

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
Volume 47 Number 4, December, 2018



Photograph by Tom Taylor

Upcoming Activities Mark your Calendar

Illustrated Evening Programs

Wednesday, February 13

To Be Announced

Check our [Website](#)

or anticipate an Eblast!

(You can sign up for Eblasts on the site)

Field Trips

Every Saturday

Randall Davey Audubon Center

(Except January)

December 15, 2018 – January 6,
2019

Christmas Bird Counts

Sunday, January 13

Rosy Finches at Sandia Crest

Saturday, February 2

Bosque Del Apache/Ladd Gordon Areas

Details inside.

Check out our new [Website](#)

New Governor's Plans for the Environment

Michelle Lujan Grisham will be New Mexico's next governor, but another winner from November's election could well be the environment, if she follows through on priorities that she staked out during the campaign.

Expanding clean energy as a bridge to the state's economic future, capturing methane currently wasted during gas and oil drilling, revitalizing water agencies struggling with dysfunction and starved by budget cuts, and developing a 50-year statewide water-management program are among the positions that she endorsed while campaigning for the state's top elected job.

One thing seems certain: she will bring a much stronger environmental ethic to the job than her defeated opponent, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, would have. Since becoming a U.S. congresswoman in 2013, Lujan Grisham earned a score of 89 out of 100 on environmental issues from the League of Conservation Voters. In 2016, the same group gave Pearce a goose egg.

However, she has repeatedly laid out detailed plans to make New Mexico a leading clean-energy producer, including a proposal to increase the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50 percent by 2030 (the current goal is 20 percent by 2020). She also wants to expand clean-energy training programs for students and energy sector workers, and revitalize state tax credits and incentives for residential solar energy.

In Lujan Grisham's view, clean energy and the state's economic future are closely intertwined. But maintaining New Mexico's position as a leading energy producer while shifting more and more production to wind and solar, as she envisions, will require more transmission lines, too. The only reference to this controversial issue in her campaign literature is a brief note that the state needs to make sure new transmission lines are sited well.

When it comes to water, Lujan Grisham has pledged to end work on the Gila River Diversion Project and instead expand water conservation and restoration projects to benefit southwestern New Mexico. Perhaps most importantly though, she says she wants to strengthen state water agencies, in part by appointing leaders who will put science before politics.

How could all this affect those of us in the Santa Fe area? Reducing the state's carbon footprint by cutting back methane emissions associated with oil and gas drilling would make for cleaner communities as well as a cleaner planet. But beyond that, her plans for promoting the purchase and use of electric vehicles, and launching new incentives for rooftop solar – including ways for homeowner to earn credits on their electricity bills – could mean changes in budget decisions and lifestyle for many residents, too.

As markets for clean energy expand throughout the West, accelerating New Mexico's transition to wind and sun power will be crucial for growing the state's jobs and economy, Lujan Grisham has argued. And our state must be nimble; neighboring states are already moving aggressively to expand their own clean-energy production.

Gordon Smith

Audubon Activities

Illustrated Evening Programs

Wednesday, February 13

To be announced

Evening programs are held at 6:30 PM on the second Wednesday of February, March, and April with illustrated talks on bird conservation and other topics concerning the natural world in the Education building at the Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary at the end of Upper Canyon Rd. in Santa Fe. Abundant parking is available. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge and the building is wheelchair accessible. A short update of environmental issues and chapter activities precedes the program.

Field Trips

December 15, 2018 – January 6,
2019

Christmas Bird Counts

The National Audubon Society began the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) in 1901. These counts provide important information about wintering bird populations. There are close to 30 counts held in the state of New Mexico and the Sangre de Cristo Chapter participates in 10 counts in its area. The CBCs will be held between mid-December and mid-January. Novices are welcome and will be paired with more experienced birders. For information, check the web site:

[Audubon New Mexico](#)

Contact the leaders of each count you want to participate in to make count arrangements.

Every Saturday

Randall Davey Audubon Center

Every Saturday, a naturalist will lead a walk around the RDAC grounds, an Audubon Important Bird Area, at 8:30 AM. Binoculars can be provided. Dress appropriately. All welcome. For information, call: 983-4609.

