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.

February 2015

Calendar at a Glance

Feb 9th	SAS Monthly Meeting	March 5th & 7th	Raptor ID Workshop & Field Trip
Feb 12th	Wild Birds Unlimited Shopping Event	June 5th - 7th	MT Audubon Annual Bird Festival
Feb 13th - 16th	Great Backyard Bird Count		
Feb 23rd - May 11th	Master Naturalist Class		

Trumpeter Swan Restoration

Building Community Support for Wetland Conservation on the Wings of an Iconic Wetland Bird
The Middle Madison Valley Story

Monday February 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

This month, please join the Sacajawea Audubon Society as we welcome Claire Gower, from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Tom Hinz, from Ecolegacy Consulting, for their presentation on building community support for wetland conservation in the Madison Valley.

This presentation will describe a decade long wetland restoration project in the Madison Valley, SW Montana; the success of which provided an opportunity to initiate Trumpeter swan restoration efforts which started in 2012. The goal of this work is to restore nesting pairs to the valley and the greater Tri-state area. At the end there will be a few slides to describe swans of Montana.

The Sacajawea Audubon Society meets the second Monday of the month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m., at the Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman. We invite the public to attend our meetings and participate in our field trips.

Raptor Identification Workshop & Field Trip March 5th and 7th

(Presented by: *Steve Hoffman*, Executive Director, MT Audubon and founder of HawkWatch International)

Have you ever wanted to sharpen your raptor identification skills? If so, this is the workshop for you! On Thursday evening Steve will provide a detailed discussion of the identification and natural history of all raptor (e.g., hawks, eagles, falcons, etc.) species wintering in the Gallatin Valley. Steve's illustrated talk will include a description of the many plumage variations (including subspecies and color forms, as well as age and sex variations) of the more common and observable species. Helpful behavioral clues will also be incorporated. Eagles, falcons and the "buteo" hawks (such as Red-tailed Hawks) will be emphasized. Participants will then go into the field (north of Bozeman) on Saturday to practice their newly-developed skills. Steve's presentation will be especially valuable for "intermediate" and "advanced" raptor watching enthusiasts, although beginners will also find this workshop quite helpful.

The Thursday night presentation will start at 7 PM and last till 9 PM, in the Bozeman Public Library's small conference room.

Saturday morning's field trip will meet at the Museum of the Rockies at 8:30 am, and leave at 8:45. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring any necessary drinks or snacks for this 4-5 hour trip. If you have a spotting scope that you can bring, that would be helpful.

There is a $35 fee for Sacajawea Audubon members, $15 for students, or $55 for non-members (the $55 includes a $20 Sacajawea Audubon membership). There is a 20 person limit for the workshop and field trip. Advance reservation and payment is required. For more information and to make reservations please call John Parker at 586-5863 or e-mail birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Announcing *Wings Across the Big Sky* Field Trips!

June 5-7, 2015
Helena, Montana

It's not too early to begin planning your summer activities. During winter, when birds are sparse, it's easy to dream of long summer days and abundant birds. Where you will find plenty is in the beautiful Helena Valley and surrounding areas. Come join us for **Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by Last Chance Audubon Society, June 5 - 7 at the Colonial Inn in Helena.**

As for field trips we have close to 20 planned for each day! — guided by knowledgeable birders and naturalists familiar with the species and their habitats in the Helena area. Here is just a brief sampling of some of those trips to contemplate as you anticipate the upcoming Bird Festival:

Canyon Ferry WMA
This trip will explore mostly riparian and pond-type habitats adjacent to the Missouri River, and impoundments along Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area. It includes grassland, shrubs, agriculture and cottonwood bottomlands. Ponds include large breeding colonies of White Pelicans and several gull species. Caspian Terns may also be seen in one area, and Sandhill Cranes are common throughout. Many waterfowl species can be observed, along with grassland sparrows, swallows, orioles, and many marsh birds, and other common riparian and water-associated species.

