SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SacajaweaAudubonNews

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BUILDS ON AN INTEREST IN BIRDS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ENJOYMENT, EDUCATION AND ACTION.

April 2015

Calendar at a Glance

April 6th	SAS Board Meeting
April 13th	SAS Program Meeting
April 25th	Madison Valley IBA Survey
May 2nd	Mid-Spring Exploration Field Trip Headwaters IBA Survey
May 5th	Give Big Gallatin Valley
May 11th	Birdathon Early Registration

Mountain Hawk Eagle Nepal

Hawkwatching Around the World

Monday April 13th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

Join worldclass raptor specialist, Sergio Seipke, for his presentation 'Hawkwatching Around The World'. He will share photographs and insights about raptors, their ecology and conservation gained during his recent (2012-2015) raptor tours to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Nepal, Spain, Thailand, and South Africa. Enjoy a vicarious world birding tour with the BEST!

Sergio Seipke is from Argentina. He became fascinated with raptors in 1993 and has traveled extensively ever since to watch, study, and photograph birds of prey in 15 countries. He owns the company Raptours through which he leads international tours to view raptors. His book Raptors of South America will soon be published. Copies of Raptours 2015/2016 will be available.

Bearded Vulture Nepal

Cinereous Harrier Argentina

Mid-Spring Exploration

May 2: Contact John Parker 586-5863
birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Meet at the Museum of the Rockies at 7:30 AM, for this full day trip.

The location and direction will be determined at the time of the trip. We will visit one of this area's larger reservoirs as the primary destination of the day. This date is between the peak of the waterfowl and songbird migrations, so the focus of the trip will be on both water birds and early passerines. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, and bring appropriate clothing as this will be an all day adventure. **Limit 12 people.**

This May 5th, go BIG for Sacajawea Audubon. On that day, we're participating in Give Big Gallatin Valley, Gallatin County's Largest Day of Giving. For 24-hours only, visit GiveBigGV.org, make a donation (min. $10) and every dollar you donate will be stretched by a Match Pool of Funds from the Bozeman Area Community Foundation and their presenting sponsors. PLUS, there's an additional pot of funds for prizes throughout the day we can win just from your donation! Remember to visit GiveBigGV.org and your donation will go even further for our community. When you give big, extraordinary things happen! Mark your calendars, Tell your Friends, Give Big. More info at GiveBigGV.org.

Do you eBird?

eBird is a free, web-based tool for sharing your bird observations, and is revolutionizing how citizen scientists contribute to our knowledge of birds. Currently, there are large geographic and species gaps within eBird for the state of Montana. To fill in these gaps, Kate Stone and Eric Rasmussen from MPG Ranch challenge you to share more of your observations. Our goal is to promote and incentivize eBird use in Montana. We will have fun prizes for monthly challenges and the eBirder with the most species and most counties at the end of the year. We'll also share tips for how you can use eBird to learn more about birds in Montana and elsewhere. For more information, contact Kate and Eric at montanachallenge2015@mpgranch.com.

Important Bird Areas

Birds are on the Move! Spring migration is underway and our local IBAs provide much needed habitat.

On March 15th eighteen ardent birders from Bozeman and Ennis braved the Madison Valley winds to survey the Madison Valley IBA. We were rewarded with sightings of some of the early migrants coming back: Sandhill Cranes, Western Meadowlarks, Mountain Bluebirds, Killdeers, 3 surprisingly early Tree Swallows and hundreds of migrating ducks, geese and swan that find a welcome stop-over on Ennis Lake. Altogether 3,825 individuals of 47 species were counted in a few short hours. If you are interested in putting your birding skills to use to monitor our Important Bird Areas (good birding is guaranteed!) join some of the next IBA surveys listed below:

- *Madison Valley IBA survey* - ***April 25***
- *Headwaters State Park IBA survey* - ***May 2***
- *Headwaters State Park IBA survey* - ***June 17***
- *Madison Valley IBA survey* - ***June 24***

To join the Madison Valley surveys contact Paulette Epple at bigskyepples@msn.com or 580-6186. To join the Headwaters surveys contact Martha Collins at marthacoll@msn.com or 579-0506.

June 5-7, 2015 Helena, Montana

The annual Bird Festival is fast approaching. You should have already received your registration brochure, so please register early by mailing the registration page or by going online at www.mtaudubon.org.