Note that the Randall Davey Center will be closed from Christmas through the end of January.

Sunday, January 13

Rosy Finches at Sandia Crest

Leader: Tom Jervis, 505-988-1708,
Jervidae@cybermesa.com

A fun trip to Sandia Crest to see Rosy Finches and other winter montane species and watch the banding operation. We'll spend the morning inside the Crest House and if the weather is cooperative, take a walk through the snowy woods to see what may be around. We will car pool from Santa Fe. Contact the leader for meeting time and place.



Saturday, February 2

Bosque Del Apache/Ladd Gordon Areas

Leaders: Mary Ristow 505-690-7336,
mristow@newmexico.com
Linda Mowbray 505-989-8295,
birdinglinda@yahoo.com

On this long one-day trip we should see large numbers of Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes, plus raptors and other waterfowl. Appropriate for all levels of birders. Spotting scopes are useful. Contact leaders for meeting time and place.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](#). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon Society](#) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2017. Please visit the official website at: [www.GBBC.birdcount.org](#) for more information

On the program website participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during and after the count.

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society Field Trips are designed to promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife and their habitats. Our aim is to cultivate awareness of outdoor ethics in an atmosphere of friendly companionship. Field trips are free and open to the public. Some area entry fees are required and driving costs are shared. Participants are expected to carpool whenever possible. On all field trips, wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Bring water, lunch, and binoculars. No pets, please. Always call the trip leader before the trip. Trips may be cancelled for a variety of reasons.

Audubon New Mexico Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary

The grounds at the Randall Davey Audubon Center are open Monday to Saturday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, closed Sundays (and in January). Stroll the gardens as birds visit the birdfeeders, or walk the trails and enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of the 135-acre wildlife sanctuary. Additionally, the Davey Center is an environmental education center and offers a variety of educational events. Please check the [website](#) for details. The Center is located at the end of Upper Canyon Road on the far east side of Santa Fe.



Historic House Tours

Step back in time as you stroll through the old Santa Fe style home (originally a lumber mill built in 1847 by the U.S. Army) of the artist Randall Davey (1887-1964). This docent-led tour will give you an opportunity to view some of Davey's most spectacular works of art, as well as a beautiful collection of Spanish Colonial and European antiques. Tours are held each Friday at 2:00 PM. Reservations are recommended. Cost is \$5 per person. For information call 505-983-4609.

Join Climate Watch and Make a Difference

Climate Watch, organized by National Audubon Society, aims to monitor how bird populations respond to climate change. Like the Christmas Bird Counts, Climate Watch is a "citizen science" project – it relies on volunteer participants who simply like watching and counting birds. Over years (and hopefully decades), these observations will combine to make a meaningful dataset for use by many researchers.

Climate Watch participants will be asked to count birds they see and hear during five-minute "point counts" at specified locations. The focus of Climate Watch is to detail the distributions of bluebirds and nuthatches; these species groups were chosen because they are familiar, easy to find and identify, and potentially sensitive to changing climate. Point counts for Climate Watch will be held in winter (Jan. 15 – Feb. 15) and summer (May 15 – June 15). We welcome all birders in Northern New Mexico – if you are willing to devote one day this winter to a set of point counts, it can make a difference!

Interested in being a participant? Contact Albert Shultz
Climate Watch Coordinator for SdCAS. Email:
shultzaw@gmail.com, Phone: 505-757-2754(h) 505-699-1521(c)

For further details on the Climate Watch program, go to:
<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society Rosy Finch Project

When you think of rosy finches in New Mexico, most folks immediately think of the successful Rosy Finch Project at Sandia Crest and the ease with which the birds can be seen there. Building on the success of the Sandia project, Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society's Rosy Finch Project is trying to attract rosy finches to a feeding station at Ski Santa Fe. We have installed a feeder donated by Wild Birds Unlimited in Santa Fe and hope to attract a regular group of rosy finches and then start a banding program similar to that at Sandia Crest. The staff of the ski area has volunteered to keep the feeder filled with no-waste seed also donated by Wild Birds Unlimited.