Little Prickly Pear Creek
This trip will follow Little Prickly Pear Creek north of Helena from the Canyon Creek store downstream most of the way to the Sieben exit on I-15. The riparian area is always within view, and willows dominate at the start of the trip, giving way to cottonwoods at the end. The trip starts in irrigated bottomlands where Bobolinks, Wilson's Snipes, Sandhill Cranes and Wilson's Phalaropes may be expected. Moving into the canyon, which has shrubby and coniferous uplands, expect to see Willow and Dusky Flycatchers, Spotted Towhees, Lazuli Bunting, Gray Catbirds, Lark Sparrows, Bullock's Orioles and Rock Wrens. Species which have been seen here include Veery, Green-tailed Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pileated and Lewis's woodpeckers. The lower end of the trip is a wonderful aspen grove, and Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Flickers, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Least Flycatchers and House Wrens may be seen here.

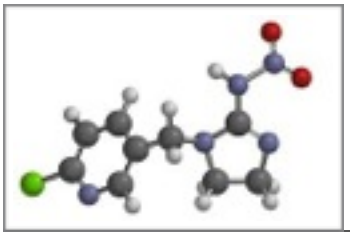
Little Blackfoot and Minnehaha Creeks
This trip will begin along the Little Blackfoot River near Elliston, proceed up Telegraph Creek, over the Continental Divide and down into Minnehaha Creek. Extensive willow bottoms mark the start of the trip giving way to irrigated pastures and then a trip through aspens and various life zones of coniferous forests when moving over the Divide. Expect to see Willow, Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers; Northern Waterthrush; Song, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Chipping sparrows; Wilson's, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray's warblers are possible, as is the Cassin's Vireo and Steller's Jay. On top, look for Clark's Nutcrackers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Mountain Bluebirds. With luck, we will see expansive fields of beargrass in full bloom.

Keep watch in early March: Festival Brochures with all field trip information and schedules will be in the mail and the online system for registration will be active.

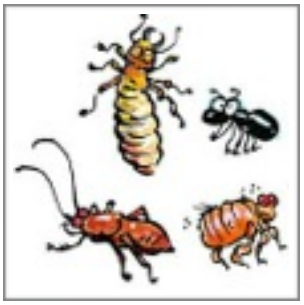
For more information please contact Montana Audubon Bird Festival Coordinator, Cathie Erickson, cerickson@mtaudubon.org, or call (406) 443-3949.

The New "F" Word

With a 1000 day life span, imidacloprid, water soluble and the most widely used insecticide in the world, kills sucking insects by stimulation of the nervous system causing death. Research shows it may also kill non-target pests. The Netherlands, using imidacloprid for 20 years, has seen a 3.5 percent annual decrease in 9 of 15 farmland bird species. The 9 species most seriously affected exclusively eat insects, and all feed insects to their young.



Why are the birds declining? Possible causes include starvation due to wipe out of food source, ingesting contaminated insects, and ingestion of sublethal or lethal effects of coated seeds with imidacloprid. Other possible long-term factors causing bird decline were ruled out. Some birds eat bees. Bees are negatively affected by imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid.



Therefore, in 2015 Bayer is replacing imidacloprid with flupyradifurone, a neonic toxic to mammals, bees, worms and birds.

-Jocelyn Allen

Bird Notes Special: Local Christmas Bird Counts

Bozeman CBC

Bozeman's 76th Christmas Bird Count was held on December 20th. The weather was ideal, with temperatures ranging from the mid-twenties to the mid-thirties. It was nearly calm all day. There were 45 people in the field, plus 10 feeder watchers.
The 17,505 individual birds seen was about 3,000 birds more than the previous high count (lots of Canada Geese, Bohemian Waxwings, and Black-billed Magpies of course). 66 species were seen on the Bozeman count, which is the second highest total ever. New high counts were tallied for 15 species; Canada Goose (2,690), Green-winged Teal (21), Gadwall (9), Wild Turkey (25), Sharp-shinned Hawk (20), Red-tailed Hawk (75), Merlin (11), Peregrine (1), Belted Kingfisher (13), Hairy Woodpecker (20), Gray Jay (3), Blue Jay (3), Clark's Nutcracker (39), Black-billed Magpie (1,174), and American Robin (318). The robin count was an amazing three times higher than the previous high count. The new high count of 20 Sharp-shinned Hawks was another huge increase from the previous high of 11.

