

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING –

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

Last Chance Audubon Society will meet on **Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 pm at the Neighborhood Center.** (To access the Neighborhood Center from Broadway, go south on Cruse and then take a right slightly down into the parking lot on the east side of the Neighborhood Center. It's not possible to enter the building from the walking mall in the evening.)

The September program – *The Biomimicry Guild: Understanding and Using Nature's Designs* – will be presented by Taryn Mead, Biologist at the Design Table, for the Biomimicry Guild. The Biomimicry Guild helps innovators learn from and emulate natural models by offering workshops, research reports, biological consulting, and field excursions.

The core idea in biomimicry is that Nature has already solved many of the problems we are grappling with. Animals, plants, and microbes are the consummate engineers. They have found what works, what is appropriate, and most important, what lasts here on Earth. Biomimicry realizes that after 3.8 billion years of research and development, nature's failures are fossils, and what surrounds us is the secret to survival.

Taryn's lecture includes images of nature coupled with the technologies inspired by them. It's the story of a world in which humans meet their needs while fitting in with the environment and creating conditions conducive for all Life.

Taryn Mead grew up in the woods of the rural Midwest. She graduated Cum Laude with degrees in Environmental Studies and Biology with an emphasis in Ecology from Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison. She was involved with numerous sustainability initiatives in Gunnison. Upon graduation, she received the Alumni Award for Excellence for her service to the campus and community. She relocated to Helena, MT, when she joined the Guild, after working as a biologist on commercial fishing vessels in the Bering Sea.

ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE

Last Chance Audubon Society, in partnership with Birds & Beasleys, is now taking orders for the chapter's annual birdseed sale. This is a chance for you to stock up on seed for your feathered winter guests and at the same time help our chapter raise money for educational and conservation projects. All profits from this sale go to LCAS.



25# black oil sunflower seed,
unshelled - \$20.00
25# medium chips – \$40.00
10# nyjer thistle - \$18.50
20# nyjer thistle - \$37.00
25# millet - \$15.00

Place your order by Oct. 21 with Sue Jackson, 443-4486, or Sandy Shull, 449-0904, or at either the Sept. or Oct. membership meeting.
Pick up birdseed
at Birds & Beasleys, 70 S. Park Ave.,
between Oct. 28 & Nov 8.



INSIDE:

- ♪ *Helena Birdnote: Nutcrackers in the Neighborhood by Joyce Beckes ... p. 2*
- ☀ *Spring Meadow Tree Planting Follow-up - Watering Volunteers Needed ... p.3*
- ☀ *Announcements & Coming Events ... p. 3*
- ☀ *Poem: Summer Story by Mary Oliver ... p. 3*

♪ **HELENA BIRDNOTE: NUTCRACKERS in the NEIGHBORHOOD** by Joyce Beckes

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) was misidentified as a woodpecker when it was first seen by Capt. William Clark on August 22, 1805. The following year, on the expedition's return journey, a specimen was collected along the Clearwater River near Kamiah, Idaho.

Nutcrackers live in mountainous regions of the American West. The nutcracker is a large songbird with a gray body, prominent white patches on its black wings and tail, and a long, pointed, black bill. Males and females are alike in plumage, with males slightly larger on average. Juveniles are similar to adults. The call of the nutcracker is loud, rasping, and grating.

Clark's Nutcrackers feed primarily on pine seeds, and their behavior and annual cycles are tied to this diet. A special pouch located under the bird's tongue allows it to carry seeds long distances. Studies have shown that nutcrackers have a remarkable ability to remember where they have cached seeds. They nest in junipers or pine trees from March through May. The female lays 1 to 3 eggs, which are incubated by both sexes for approximately 18 days, and both parents feed the nestlings that fledge in 24-28 days.

The parents continue to feed the fledglings after they've fledged. I know this because usually in early May a flock of nutcrackers—adult birds and fledglings—shows up at our house.

And we have an extraordinarily noisy month or more when begging fledglings, wings a-flutter, relentlessly pursue their parents, loudly demanding to be fed. As summer progresses, the fledglings ease up and decide to feed themselves, sometimes, and the noise level goes down. Many of the birds disappear as summer progresses, but at the end of the season they start to drift back.

By late fall, a flock is assembled, and there is a daily morning fly-in with the nutcrackers raucously summoning all their mates to join them in eating and drinking and bullying the Blue Jays and Steller's Jays over peanuts.

And they're with us until they go off to nest in early spring. Of course, it's way too quiet without them, and we eagerly await their return in May!



Buy Organic, Shade Grown Coffee through Last Chance Audubon and support the birds and the chapter.

Mochó, Tango, French Roast, Italian, Viennese ...

\$8.50 per lb. Decaf ... \$9.50 per lb.

Xocolatl Hot Chocolate Mix ... \$9 per 12-oz. can

Place your coffee orders with Joyce Beckes, 458-8170 - samsper@mt.net, by the 1st of the month.



Last Chance Audubon promotes understanding, respect and enjoyment of birds and the natural world through education, habitat protection and environmental advocacy.

