
Livingston Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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(406) 222-1892

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Livingston, MT... The Livingston Ranger District and Livingston Adult Community Education are sponsoring several events focused on migratory birds in our area. Learn more about our fine-feathered friends through this free lecture series held at Washington School and two field trips presented by experts in avian resources. This year's theme examines climate change and how it may affect bird migration, nesting and feeding success, and bird distribution and diversity. Refreshments, including bird-friendly shade-grown coffee and cookies, will be served between evening lectures. All IMBD offerings are open to community members of all ages.

The *free lecture series* will be held at Washington School, 315 N. 8th Street, Livingston, MT. The series schedule is:

- Tuesday, May 8, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Climate Change, Wildlife, and Protected Areas: New Insights, New Urgency
- Tuesday, May 8 – 8:15-9:15 p.m. - The Long Term Effects of Climate and Agriculture on Prairie Nesting Ducks
- Thursday, May 10 – 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Passenger Pigeon: The World's Greatest Nounenon!
- Thursday, May 10 – 8:15-9:15 p.m. – The Hummers Are Coming!

Free field trips will be offered on May 12 and June 2. To reserve a spot, call Rachel Feigley, Livingston District Wildlife Biologist at 222-1892 or 823-6064. Participants should meet at the Livingston Ranger District office, 5242 Hwy 89 South at 6:30 a.m. Bring binoculars, field guide, water and snacks, and dress appropriately for short-distance walking and quiet observing. The field trips include:

- Saturday, May 12 – 6:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. – Birds in a Changing Climate!
- Saturday, June 10 – 6:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. – The Burning Question: Are Burned Forests Birding Hotspots of Diversity?

For additional information, please contact Rachel Feigley, Livingston Ranger District, (406) 222-1892.

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Editors Note: Detailed Descriptions of the Lecture Series and Field Trips are attached.



5242 Highway 89 South, Livingston, MT 59047
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

Lecture Series Information

Free lecture series to be held at Washington School, 315 N. 8th Street, Livingston (titles and detailed descriptions not available at this time) include:

Tuesday, May 8 – 7:00-8:00 p.m. - CLIMATE CHANGE, WILDLIFE, AND PROTECTED AREAS: NEW INSIGHTS, NEW URGENCY

Presenter: ***Greg Pederson, Research Scientist; Big Sky Institute and US Geological Survey, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center***

Globally and regionally, the climate system has changed dramatically over the 20th century, and will continue to do so far into the future. Impacts associated with a changed climate include earlier melt of our winter snowpack, the rapid retreat of alpine glaciers, and increasingly large forest fires. What might this mean for western ecosystems, wildlife habitat, natural resources, and our communities? In this discussion we will explore: 1) the highlights of the 2007 IPCC report 2) the historic and future drivers of environmental change, 3) what climate change in Northern Rockies looks like in comparison with the rest of the world, 4) what this likely means for wildlife, habitat, and natural resources, and 5) forthcoming challenges in species conservation.

Tuesday, May 8 – 8:15-9:15 p.m. - THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE ON PRAIRIE NESTING DUCKS

Presenter: ***Kevin Podruzny, Doctoral Candidate; Montana State University, Ecology Department***

Kevin will discuss details of his research on the effects of pond numbers, precipitation, temperature, and changing agricultural practices, on the presence and abundance of seven dabbling duck species and three diver duck species in prairie ecosystems of Canada and the US over the past 40 years. He will also talk about an earlier study that was the genesis of this work that looked at long-term responses of northern pintails to changes in wetlands and agriculture in the prairie pot-hole region.

Thursday, May 10 – 7:00-8:00 p.m. - PASSENGER PIGEON: THE WORLD'S GREATEST NOUMENON!

Presenter: ***Terry McEaney, Ornithologist; US National Park Service***

Terry will present another interesting and informative lecture on one of many bird topics about which he is very knowledgeable. We have all heard stories of the famous Passenger Pigeon and its demise, dropping from huge numbers to none. Hear about the potential trend of bird extinction, what might be the cause, and how human actions may influence the outcome.



Thursday, May 10 – 8:15-9:15 p.m. - THE HUMMERS ARE COMING!

Presenter: *Neil Travis, Master Permit Holder, Federal Bird Bander*

Neil's presentation will focus on his volunteer work banding hummingbirds with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network at Saguaro National Park. Neil will explain habitat needs of hummingbirds. The banding work is tied to habitat protection to insure that the hummers will continue to come! The program will include photos of most of the species of hummingbirds that are found in the US, as well as a series of photographs of the hummingbird banding project. Anyone interested in hummingbirds will find this presentation informative and productive!

Field Trip Information

Free field trips will be offered on May 12 and June 2. ***To reserve a spot, call Rachel Feigley, Livingston District Wildlife Biologist at 222-1892 or 823-6064.*** Meet at the Livingston Ranger District office, 5242 Hwy 89 South at **6:30 a.m.** Bring binoculars, field guide, water and snacks, and dress appropriately for short-distance walking and quiet observing. The field trips include:

Saturday, May 12 – 6:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. - BIRDS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE!

Presenter: *Rachel Feigley, USDA Forest Service Wildlife Biologist & knowledgeable field guides, including Robin and Richard Wolcott of the Sacagawea Chapter of the Audubon Society*

Join local guides for birding field trips in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day! We will hit birding hot spots in Park County and try to identify as many species as possible. Options for possible viewing include waterfowl, migratory songbirds, raptors, and shore birds.

Saturday, June 10 – 6:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

THE BURNING QUESTION: ARE BURNED FORESTS BIRDING HOTSPOTS OF DIVERSITY?

Presenter: *Victoria Saab, Research Biologist; USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station with Rachel Feigley, USDA Forest Service Wildlife Biologist & other knowledgeable field guides*

We will visit a recently burned forest to observe which birds use these unique habitats. There will be opportunities for discussion about burned forest ecology. Though increasingly prevalent wildfires are most often considered destructive, fire is the mechanism that creates habitat for a large suite of birds in our western coniferous forests.

