S A C A J A W E A A U D U B O N S O C I E T Y

SacajaweaAudubonNews

Sacajawea Audubon builds on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education and action.

May 2015

Calendar at a Glance

Sponsor a Birdathon team by making a donation or pledge.

Operation Osprey

Monday May 11th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

Join us for the last meeting of the season for a Sweet and Savory potluck at 6:00 pm and the Program "Operation Osprey" with Eli Kutsch, raptor naturalist and conservationist.

Fourteen year old Eli Kutsch, a Sacajawea Middle School student, was motivated by his love of raptors and a suggestion from Steve Hoffman at the Raptor fest several years ago to start a project to install an Osprey nest platform at East Gallatin Recreation Area. Eli met with osprey researchers in Missoula, watched nest-cams, and consulted expert advisors. He got the concept approved by the Bozeman Parks and Recreation Board, worked with Fish Wildlife and Parks, and was advised by Northwestern Energy's wildlife biologist. He worked with the Rotary Club and found donors to fund the construction. Northwestern Energy's volunteer crew assisted Eli and his Boy Scout Troop 677 erect the platform. Gain inspiration and practical conservation methods as Eli shares his project.

Book Discussion:
Living on the Wind by Scott Weidensaul

May 11, 4:45-5:45PM
Hope Lutheran Church

You are invited to join a discussion of *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* by Scott Weidensaul, keynote speaker for the Audubon Birding Festival in Helena. The book is an exciting and informative account of bird migration in the western hemisphere. For those who are short of time, the first section (pgs. 5-125) provides much to talk about: astonishing bird migrations, research on why birds migrate and how they navigate, and wonderful accounts of Weidensaul's experiences and observations. The Country Bookshelf and Wild Birds Unlimited are planning to stock the book, and you might give them a call to see if the books are in. You can also order the book on the Internet.

Contact Adele Pittendrigh for more information and to let her know you plan to participate. adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com.

Raptor News!

Thanks to all of you who attended our April program with Sergio Seipke, for his presentation 'Hawkwatching Around The World'.

For those of you who inquired about the raptor newsletter, please use (for the enewletter folks) or type the following link to sign-up for the **Raptor News**:
http://eepurl.com/bh1WgL

SUMMER 2015 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BIRDING CLASSES!

BEGINNING BIRDING in Forest and Field WORKSHOP

Ever wonder who exactly is that flashy tropical red and yellow bird that flits through the trees in your yard in the summertime? Or what the little brown bird in the woodpile is called? Or why she's there in the first place? To help you answer all of these questions and more, Sacajawea Audubon Society is offering a BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP on June 10th, 13th, and 14th. Participants will be introduced to the basics of birding through 2 evening classroom sessions and 1 field trip. The course will be taught by Ashley Martens, an experienced birder, naturalist, and outdoor educator. Ashley's approach to teaching birding engages all of your senses to figure out what you see, hear, and love about the wild birds around us.

Mon, June 8th & Thurs, June 11th 6-8pm Bozeman Public Library
Saturday, June 13th 7-10am Field Trip
Cost: $45 for Sacajawea Audubon members; $55 for non-members.

BEGINNING BIRDING BY EAR in Forest and Field WORKSHOP

A singing bird inspires you. Sometimes it's enough to simply enjoy the song, and sometimes you'd like to learn more. Who's singing? Why? It is a "call" instead of a "song?" What's the difference? In addition to the who and why, birds can tell us if there's a fox hiding in the brush, a person about to run down the trail, a sharp-shinned hawk about to fly through. Come learn to identify some common local birds by song and call, and learn the 5 voices of the birds as well as some alarm patterns.

Thurs, June 25th 6-8pm Hope Lutheran Church
Saturday, June 27th 7-10am Field trip
Cost: $35 for Sacajawea Audubon members; $45 for non-members.

Please make checks payable to "Sacajawea Audubon Society" and mail to Sacajawea Audubon, P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711. Contact Ashley at ashmartens@yahoo.com or 208-883-4998 for more information and to register. Maximum 10 students. Supply lists will be provided upon registration.

Calling all Bird Lovers!

Coming this spring Sacajawea Audubon will be offering guided bird walks to the developing Story Mill Community Park. Members of Sacajawea Audubon will lead these morning outings to see the many bird species that call the Story Mill area their home. Six dates on Thursdays and Saturdays in May and early June will be offered for bird walks.