Rooms have been blocked at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. Call 1-406-443-2100 and mention you're with Montana Audubon Bird Festival to get the rate, or book online with the booking code MONT0604.

Last Chance Audubon, co-sponsors of the event are offering something different and fun this year. Read the following and then sharpen your pencils and create your own bird or birding-themed limerick or haiku masterpiece and submit for prizes.

A limerick's not too hard to write
If you keep the rhyme sequence in sight;
Just let your mind go.
The ideas will flow.
So you don't want to try it? You might.

Haiku is traditionally a 17-syllable poem arranged in 5 – 7 – 5 syllable lines without rhyme. Limericks are five lines with rhyming as illustrated above.

You may submit up to two of each. Be sure to keep copies for yourself and submit your entries to: **Jo Lace, 210 S California St, Helena MT 59601. Or email to Janice and Jo at jan2854@gmail.com NO LATER than May 1, 2015.**

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife by presenting **Awards** at the Saturday evening banquet. We are currently seeking nominations in the following categories: Lifetime Achievement Award, Educator of the Year, Conservationist of the Year, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Special Achievement Award. To make a nomination, download a nomination form from www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html. Nominations are due at the office by May 22, 2015. Mail completed forms to *Montana Audubon, PO Box 595,Helena MT 59624*.

Register soon and join us in Helena in June. You will be treated to wonderful birding and non-birding tours, Friday evening and Saturday afternoon speakers, which include the keynote speaker, Scott Weidensaul, plus Vince Yannone, Dan Ellison, and Andrea Silverman (Prickly Pear Land Trust.) Oh—and did we mention wonderful meals and beautiful accommodations?

Sacajawea Audubon 2015 Birdathon

Saturday, May 16 – Sunday, June 28, 2015

How does a Birdathon Work?

A Birdathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of collecting pledges per mile walked, you spend a great spring day outdoors with fellow birders. The challenge is to identify as many bird species as possible within a 24 hour period from May 16 – June 28, 2015. You collect pledges per bird species and the money raised benefits Southwestern Montana birds and other wildlife.
Check-out the Birdathon Rules and Prize & Award information sheets in the Birdathon Kit you can find online at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org or call 406 600-6666.

How Can You Participate in the Birdathon?

Participation is easier: You don't have to be an expert - some people even do Birdathons by counting the visitors to their feeder. Others cover dozens of miles in a day, racking up over 100 species. The key to Birdathon is to have fun!

- **Join a Team:** Contact the Birdathon Committee, we have birdathon teams that would love for you to join them.
- **Form a Team:** Get a few of your birding friends together and schedule a 24 hour period to go birding. Contact us for a Birdathon Kit and register your team. *(see registration form on back for details)*
- **Take a Business "Bird Break":** Trade in your briefcase for binoculars, grab co-workers and count birds on your lunch hour! Contact us for more information on getting your business involved in Sacajawea Birdathon - becoming an event sponsor, creating a company team, or specific levels and benefits of event sponsorship.
- **Be a Backyard Birder:** Gather pledges and watch birds in your neighborhood park, or at your own backyard feeder. Compete for our "Sitting Duck" award. Contact us or go online at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org for a Birdathon Kit.
- **Sponsor a Team Member:** Support your favorite team or team participant by making a pledging.

The Birdathon Committee has maps, field guides, fundraising tips, and plenty of experience to share. Contact us at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org or 600-6666.

2015 Birdathon Key Dates

May 11	**Early Bird Registration Drawing**
May 16	**First Day of Birdathon**
June 28	**Last Day of Birdathon**
June 29	**Team Reports and Pledge Forms Due**
July 2	**Birdathon Award & Celebration Party**

