priority species: *Western Grebe*, *Clark's Grebe*, *Common Loon*, *American White Pelican*, *Trumpeter Swan*, *Wilson's Phalarope*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Marsh Wren*, *Lark Bunting*

**Breteche Creek Ranch [2]:** IBA Criteria 1, 2; Priority species: *Bald Eagle*, *Golden Eagle*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Northern Goshawk*, *Greater Sage Grouse*, *Calliope Hummingbird*, *MacGillivray's Warbler*, *Vesper Sparrow*, *Brewer's Sparrow*

**Chapman Bench [4]:** IBA Criteria 1, 3; Priority species: *Golden Eagle*, *Greater Sage Grouse*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Mountain Plover*, *Lark Bunting*

**Heart Mountain [7]:** IBA Criteria 1, 2; Priority species: *Swainson's Hawk*, *Ferruginous Hawk*, *Golden Eagle*, *Prairie Falcon*, *Greater Sage Grouse*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Calliope Hummingbird*, *Dusky Flycatcher*, *Say's Phoebe*, *Clark's Nutcracker*, *Rock Wren*, *Sage Thrasher*, *Mountain Bluebird*, *Bullock's Oriole*, *Warbling Vireo*, *MacGillivray's Warbler*, *Vesper Sparrow*, *Brewer's Sparrow*, *Lazuli Bunting*

**Loch Katrine Wetland [13]:** IBA Criteria 1, 4; Priority species: *American White Pelican*, *White-faced Ibis*, *Trumpeter Swan*, *Swainson's Hawk*, *Ferruginous Hawk*, *Bald Eagle*, *Golden Eagle*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Prairie Falcon*, *Merlin*, *Greater Sage Grouse*, *Long-billed Curlew*, *Forster's Tern*, *Mountain Plover*, *Burrowing Owl*, *Marsh Wren*, *McCown's Longspur*, *Lark Bunting*, *Brewer's Sparrow*

**Tensleep Preserve [23]:** IBA Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4; Priority species: *Ferruginous Hawk*, *Bald Eagle*,

*Northern Goshawk*, *Peregrine Falcon*, *Merlin*, *Greater Sage Grouse*, *Common Poorwill*, *Williamson's Sapsucker*, *Three-toed Woodpecker*, *Willow Flycatcher*, *Hammond's Flycatcher*, *Cordilleran Flycatcher*, *Clark's Nutcracker*, *Brown Creeper*, *Canyon Wren*, *American Dipper*, *Veery*, *Black-throated Gray Warbler*, *Lark Bunting*, *Vesper Sparrow*, *Brewer's Sparrow*

**Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area [26]:** IBA Criteria 1, 3, 4; Priority species: *American White Pelican*, *Hooded Merganser*, *Bald Eagle*, *Sandhill Crane*, *Wilson's Phalarope*, *Willet*, *Lark Bunting*, *Lazuli Bunting*



*National Audubon Society's most recent five-year strategic plan (2012) highlighted Meadowlark Audubon's ongoing efforts to survey Sandhill Cranes and other migrating waterbirds at Beck and Alkali Lakes, one of the IBAs within Meadowlark's territory.*

Audubon Rockies' five-year strategic plan lists several objectives for IBAs within this region, including identifying and designating additional sites, upgrading the Rockies IBA database and associated maps, initiating ongoing site assessments, monitoring and assessing threats and conservation opportunities, and expanding citizen science, outreach and education efforts. Meadowlark Audubon looks forward to partnering with Audubon Rockies, other organizations and agencies, and engaged citizens to help further these objectives.

John C. Rumm

## Editor's Notebook: Love At First Sight(ings)

It was a classic case of “love at first sight.”

The lofty mountains, the rolling foothills, the wide and expansive vistas, the sky vaulting high overhead. They hooked me right away, the first time I laid eyes upon Wyoming five years ago this month. To this day, they still trigger the same emotional response, and I never grow tired of seeing them.

And the birds. Right from the start, I was hooked on Wyoming's birds.

Five years later, I still am.

As a young boy growing up in Ohio during the 1960s, I eagerly read everything I could get my hands on about birds. I wanted to know the names of as many birds as possible, and what they looked like, too. Oliver Singer's *Birds of the World*, with Charles Austin's magnificent, full-color illustrations of species from every family, was one of my mainstays. So, too, was *Birds of America*, with its detailed species accounts. And field guides—I couldn't get enough of them. I received my first copy of Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* in 1967 when I turned 11, and it became a constant resource. I still have that book today, well-thumbed and shelf-worn. I pored over other field guides, also—to the birds of Texas, Europe, Mexico, the West Indies, or whatever else I could find. I would happily spend hours on end reading and re-reading them, committing the birds, their names and their images, to my memory.