The dates of the Walks are:
Thursdays, May 7, May 21st, and June 4th
Saturdays, May 16th, May 30th, and June 13th.
The time is 8-9:30 am.
We will meet on **Story Mill Rd across from the Mill Elevator**, at the trailhead of the **Story Mill Spur Trail**.

Please contact Martha to sign up: marthacoll@msn.com or call 579 0506
Bring your binoculars, your eyes and your ears for a unique birding experience.
Space is limited.

2015 Sacajawea Audubon Spring Birding Series

Participants in all trips will meet at the front parking lot of the Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM and depart at 7:00 AM **unless otherwise noted**. Car pools will be arranged at the museum; an offer to help with gas to the person driving is always appreciated but not mandatory. Dress for the weather; good footwear is a must as field trip conditions are not always dry. Turn off your cell phones and keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum. Some field trips are limited to a certain number of participants. **Contact the trip leader for more details about any trip, and to sign up for the trip**. We encourage beginning birders to participate. Come have a good time and learn something new.

May 9: Headwaters State Park
Leader: Martha Collins 586-9478 or 579-0506
marthacoll@msn.com
(1/2 day trip; easy walking)
The Headwaters area includes a variety of habitats, including sage/grassland and riparian, so anything from waterfowl to sparrows can occur. One of the unique features of the Headwaters area are the limestone cliffs, which support several cliff nesting species such as Prairie Falcons and White-throated Swifts. The park, which is situated along the Missouri River corridor, is an ideal location to observe early spring migrants. Those wishing to meet at the Headwaters area contact the trip leader. **15 person limit**.

May 9: Shields Valley Driving Tour
Leader: Forrest Rowland 814-573-1391
rowbird2005@gmail.com.
(Options for half to full day)
Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by visiting Shields Valley's birding hot spots with local guides. The array of habitats visited will range from dense riparian, lush agricultural, shortgrass prairie, and sage flats at lower elevations, up through mixed Douglas Fir and Pine forests to high-elevation Sub-alpine Fir, depending on road conditions. We will also spend plenty of time birding Cottonwood Reservoir , which will surely be loaded with waterfowl and shorebirds at this peak time of year. Options for half- to full day. Meet at the Clyde Park Post Office parking lot, at 7:00 AM for car-pooling.

May 16: Old Town Road and Milligan Canyon
Leader: Tom Forwood 570-6432 fwptforwood@gmail.com
(1/2 day trip; mostly driving with light walking on roads)
This trip begins along the cottonwood bottomlands of the Jefferson River, and then abruptly moves into dry greasewood/sage scrubland habitat. Birds along this section will range from Dusky Flycatchers and Bullock's Orioles, to Sage Thrashers and Brewer's Sparrows. The route then cuts through the arid limestone cliffs of Milligan Canyon. Canyon Wrens, Rock Wrens, and Spotted Towhees frequent this dry landscape. Golden Eagles and Pinyon Jays are also a possibility along this portion of the trip. **15 person limit**

May 23: Triple Tree Trail
Leader: Loreene Reid 600-6666
pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
(5 hour trip; moderately strenuous climbing 500 ft, 4 miles)
As this trail climbs the hillside it passes through a number of habitats, and transitional edges between them. At the bottom of the mountain, grassland quickly gives way to brushy deciduous habitat as the trail crosses Limestone Creek, where Ruffed Grouse, Calliope Hummingbirds, and Lazuli Buntings are some of the birds to expect. The trail then ascends through Douglas fir and lodgepole pine forests with a wide variety of nesting birds, including Cassin's Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, and Western Tanager. This trip features perhaps the greatest diversity of any short hike in the Gallatin Valley. **12 person limit**

May 23: Sweetgrass County Prairie Bird Tour
Leader: Beth Madden 406-224-1012
bethmadden64@gmail.com
(The 5-6 hour driving tour should wrap up by early-afternoon)
We will follow an approximately 40-mile long driving route through prairie and agricultural landscapes north of Big Timber. Past trips have yielded Long-billed Curlews, Sandhill Cranes, raptors, and prairie songbirds from Bobolinks to longspurs. Stops at wetlands will yield water birds. (Big Timber is 63 miles east of Bozeman on Interstate 90). Meet in Big Timber at the Town Pump located at I-90 Exit 367 at 8:00 AM for car- pooling

May 30: Mount Ellis
Leader: Audrey Evers 218-742-7885 or
218-742-4335 alynnbirds@yahoo.com
(4 -5-hour trip; moderately strenuous walking 3 miles)
This slow-paced hike will explore a number of habitats on State and Forest Service lands, including grassland, aspen meadow, and conifer forest edge. At this time of year all of the nesting birds, such as Calliope Hummingbirds, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and a wide variety of sparrows will have arrived on their territories. Along with terrific views of the Gallatin Valley, the wildflowers on this walk will likely distract you from the diversity of birds. **12 person limit**.