Awards & Prizes Categories

There Are Many Prizes – check out our website for more details

- **Most Species Identified:** This award recognizes the team that identifies the most species in a 24-hour period. All members of the team must see or hear 95% of the birds reported.
- **Most Money Raised:** This award recognizes the team that raises the highest total dollar amount in donations.
- **Most Pledges Collected:** This award recognizes the team that solicits the highest number of individual pledges.
- **Most Species in a Half Day:** This award recognizes the team that identifies the most species in a 6 hour period.
- **Best Bird Award:** This award recognizes the team that records the "best" bird as determined by an outside judge. This could be a rare bird for a specific habitat or a bird that is difficult to find in its habitat.
- **Raptor Award:** This award recognizes the team that sees the most Raptors on their Birdathon Day. Count all Hawks, Falcons, Eagles, Ospreys and Vultures.
- **Montana Audubon Award:** This award recognizes the team that sees the most Magpies on their Birdathon Day
- **Important Bird Area (IBA) Sighting Award:** This award recognizes the team that observes the most bird species in Montana IBAs. The Team Report submitted must indicate on which IBAs the birds were seen.
- **Sitting Duck Award:** This award is given to the team whose members identify the highest number of species while staying within an imaginary circle 200 feet in diameter during their count.
- **Carbon Neutral Award**: This award is given to the team who is the most energy efficient or has the smallest carbon footprint.
- **Mentor Award:** Each Team Leader will be entered for a prize.
- **Rookie Award:** If you're new to birdwatching you will be eligible for a prize at the awards celebration

Sacajawea Birdathon ....

… the most fun you'll ever have helping to protect Southwest Montana's natural heritage.

For Birdathon Kit or more information:
www.Sacajaweaaudubon.org or contact Loreene Reid at loreener@yahoo.com or 600-6666

Sacajawea Audubon Society

Early Bird Birdathon Prize

Register your team by Monday. May 11

Win a Full Registration to:
Montana Audubon Bird Festival
June 5-7, 2015 Helena, MT
Includes all meals - a $130 value

Birdathon 2015

Team Registration Form

To compete for the early bird registration prize, complete and return this form with $50 by May 11, 2015 to Birdathon Committee at PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59715. All team members will be entered into a drawing to be awarded at Sacajawea Audubon Annual Meeting on May 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Team Name: _____ **Team Leader:** _____

Team Member Name	Email Address	Address	Phone	New Birdwatcher

For Birdathon Kit that includes; Rules, Awards, Prizes, How-to-Hints, Pledge Tracking Forms, and Other Info. **go to www. sacajaweaaudubon.org**

Thank you for participating in Birdathon 2015 and supporting Sacajawea Audubon's Educational and Conservation Programs

Rescue Organization Braces for Spring Surge of Injured and Orphaned Songbirds

By Emily Johnsen

Male Western Tanager Injured During Migration

Spring is just around the corner and Big Sky Bird Rescue is bracing for the inevitable arrival of dozens of injured and orphaned songbirds. According to Mava Hurd, director of the local non-profit organization, the arrival of spring brings with it numerous exhausted and worn down migrants. Some of these birds, such as the common nighthawk, travel for more than 6000 miles to spend the summer months in Montana.

Shortly after the adults arrive, baby season is off and flying. Hurd explains that baby songbirds can be the most difficult and time consuming to rehabilitate. Though baby birds are the most work for rehabilitators, they are often the most rewarding. "Nestling songbirds are a huge commitment, but they are worth it because the success rates are high, even when they come in looking very dire."

Big Sky Bird Rescue (BSBR) is a state and federally licensed non-profit (401c) organization that specializes in the rehabilitation of songbirds. They provide essential care, nutrition, and shelter to the more than 400 wild bird species native to South Western Montana. As the busiest season approaches, BSBR is stocking up on food, housing materials, and medical supplies.

Baby Robins approximately two weeks old

Big Sky Bird Rescue relies on public financial support and donations, including game meat, towels, and sheets. If you would like to donate, volunteer to help with bird care, or if you find a bird in need help, call (406) 993-9303 or (908) 247-1477. You can find out more about Big Sky Bird Rescue at bigskybirdrescue.com or visit us on Facebook.

Newly Hatched Robins

Abstract of minutes to March 2, 2015 SAS Board Meeting

Report of President Loreene Reid. The Chapter still needs committee chairs for Publicity and Nominating Committees as well as both a Chapter Rep to Montana Audubon, and an alternate. We are also looking for three new at-large members to fill open positions this spring. Loreene will lead a Distinctive Dialogues round table talk on Birding Hotspots in Southwest Montana as part of a fundraiser for the Friends of the MSU Library on April 7th.