But of all the bird books I studied, my top favorite was Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*, the revised edition, published in 1961. Almost immediately after his classic Eastern guide appeared in 1934, Peterson had been approached about doing a similar guide for the West, but waited several years before tackling the project. “I dismissed the idea at first,” he wrote, “thinking that although the plan worked out well for eastern North America, it would be almost impossible to do the same thing for the West, where the situation was, it seemed to me, much more complicated.” Just what Peterson meant by that wasn't clear to me, but one thing was evident to me as I pored over the 1961 guide: the West had *lots* more birds than we did in the East. We had, for example, only one hummingbird, the Ruby-throated. But the Western field guide showed *15* of them, tightly bunched together on one plate, with exotic names like “Lucifer's” and Rivoli's” and “Calliope.” Thrashers? We had one, the Brown; out West, the fortunate bird-watcher might find seven others. I was smitten by the thought of doing so—especially the Sage Thrasher, which—as Peterson had rendered it—had this glinting yellow eye and dagger-like bill that gave it a stern, almost challenging, expression, as if it were saying to me, “*Come on and try to find me—I dare you!*”

Page after page, plate after plate, species after species—the West seemed way cooler than the East, a veritable birder's Mecca, with colorful and exotic varieties ripe for the seeing. Warblers; finches; orioles; chickadees and titmice; flycatchers; woodpeckers; hawks and falcons; grouse and other birds—all more varied and diverse than their

Eastern counterparts. They captured my imagination. And not only how they appeared, but their names, too, especially those which seemed foreign and mysterious: *Phainopepla*; *Jacana*; *Pyrrhuloxia*; *Pauraque*; *Trogon*; *Ptarmigan*. To me, they were more idyllic than the Knights of the Round Table, more vivid than anything Sinbad or Odysseus had ever encountered in all their wanderings.

I yearned to see the West and its birds firsthand, but despaired of ever doing so. With six kids in our family, vacations were few and far between. One summer, we drove all the way to Ocean City, Maryland, spending several days at the shore, but that was the last vacation we ever took as a family. Clearly, my parents were daunted by the prospect of driving for hours with all of us cooped up together in a not-so-roomy station wagon. Journeying west to, say, the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone, was simply out of the question.

And so it was not until the mid-1980s that I first ventured beyond the 100th Meridian—the line which Peterson said separated “East” from “West”—traveling with my wife, Lyn, to southern California. It was the first of several trips we made to California over the next two decades, all of them providing happy and fulfilling memories of birding at places like Yosemite, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Point Lobos Reserve. To this day, I can still recall my thrill in seeing, for example, my first Steller’s Jay (in a grove of tall redwood trees in Muir Woods, just north of San Francisco), my first California Quail (on a winding road in the Napa Valley, nearly driving off

the road in my excitement to see a bevy of them ambling in a thicket along the shoulder), and my first Curve-billed Thrasher and Rock Wren (both in scrubby patches along a rocky path near the lighthouse at Point Reyes). In 2000, an invitation to speak at a conference in Arizona afforded me my first opportunity go birding in the Southwest, where I saw my first Phainopepla (resplendent in its glossy black plumage and dapper crest), several hummingbirds, a Gambel’s Quail, and a Gilded Flicker that I nearly winged with my rental car when it zipped in front of me. Other trips in subsequent years took me to New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, each of them adding more Western birds to my life-list.

But the Interior West, and the birds that dwelled there, remained *terra incognita* to me. Living near Philadelphia, I happily occupied myself with observing birds around the Mid-Atlantic region, regularly visiting places like Cape May, New Jersey, Pennsylvania’s Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and various National Wildlife Refuges around the Delmarva Peninsula. Every now and again, I would spot Peterson’s *Field Guide to Western Birds* on my bookshelf and take it down, flipping through its pages and lingering over the illustration or description of some species or another. Yet the Mountain West seemed so distant and remote that it might well have existed on another planet. I had no occasion to visit it, and couldn’t imagine doing so.

*Life is what happens to get in the way of plans*, the saying goes, and so it was that a series of events brought me, along with Lyn, to Wyoming in

December 2007. Before arriving there, whatever mental images I had of Wyoming were hazy and amorphous. Flying into Billings the night before my job interview at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, we set out for Cody well before daybreak the following morning. For the most part, the drive through southern Montana was nondescript and unmemorable. But I will never forget how, several miles south of Belfry, the road made a turn to the left and suddenly, stretched out before us in the dawn's early light, we saw an unbroken line of mountains, running from one end of the horizon to the other, as far as our eyes could see. The thought came to both of us at once: *This is it. This is home.*

Later that same morning, taking a brief break from my interviews, I sat in the Center's coffee bar, looking out at the bird feeders in the garden outside. In the space of less than five minutes, I saw three species that were new to me: Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, and Black-billed Magpie. Seeing them amplified and reified the thought running through my mind: *This is where I belong. This is where I want to be.* The Bald Eagle that flew past our car as we drove from Cody back to Billings clinched the deal: for the better part of two decades, we had tried spotting eagles around the Delmarva Peninsula, but, apart from some brief and distant glimpses, they had eluded us. Yet here one was, beckoning to us with the promise of more auspicious birding opportunities still to come.