The Feeder is placed just northeast of Chipmunk Corner (the kid's ski school) and can be viewed from the Cafeteria in the main lodge. We will maintain the feeder from November through the end of March. If we can get a regular clientele of rosy finches, information from this population can be compared to that at Sandia Crest to shed light on the birds movements along the mountains of New Mexico.

Now in our fourth year, other birds are using the feeder, although no rosy finches have been observed yet. So if you are looking for montane species, the feeder is a good place to find them. So far the most commonly reported species are Mountain Chickadee (!), Steller's Jay, Canada Jay, and the occasional Clark's Nutcracker. Get up there and check them out!

Volunteers from the chapter occasionally deliver seed to Chipmunk Corner, and more importantly, spend time monitoring the birds coming to the feeder. If you are interested in helping out please contact Tom Taylor, project coordinator at: tn21tay@comcast.net or call 424-3238.

Olympic Birdfest 2019

Discover birds of coastal Pacific Northwest April 10-12, 2019. The North Olympic Peninsula is widely known as a great place for bird watching. The Olympic BirdFest is timed to overlap wintering birds and the beginning of spring migration. In addition to guided field trips and a boat cruise in Strait of Juan de Fuca, birders may participate in presentations, workshops and a banquet. Contact: www.olympicbirdfest.org .



Environment News

2018 Bird Taxonomy Update

SPECIES SPLITS for birds found in our area:

The sexually monochromatic **Mexican Duck** is split from the widespread species **Mallard**. Mallard occurs widely in Eurasia and overlaps (and interbreeds) with Mexican Duck in its US range (border regions of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona) as well as in northern Mexico in winter. Mexican Ducks appear to be expanding in the northern portions of its range and also as a vagrant (north to Wyoming and Colorado and west to California).

Red-eyed Vireo was formerly considered one widespread species with migratory northern populations breeding in North America, resident populations in northern and central South America, and migratory populations in southern South America. The species is now split, with North American breeders remaining as **Red-eyed Vireo** and South American breeders becoming **Chivi Vireo**.

COMMON NAME CHANGES

Mallard (Northern) becomes **Mallard**

Mallard (Mexican) becomes **Mexican Duck** (again)

Gray Jay becomes **Canada Jay** (again)

Bird Forecast

Billions of birds migrate across the globe each year, and, in our modern environment, many collide with human-made structures and vehicles. The ability to predict peak timing and locations of migratory events could greatly improve our ability to reduce such collisions. Van Doren and Horton used radar and atmospheric-condition data to predict the peaks and flows of migrating birds across North America. Their models predicted, with high accuracy, patterns of bird migration at altitudes between 0 and 3000 meters and as far as 7 days in advance, a time span that will allow for planning and preparation around these important events.

Science 14 September 2018

More Wolves for Isle Royale

More than 60 years ago, a couple of wolves wandered across a frozen channel on Lake Superior and settled on moose-rich Isle Royale in Michigan, touching off a dance of predators and prey and a classic study in ecology. Now, a new experiment is starting. If the wind and waves on Lake Superior cooperate, by the end of September, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) will airlift the first of six wolves from the U.S. mainland to Isle Royale by float plane. The goal is to re-establish predators now that the original wolf population has dwindled to a vulnerable pair. Planners aim to move a wolf each week over the next month.

NPS plans to avoid the existing pair's territory when it releases the mainland animals onto the 544-square-kilometer island. Because the aging, existing pair is bonded, no one expects the old and new wolves to interbreed, though it can't be ruled out. The animals may fight, but managers will be hands off once the wolves are released. "We intend to let them work it out," Green says. How they do so is just one of the surprises the experiment has in store.

Science 28 September 2018

Cat Predation Estimates Justified

Researchers addressed science denialism and campaigns of misinformation as they have been applied to the issue of free-roaming cats and the estimate that cats annually kill 2.4 billion birds in the United States ([Loss et al. 2013](#)). The authors refuted specific criticisms frequently propagated by advocates for keeping free-roaming cats on the landscape while emphasizing that "misinformation and denialism are characterized by unsubstantiated assertions that contradict scientific evidence, not by honest disagreement, differing interpretations, civil discourse, and healthy skepticism."