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Wed until 8pm
Sundays 11am-4pm



70 S. Park Ave.,
Helena, MT 59601
406-449-0904
www.birdsandbeasleys.com

SPRING MEADOW TREE PLANTING IS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to Lake Helena Watershed Group, Lewis & Clark County Water Quality District, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Boy Scouts of America, and volunteers from Last Chance Audubon for planting trees in the burned areas of Spring Meadow. The hard work of planting is over, but now we need some volunteers to continue watering the trees for the fall and next summer. If you'd like to be part of a team of dependable folks who would be willing to help with this watering project, call Sandy, 449-0904. If you haven't been to Spring Meadow lately, check out the new growth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMING EVENTS

--**Birds & Beasleys is continuing to lead Saturday morning field trips.** Meet at Birds & Beasleys, 70 S. Park Ave. on Saturdays at 7:30 am. Field trip destination changes weekly. Call on Thursday if you'd like to know where they are going, 449-0904.

--**The LCAS Silent Auction** will be held at the November and December meetings. If you have something to donate please call Jo Lace, 443-6640, or Sandy Shull, 449-0904.

MONTANA AUDUBON SEEKING

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: This is a permanent, 40-hour per week staff position. Time frame for hiring is by mid-September 2008; the position will remain open until filled. E-mail responses to shoffman@mtaudubon.org. No calls please.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you'd like to write an article about a favorite bird, favorite birding site, what you did last summer, or a topic of your choice, I'd like to hear from you: Joyce Beckes, 458-8170 - samsper@mt.net.

October Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 1. Thanks!

SUMMER STORY by Mary Oliver

When the hummingbird
sinks its face
into the trumpet vine,
into the funnels

of the blossoms,
and the tongue
leaps out
and throbs,

I am scorched
to realize once again
how many small, available things
are in this world

that aren't
pieces of gold
or power—
that nobody owns

or could buy even
for a hillside of money—
that just
float about the world,

or drift over the fields,
or into the gardens,
and into the tents of the vines,
and now here I am

spending my time,
as the saying goes,
watching until the watching turns into feeling,
so that I feel I am myself

a small bird
with a terrible hunger,
with a thin beak probing and dipping
and a heart that races so fast

it is only a heartbeat ahead of breaking—
and I am the hunger and the assuagement,
and also I am the leaves and the blossoms,
and, like them, I am full of delight and shaking.

--from Mary Oliver's most recent book, *Red Bird*



MEMBERSHIP from Sara Toubman. Welcome and thanks to all these new and renewing members.

National Audubon Society-new: Rich Petaja, Cathy Bakeberg, Eric Eggen, Sharon Liederman, Jane Heath & Vic Andersen, Deana Stearns, Deborah Jones, Lynn James, Norm Doebel, James & Lorca Pompati, and Carol Bearden. NAS-renewals: Amy Pezo, Loren Bahls, Teresa Amsbaugh, Joe Lamson, Susan Marks, Lisa Pena, C. Berg, Bob Sanders, Mrs. William Dunbar, Alexandra Swaney, Frank Cooper, Barb Bayer, and Ernest Lundberg. LCAS-new/renewals: Sue Bennett, Marilyn Johnson, Teresa Murphy, Lisa Pena, Jean A. Smith, Barbara Pepper-Rotness, Irene Kominos, Doug Finstad, and LeRoy & Diana Schramm.



**Last Chance Audubon Society
Membership Form**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please send your \$15 check and form to Last Chance Audubon Society, PO Box 924, Helena, MT 59624.
All contributions are tax deductible.

LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers:		Christmas Count	Sue Newell-442-8142/Cedron Jones 442-1271
Secretary	Brian Shovers 443-6640	Circulation	Sam Sperry/Joyce Beckes 458-8170
Treasurer	Dan Sullivan 443-4229	Conservation	Brian Shovers 443-6640
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Don Skaar	442-3254	Habitat Protection	vacant
Jim Greene	495-9270	Membership	Sara Toubman 442-1271
Coburn Currier	ccurrier@mt.gov	Nat. Hist. Series	Don Skaar 442-3254
Lorna Milne	443-7162	Newsletter	Joyce Beckes 458-8170 - samsper@mt.net
Martha Vogt	495-9270	Program	Sara Toubman 442-1271
Committee Chairs/Contacts:		Publicity	Jim Greene 495-9270 - greenevogt@imt.net
Birdathon	Jo Lace 443-6640	Silent Auction	Sandy Shull-449-0904/Jo Lace-443-6640
Birdseed Sale	Sue Jackson-443-4486/Sandy Shull-449-0904	Website	Christian Frazza

LCAS Website: www.lastchanceaudubon.org. Contacts: Birdseed – Birds & Beasleys, 449-0904; Shade Grown Coffee – Joyce Beckes, 458-8170; Montana Audubon – 443-3949 / www.mtaudubon.org. Non-members may receive the newsletter for \$5.50 per year. Send check to LCAS, PO Box 924, Helena 59624.

**LAST CHANCE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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