And come they have. Birds that once existed two-dimensionally on the plates of my Peterson's field guide, or that had dwelled in my imagination, have

instead become alive and real to me. I was pleasantly pleased to find that the colors of birds such as Lazuli Bunting, Western Tanager, Mountain Bluebird, or Black-headed Grosbeak were far more vivid and lustrous than Peterson's renderings had led me to believe. But nothing in my mind's eye had prepared me for the majestic sight of a Golden Eagle soaring by almost at eye level; for seeing scores of Wilson's Phalaropes twirling like tops on Alkali Lake, their red necks turning like a barbershop's pole; or for viewing an American Dipper bobbing in and out of a swift-flowing rocky creek. My spirits soared at seeing American White Pelicans kettling like confetti as they spiraled high overhead, or at watching flocks of Snow Buntings wafting in over hayfields and scrounging for seeds.

And the cranes: those magnificent, graceful birds. "*Somewhere I have never travelled, gladly beyond any experience,*" poet e.e. cummings famously wrote, and in seeing and hearing these awe-inspiring creatures, I understand what he meant. Their primeval calls reverberating through the dawn and twilight, their long necks outstretched and their powerful wings beating the air as they fly in formation, their comical antics as they prance and weave through their courtship dance—all of these things, previously unknown to me, have become part of my world.

To be sure, the pace at which I have added new birds to my life-list has waned in the five years I've spent in Wyoming. This past year, for instance, brought few new sightings—most notably, and memorably, the astonishing spectacle of a flock of Pinyon Jays descending *en masse* onto our feeders, virtually

emptying them out in the space of five minutes. (Do I enjoy seeing these birds? I find their garrulous, almost human-sounding, calls and their smoky-blue coloring appealing, but I'm put off by their unruly behavior and their gangster-like ways. It's all a matter of a pinyon.)



*This marauding flock of Pinyon Jays made quick work of the seeds in two bird feeders when it visited this past September. (Photograph by John C. Rumm)*

Yet while I am seeing fewer new species, I find myself deriving immense satisfaction through spending time patiently observing the now-familiar ones that surround me—the Western Meadowlarks, Say's Phoebes, Killdeers and others that take up residence in our pastures; the chickadees, juncos and finches that visit our feeders; the grebes, cormorants, ducks, coots, avocets, sandpipers, pelicans and other waterbirds that frequent the nearby Buffalo Bill Reservoir.

Here, living as I am in what I have come to regard as the best place on earth, the birds of Wyoming have captured my heart. I eagerly look forward to the changing seasons and the familiar sights and sounds each one brings. With heightened expectation, I await whatever new birding opportunities may arise.

And to that Sage Thrasher with its glinting eyes, I say this: *I'm still looking for you, fella!*

— John C. Rumm

## **Meadowlark Scholarship Fund**

As Meadowlark members know from previous issues of the newsletter, each spring we award our annual Deb Woodbridge Memorial Scholarship, named in honor of the individual who, before she passed away from cancer in 2008, championed the effort to award a scholarship to a deserving high school graduate from our four-county region. Ours represents the only Audubon chapter statewide to offer such a scholarship. Recipients have included Emily Johnson (2010), Benjamin Anson (2011) and Kristopher Mull (2012). Applications for the 2013 scholarship will be accepted through April 15, 2013. Further information and an application form may be found on the Meadowlark website.

We are deeply grateful to those Meadowlark members who have made generous contributions to support the Scholarship Fund. In this holiday season, with the end of the year fast approaching, we invite you to consider making a donation to the 2013 Scholarship Fund. Your contribution will be 100% tax-deductible, and every dollar we receive will be applied to the fund; should the balance exceed \$1,000, we will use any excess funds to seed the fund for 2014. Please think about donating generously to a worthy cause that will help ensure that a deserving young person has the opportunity to pursue a college degree that will advance Audubon's mission.

— Lisa Marks and John C. Rumm



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### Joyce Cicco Honored with Service Award

Space limitations in the Fall 2012 newsletter prevented us from congratulating Joyce Cicco, recipient of this year's Meadowlark Service Award for all she has done for the chapter since its formation. She is shown holding Douglas Faulkner's *Birds of Wyoming*, given to her at the Meadowlark picnic in June. Joyce, thanks for all you do!

#### Calendar of Upcoming Events

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in the basement community room of Big Horn Federal Savings, 1701 Stampede Avenue, in Cody. Please check our website (<http://www.meadowlarkwyo.org>) for updates!*

**January 10, 2013:** Board meeting, 6-6:45; Program meeting, 7-8:30. Presenter: Vince Stabe, wildlife biologist, Raptor View Research Institute, "Eagles and Ammo," on Golden Eagle research, especially non-lead ammunition impact studies.

**January 12, 2013:** BLM Mid-Winter Eagle Survey, Bighorn Basin. Please contact Destin Harrell (307-578-5933).

**February 14, 2013:** Board meeting, 6-6:45; Program meeting, 7-8:30. Presenter: Jarren Kuipers (Land Steward Services LLC), "Conservation Easements: Empowering Landowners to Protect Natural Resources."

**March 26, 2013:** Nelson Performing Arts Center Auditorium, Northwest College, Powell, 7:30 p.m. Presentation by noted ornithologist, field guide author and bird artist David Sibley. *Note: This will take the place of Meadowlark's March Board and program meeting.*

**May 24-26, 2013 (tentative date):** Spring Birding and Wildlife Festival, Cody. *See Spring newsletter for further details.*