American Bird Conservancy

Nocturnal Refuge

As the human population grows, there are fewer places for animals to live out their lives independently of our influence. Given our mostly diurnal tendencies, one domain that remains less affected by humans is the night. Researches found that across the globe and across mammalian species—from deer to coyotes and from tigers to wild boar—animals are becoming more nocturnal. Human activities of all kinds, including nonlethal pastimes such as hiking, seem to drive animals to make use of hours when we are not around. Such changes may provide some relief, but they may also have ecosystem-level consequences.

Science: 15 June, 2018

Beavers, Rebooted

The elimination of beavers from much of the U.S. West degraded streams and dried up wetlands. Now, artificial dams called beaver dam analogs (BDAs), built by humans but often completed by beavers, may be the fastest-growing stream restoration technique in the West. Federal agencies, nonprofits, and even private ranchers have installed the structures to return life to deeply eroded streams, and in some cases to help re-establish beavers in long-abandoned territories. Part of the allure is that BDAs are cheap compared with other restoration techniques. The BDA craze is experiencing growing pains, however. Regulators unfamiliar with the approach are sometimes skeptical, and some landowners and government agencies are loath to aid a rodent infamous for felling valuable trees, flooding property, and clogging road culverts.

Science, June 8, 2018



Climate News

Hurricane Florence—the Aftermath

Hurricane Florence was the wettest storm on record ever to hit the Carolinas, causing billions of dollars in damage, and deadly consequences for people and wildlife. Audubon's one-month damage assessment report explains how natural infrastructure protected the Carolinas, the impacts and lessons learned from this storm, and solutions to protect our coastal communities from deadly storms in the future. [Read more.](#)

National Audubon Society



Uneven Rainfall

What are likely to be the specific results of anthropogenic activities on climate, beyond higher temperatures? One may be change in the way rainfall is distributed in time. Rainfall is an uneven phenomenon: There are wet days and dry days, floods and droughts, and hard rains and gentle rains. Researchers use observations and models to show that climate change should only exacerbate that unevenness. Whereas today it takes an average of 12 days each year for half of the year's rain to fall, by 2100, in a scenario with high greenhouse gas emissions, the same fraction should fall in the wettest 6 days each year.

Science 9 November 2018, *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 10.1029/2018

Warming, Crops, and Insect Pests

Crop responses to climate warming suggest that yields will decrease as growing-season temperatures increase. Researchers now show that this effect may be exacerbated by insect pests. Insects already consume 5 to 20% of major grain crops. The researchers' models show that for the three most important grain crops—wheat, rice, and maize—yield lost to insects will increase by 10 to 25% per degree Celsius of warming, hitting hardest in the temperate zone. These findings provide an estimate of further potential climate impacts on global food supply and a benchmark for future regional and field-specific studies of crop-pest-climate interactions.

Science 31 August, 2018

No Longer a Safe Haven

Many biological patterns have a latitudinal component. One long-recognized pattern is that predation rates are higher at lower latitudes. This may explain in part why many migratory birds travel thousands of miles from the tropics to the poles to breed, although the abundance of food resources for their chicks is a major driver of migration. Looking across thousands of records, researchers have found that the predation pattern has been reversed in the northern hemisphere, most notably in the Arctic. This increased nest predation is consistent with climate-induced shifts in predator-prey relationships. In shorebirds, at least, predation rates on nests are now higher in the Arctic than in the tropics.

Science 9 November 2018

Adaptive Behavior

The early season outlook for Puffins on the coast of Maine was bleak. Oceanographers predicted that warm waters were headed towards the Maine coast and key forage fish usually move away from nesting islands when waters turn tepid. By mid July, sea-surface temperatures around Maine increased to near-record levels. Chicks were starving, getting fed as infrequently as once a day, and some were dying.



But then in mid-August everything changed again. Puffin parents were suddenly finding more fish and feedings increased to a dozen or more per day. What's more, the parents continued feeding their chicks up to a month longer than usual,

postponing their usual mid-August migration, ultimately successfully fledging chicks of normal weight.