No new species were added to the count this year. Some of the notable species (for years seen on the count) include Lesser Scaup (3 years), Peregrine Falcon (6 years), Three-toed Woodpecker (7 years), Gray Jay (7 years), White-throated Sparrow (9 years), and White-winged Crossbill (6 years).

Thanks for all the participants!
John Parker, Bozeman Christmas Bird Count Compiler

Three Forks CBC

On the 26th of December 25 participants conducted the 33rd Three Forks Christmas Bird Count. With cold clear weather the numbers were not earth shattering but we did tie 2007 for third highest number of species with 57 (61 in 2010 is the record). Highlights included one new species on the count, Redhead, and one other new species during count week, Long-eared Owl. We had several record high counts, two ties with a lone Northern Goshawk and a pair of Canyon Wrens, along with flat out record highs for Red-tailed Hawk (37), Merlin (5), Northern Flicker (76), Black-billed Magpie (538), Brown Creeper (4), Dark-eyed Junco (15) and most surprisingly 5 Viginia Rails all from the Headwaters crew! Several other notable species were found with a very high count of Brewer's Blackbirds, a Harris' Sparrow, two Western Meadowlarks and a lone Short-eared Owl. Notable lows were only 2 Golden Eagles and 47 Rough-legged Hawks. The biggest miss was probably Pinyon Jays which are seen on over 70% of counts.

Thanks to all for a great count and hope to see many of you again next year.
Tom Forwood, Three Forks Christmas Bird Count Compiler.

Ennis CBC

The 55th not-quite-consecutive Ennis CBC was conducted on Wednesday December 17. We had 22 participants covering our count circle. We tallied 64 species for the day making this the second highest count on record – our record high was 73 in 2011. We added Cackling Goose and Canyon Wren as new species to the count to bring the total number of species to 130 seen since the count began in 1958. Highlights included 1 Eared Grebe and 1 Northern Shoveler both of which had been seen only once before and this was but the third sighting of Rusty Blackbird and Virginia Rail. One Harris Sparrow was spotted and a feeder watcher found the only Common Redpoll.

The temperatures were mostly above freezing on count day with a high of 40°. The lake was approximately half open – VERY unusual for December.

Ennis CBC Participants Taking the High Ground

Many thanks to all who participated.
Robin Wolcott, Ennis CBC Compiler

Special Event for SAS Members Only!

Wild Birds Unlimited of Bozeman would like to invite Sacajawea Audubon Society members to a private shopping event on Thursday, February 12 from 6-8. The new store is located at 2047 W. Oak St. #105, by Buffalo Wild Wings off N. 19th. A wine and cheese reception will be offered to members along with 10% off all purchases that night only and special giveaways. Wild Birds Unlimited is happy to be back in town with new owners Debi Naccarto and Jerry Taylor. They are excited to be able to partner with the Sacajawea Audubon Society to promote Audubon membership and to spread the word on upcoming birding events.

Can Birds Converse?

Dr. Charles C. Abbott cites the following occurrence to show that birds possess some mode of conveying ideas to one another. In the spring of 1872 a pair of cat-birds were noticed carrying materials for a nest to a patch of blackberry briars hard by. To test their ingenuity, Dr. Abbott took a long narrow strip of muslin, too long for one bird to conveniently carry, and placed it on the ground in such a position as to be seen by the cat-birds when searching for material. In a few moments one of the cat-birds spied the strip and endeavored to carry it off, but its length and weight, however he took hold of it--and he tried many times--impeded his flight, and, from long worrying over it, the bird flew off for assistance. In a few moments, her returned with his mate, and then, standing near the strip, they agreed to hold a consultation. The chirping, twittering, murmuring, and occasional ejaculations were all unmistakable. In a few moments these all ceased, and the work commenced. Each took hold of the muslin strip, at about the same distance in each case from the ends, and taking flight simultaneously bore it away. Soon there was much jabbering at the nest. The birds could not agree how to use the strip, and it was finally abandoned, but so, too, was the nest, the birds [having] left the neighborhood.