The "How Do We Measure Our Success" Committee (Richard Keighley, Chair, Leo Freeman, Jeff Safford) gave the following report:

1)That the Annual Plan serves as an excellent benchmark by which the SAS Mission Statement's relevancy can be measured.

2)That a review of said Mission Statement and Annual Plan be made annually.

3)The the Annual Plan be made available to the entire SAS membership in both hard copy and digital form.

4)That following the completion of each fiscal year an evaluation be made of the Annual Plan's success in meeting its goals.

5)That the Annual Planning Session be (1) structured around a review of the previous year's Annual Plan, and (2) the foundation for the following year's Annual Plan.

Reports of Chairs:

Story Mill Community Park: Paulette Epple and Lou Ann Harris presented an attractive draft flyer on Birding in the Story Mill Community Park in order to enhance awareness of, and appreciation for, bird use of the park. The Board was in agreement that this project should proceed.

Kelly Ranch Field Trip: Kathryn Kelly of the Montana Land Reliance would like to team with SAS to help promote habitat conservation. John Parker plans a field trip to the Kelly Ranch.

Trident-Peregrine Trail: Vickie Backus is applying for a Recreational Trails Program grant for the trail and trail facilities construction. That a question has arisen over ownership of the land where the trail is proposed may have an effect on the project.

Education: Bridger Raptor Festival. Leo Freeman will serve as committee chair for SAS's participation in the 2015 Festival.

Birding Classes: Ashley Martens is being contracted to teach Beginning Birding and Beginning Birding by Ear classes this June.

Field Trips. Raptor ID Workshop and Field Trip. Completely booked. Ennis Lake Spring Field Trip: March 28th. Openings still available.

Publicity: Bill Muhlenfeld states a willingness to advise SAS on improving our forms of publicity: website, Facebook, brochure, and media announcements.

New Business: Give Big Gallatin Valley. Rick Sanders explained this program aimed to promote a day (May 5th) of giving to local no-profits. Lou Ann Harris will sign us up.

Sacajawea Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

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Mailing Address

Sacajawea Audubon Society, affiliated with the National Audubon Society, meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May.

Sacajawea Audubon News is sent to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members monthly September through May. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the month articles will appear. Please send to: **Mary Cloud Ammons, 503 Bozeman, Bozeman MT 59715** or **newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org**.

Change of Address: Please notify Karin Jennings at **587-2279** or **membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org** if your address changes**.** When you move or are away, newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society Website** at: **http://www.sacajaweaaudubon.org/**

Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Loreene Reid	600-6666	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Evelyn Acton	586-2258	treas@sacajawea audubon.org
Secretary	Paulette Epple	586-0932	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Board members	Jackie Wilson	599-0942	jackiewilson@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Chris Nixon	544-4901	christopherfnixon@yahoo.com
	Leo Freeman	414-403-7943	leofreeman@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Peter Norlander	222-4646	norlander@q.com
	Richard Keigley	582-5833	richardkeigley@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Jeff Safford	587-3782	jeffsafford@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	**OPEN**		
Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Vickie Backus	600-2280	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality / Coffee	Diane Gresham	219-3543	dgresham@bresnan.net
Membership Records	Karin Jennings	587-2279	membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter Ed. / Design	Mary Cloud Ammons	600-0301	newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Program Chair	Jackie Wilson		programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Publicity Chair	**OPEN**		kehlert44@gmail.com
Chapter Rep. to State	Sharon Hanton	586-9500	
Webmaster	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Audubon Adventures	Hillary Johnson		ralphhilary@gmail.com

Montana Audubon: 406-443-3949; PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624; mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org; www.mtaudubon.org For direct contact: shoffman@mtaudubon.org
Montana Bird Hotline: 406-721-9799 to report unusual or out-of-season birds

The Sacajawea Audubon Society Newsletter is Printed on 100% Recycled Paper

Membership Application

National Audubon Society
(Includes chapter membership)

- National, State and Chapter Audubon Membership
- National Audubon Magazine
- Monthly Sacajawea Audubon newsletter September through May by surface mail or E-mail
- Admission to National Audubon sanctuaries
- Support of National Audubon conservation efforts

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:**_____

Email: _____

_____ **$20 First Time Member**

_____ **I would like to receive the chapter newsletter by E-mail only.**

Mail your check and application to:

Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 597711711
(N51)