Migratory behavior is usually hard-programmed into birds. When it is time to go, they go, and underweight chicks are left behind. But Puffins are apparently different. Faced with abandoning their chicks, they stuck it out. In the face of climate-change, some birds will succeed by adapting to the changed circumstances. Puffin parents seem to have an unrealized behavioral plasticity—one that may allow them to be among the winners in the climate-change lottery.

Steve Kress, Puffin Project

Going Upslope: Not a Lasting Strategy

Across the world, wildlife is adjusting to the changing climate in unique ways. A recently released 10-year study examined impacts on the most common cloud-forest birds at a national park in northwestern Honduras. The study found that eight species moved upslope at an average rate of 23 feet per year, fleeing warmer temperatures and deforestation. The fastest-moving bird was the Flame-colored Flycatcher, which shifted upslope at a rate of 50 feet per year! This trend of upward mobility is problematic because eventually the birds could have nowhere left to continue moving. [Read more.](#)

National Audubon Society



President's Column

Tom Jervis

The 2018 elections are over. Whew! For New Mexico, it was a great day for the environment. New congressional representatives mean that New Mexico is now firmly in the column of those who believe in Science and who will not deny the evidence before their eyes of the our rapidly changing climate and its impact on our riparian areas, forests, and grasslands. It is, of course, yet to be seen if the House of Representatives can make progress against the juggernaut of Trumpian denial, falsehoods, and toadying to those who desire nothing less than the wholesale abdication of Federal oversight of public lands to private interests. Along with our own Ben Ray Lujan, Yvette Harrell, and Xochitl Torres Small will be well positioned to make a difference in the House.

The Senate is a different story, with Republicans maintaining control with the avowed goal of supporting President Trump regardless of his idiocies and of turning the Federal Judiciary into a bastion of conservative policy. Our two Senators, Udall and Heinrich, have been stalwart supporters of the environment—and of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (see next page). We need to thank them for their good work.

Another bright light is the election of Stephanie Garcia Richard as the New Mexico State Land Commissioner. This position, long in thrall to ranchers, loggers, and the oil and gas industry, is finally in the hands of someone who recognizes the constitutional purpose of the Land Office—to be a source of support for education in the state. We can hope to see an end to the good-old-boy policies that kept lease rates low and led to all manner of connivance in the mismanagement of State Trust Lands.

Finally we come to the election of Michelle Lujan Grisham as Governor. Her statements during the campaign are covered by Gordon Smith in our lead article and represent an emergence from an 8-year dark age during which influence peddling was elevated to an art form. It remains to be seen if her campaign goals become watered down by political expedience, but there is considerable hope for the environment contained in those goals.

We still have a major challenge in the Federal Administration. Make no mistake, the election results will not deter the Trump Administration from its policies. We can expect continued efforts to privatize public lands and to allow land-management agencies to roll over and allow development to proceed with little consideration of other public values. The cronyism that has characterized this Administration will continue.

We can reasonably expect New Mexico to stand up against this threat, but the battle is still on; our work is not yet done.

In Memoriam Lorraine (Hartshorne) Schulte

Audubon in New Mexico lost a great champion with the death in November of Lorraine Schulte. With her husband Pierre Hartshorne in the early 1970s, she was one on the founders of Sangre de Cristo Audubon in Los Alamos. They later moved to Las Cruces where she became a stalwart of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society and in particular the Audubon Adventures Program in the schools. Her love for birds—and support for conservation of all wildlife—was an inspiration to many. She will be sorely missed.

Birds Not First with Colored Eggs

Birds were not the first to lay colored eggs: Dinosaur eggshells came in a panoply of hues and speckle patterns, researchers report in the 1 November issue of *Nature*. The authors argue that eggshell coloration likely had a single evolutionary origin, in the carnivorous dinosaurs called theropods that gave rise to modern birds. The researchers, led by Jasmina Wiemann of Yale University, used spectroscopic analysis of fossils to identify pigments in eggs of 15 species of dinosaurs and prehistoric birds, revealing their probable original colors. As with modern birds, the dinosaurs' tinted shells likely camouflaged their eggs from predators, while distinctive speckling patterns may have helped parents distinguish their own eggs from those of cuckoo-like dinosaurian nest parasites, Wiemann says.