Source: The Weekly Montanian
(Virginia City, Montana Territory)
19 August 1875
Page 3, Column 6

Be a part of this global Bird Count
February 13-16, 2015

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a 4 day event held every year in February. Bird watchers from across the world are asked to count and report the birds they see to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Everyone is welcome—from beginning bird watchers to experts. You can count birds anywhere you find them --in your yard, your neighborhood, out on a walk, or at any of your favorite birding spots. Take as little as 15 minutes on one day or make it a whole weekend of birding.

Scientists will use the information, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations.

Go to www.birdcount.org to learn more. You can enter checklists there starting on February 13th.

The steps are easy:

1. Create a GBBC account. This applies to anyone who has never participated in a GBBC or does not have an eBird account. **Two ways to set up a GBBC account: Do it now through eBird or wait until Feb. 13 and create your account on the GBBC website. You can use the same login name and password for both projects.**

2. Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. Create a separate list for each day, for each location, or for the same location at different times.

3. Enter your results on the GBBC website by clicking "Submit Your Bird Checklist" on the home page. If you already use eBird the data will be integrated and your sightings will appear in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Master Naturalist Class

Join the Montana Outdoor Science School and become a Master Naturalist! Learn to interpret the landscape first hand, rather than with a guide. Build knowledge in the fundamental ecological components that create the Bozeman Valley and surrounding areas. Participate in a class of motivated adults geared at better understanding our natural world.

"I used to enjoy hiking for the exercise, now I pay so much attention to what is at my feet I don't move as fast," quote from former Master Naturalist student.

Survey topics include:
Field Journals & Sketching
Tree Identification
Flower Identification and flower characteristics
Mammal Identification and tracking
Bird life and Bird Identification
Fish physiology
Geology

Classes will be held on **Monday nights from 4:30-7:30**. Two half-day local field trips and one full day culmination trip to Yellowstone National Park will also be a part of this experience. **Classes run from February 23 through May 11 with trips on March 21, April 18, and May 16.** Each participant will also be required to complete a community service component to maintain Master Naturalist Certification. This program is run in conjunction with the Montana Natural History Center.

The cost of this course is $395. Full payment is due upon registration. Class size is limited to 12 participants. The course fee (minus a $100 administrative fee) is refundable ONLY if cancellation is made 30 days before the first class. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made after this deadline.

For more information, email Sarah Normandeau at SNormandeau@outdoorscience.org.

Abstract of Minutes, Sacajawea Audubon Society Board Meeting, Jan. 5, 1915

Reports of Officers:

President: Loreene Reid reported that the position of Publicity Chair is still open. Sharon Hanton continues to serve as Chapter Representative to Montana Audubon, but an alternate for when Sharon is unavailable is desired. The "How do we Measure Success" committee, composed of Richard Keigley, Leo Freeman, and Jeff Safford has met, and has asked the Board to examine the Chapter's success by measuring up to SAS's mission statement. Jeff will circulate mission statements from other chapters nation-wide, including that of the National Audubon Society, for comparative purposes.

Treasurer: Evelyn Acton reported that donations during 2014 year-end fundraising campaign totaled $1,545.00. Our share of the Bird Festival dessert auction ($2,663.76) has been sent to Montana Audubon for the Bridger Ridge Raptor Survey.

Reports of Chairs:

Conservation: The Ruby River Restoration Project has failed to receive a Together Green Grant. SAS continues to be devoted to the restoration project's success. Missouri Headwaters State Park Extension Trail: The next steps include writing a Memorandum of Understanding between the sponsoring groups, and a letter to Montana Rail Link requesting permission to develop the trail on MRL's 200-foot easement.

Education: An E-Bird workshop will be offered on January 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Bozeman Public Library.

Field Trips: The Raptor ID Workshop will take place on March 5th and the accompanying Field Trip on March 7th.

Newsletter: The upcoming *Newsletter* should contain reports from the 2014 Christmas Bird Count leaders

New Business:

A new Wild Birds Unlimited franchise will hold its Grand Opening on Saturday-Sunday, January 24 & 25. SAS will staff a table. They will announce a special event for Audubon members in the February *Newsletter.*

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
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	Peter Norlander	222-4646	norlander@q.com
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Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Vickie Backus	600-2280	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Membership Records	Karin Jennings	587-2279	membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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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)