Science 2 November 2018

Court rules for Red Wolf Recovery

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) must do a better job of protecting the endangered red wolf (*Canis rufus*), a federal judge ruled this week. The



decision overturns several controversial management decisions that wolf advocates say would have doomed the 40 or so remaining red wolves. Only one population exists in the wild, in eastern North Carolina, where FWS in 1987 started to reintroduce red wolves from zoos. Some local residents object to the wolves roaming onto their land, so FWS—which has more flexibility in managing this “experimental” population than other endangered species—in 2014 began to allow red wolves to be shot even if they weren't threatening people or causing problems. After North Carolina officials requested an end to the program, FWS also stopped releasing red wolves and halted its long-standing effort to prevent interbreeding with coyotes. U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle found that the changes violated the Endangered Species Act.

Science 9 November 2018

Political Issues

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Lapses

The LWCF is America's premier federal program that reinvests offshore energy revenue into conservation to ensure that we all have access to the outdoors—and Congress has just allowed its funding to lapse, which is a shocking blow to the country's recreation economy. Whether it is a local community park or playground, or the vast expanses of our federal public lands, Congress created the LWCF to guarantee America's natural, historical and outdoor recreation heritage. Since its creation 54 years ago, the LWCF has benefitted New Mexico's communities and residents through both its "state side" and "federal side" programs. [Read more.](#)

NM Wild

Surprise, The Clean Water Act Actually Cleans Water!

Though the U.S. Clean Water Act has been in effect since 1972, evidence of its effectiveness has been unclear. Researchers have compiled comprehensive data on water pollution and its drivers, including 50 million pollution readings from 240,000 monitoring sites. They find that \$650 billion in federal grants to wastewater treatment plants made rivers significantly cleaner for 25 miles downstream for 30 years (\$1.5 million per mile per year). But the benefit in terms of clean water did not extend to home values. Homes within 25 miles of improved waters increased by only 25% of the cost of the grants.

Science 2 November 2018
Quart. J. Econ. 10.1093 (2018).

Good News for Puffins—and for National Monuments

As the only marine monument in U.S. Atlantic waters, the new Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is a critically important wintering and foraging habitat for Atlantic Puffins and 19 other species of seabirds. Last month, a federal court dismissed a lawsuit challenging the monument's creation, confirming that the President has the authority to use the Antiquities Act to protect special places in the ocean. [Read more.](#)

National Audubon Society



Bears Get Legal Reprieve

In the latest twist in a long-running battle, a judge has restored legal protections for about 700 grizzly bears living in and around Yellowstone National Park in the western United States, halting a planned bear hunt. The 24 September ruling reversed a 2017 decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to remove the bears from the federal endangered species list. The agency failed to "rationally consider and apply the best available science" in reaching its decision and "illogically cobbled together" research studies to support it, wrote U.S. District Court Judge Dana Christensen. FWS had argued that the Yellowstone bear population, one of five grizzly populations in the lower 48 states, had grown large enough to withstand limited hunting. But Christensen found that the agency gave up on using state-of-the-art science when it struck a deal with three states—Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho—about how to estimate bear populations.

Science 28 September, 2018



Federal Judge Blocks Keystone XL Pipeline

Saying that the Trump Administration review ignored 'inconvenient' climate change facts, a federal judge in Montana said the Administration failed to properly justify its decision allowing construction of the controversial 1,200-mile pipeline. The Judge hit the administration with a familiar charge that it disregarded facts, facts established by experts during the Obama administration about "climate-related impacts" from Keystone XL. The Trump administration claimed, with no supporting information, that those impacts "would prove inconsequential," he wrote.

Since Trump took office, federal courts have found repeatedly that his agencies have short-circuited the regulatory process in areas ranging from water protections to chemical plant safety operations. Robust environmental and administrative procedure laws, many dating back to the 1970s, have given the administration's opponents plenty of legal ammunition.

Washington Post, 11/15/2018

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Audubon en Español

Audubon ha lanzado su sitio web en español para conectar con las audiencias hispanas y disfrutar juntos de la naturaleza y la protección de las aves y sus hábitats. Visita Audubon en Español (<http://www.audubon.org/es>).

Contact your Congressional Representatives
Let them know that protecting the environment is important to you!

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