May 30: Paradise Valley Driving Tour
Leader: Mitch Hurt 406-223-4919
wildbirdhunting@gmail.com
(Options for half- to almost full day)
Visit Paradise Valley birding hotspots with local guides – spring creeks, Yellowstone River, prairies/hillsides, and Dailey Lake. The diversity of habitat covered on the trip, along with it being the peak of songbird migration should yield a huge variety of birds. Meet at Livingston Albertson's parking lot, northeast corner at 7:30 AM for car- pooling.

June 13: Kelly Canyon and Battle Ridge
Leaders: Ron and Cheryl Farmer 586-3987
songbird@wispwest.net
(1/2 day trip; driving and walking along gravel roads)
This trip passes through open fields, then climbs past dry juniper- covered hillsides, mature wetlands, mixed woodlands, and eventually reaches into the conifer forest. Mountain Bluebirds, Spotted Towhees, Calliope Hummingbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Western Tanagers are just a few of the species that we should see along this route. After Kelly Canyon, this trip will continue up Bridger Canyon to Battle Ridge. At this higher elevation a new suite of breeding birds makes this area home. Williamson's Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers, Swainson's Thrushes are a few of the nesting species in this area. **Four car limit**

June 19: Montana's Nightjars at Lewis & Clark Caverns
Leader: Tom Forwood at 406-570-6432
fwptforwood@gmail.com
Check out Montana's two species of Nightjar, the Common Nighthawk and the more elusive Common Poorwill. The park is known for some of its interesting breeding bird species and the Poorwill is one of the more unusual. We will walk up the park road for a mile or so at dusk to check out some of the arid country daytime species such as Mountain Bluebirds, Spotted Towhees and Rock Wrens. Once it gets dark we will look for high flying Nighthawks and low lying Poorwills with the possibility for some owls and several bat species as well. We will meet at the park's campground parking area at 8:30 PM for a 90 minute to 2 hour walk. Insect repellent, good walking shoes and layering clothing for changing conditions are recommended. **15 person limit**

June 20: The Kelly Ranch on the Gallatin River
Leader: Andrew Guttenberg 451-5427 afgutte@hotmail.com
(4-5 hour easy walking)
This trip will explore the Kelly Ranch along the Gallatin River which has been fully protected under a conservation easement with The Montana Land Reliance, Montana's statewide land trust. The ranch includes wet meadow, cottonwood gallery forest, and dry juniper habitats. It will be at the peak of breeding season, so you can expect a wide variety of the local breeding birds to be in full song, and busy tending to their nests and young. Some of the birds that breed on the property are Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Snipe, Gray Catbird, American Redstart, and Rock Wren. Kathryn Kelly, ranch owner and Greater Yellowstone Manager for the Montana Land Reliance will join the group to discuss a bit of history of the ranch, and the process and benefits of creating conservation easements, one of the most powerful tools to accomplish habitat protection, for birds and other wildlife. **15 person limit**

June 27: Mission Creek
Leader: Robin Wolcott 581-5418 pajaros@wewolcotts.com
(Mostly driving with light walking on roads)
(Until mid-afternoon; bring a lunch)
After leaving Bozeman, we will reconvene at Albertson's parking lot in Livingston at 7:30 AM and then leave from there at 7:45 AM Car-pooling is essential.
In the rolling prairie just east of Livingston we will seek McCown's Longspur and Long-billed Curlew. Along Little Mission Creek we will watch for riparian species, then search for residents of the spruce/fir forest. On our return along Mission Creek we could find a Cordilleran Flycatcher or a Golden Eagle. Over 130 species have been seen along this route including Sprague's Pipit, Upland Sandpiper, and Green-tailed Towhee. Spectacular views, abundant wild flowers, and wildlife make the trip through the northern foothills of the Absaroka Mountains a trip to remember. **18 person limit**

June 28 and 29: Rocky Mountain Road Bluebird Trail
Leaders: Janne Hayward 587-6124 jannehayward@juno.com , and Lou Ann Harris 600-3585 monlou311@gmail.com
(1/2 day)
Get up close and personal with Mountain Bluebirds. Join bluebirders Janne Hayward and Lou Ann Harris, as they check bluebird nest boxes and band adults and nestlings along Rocky Mountain Road. This is a rare opportunity to get an inside look at the lives of these amazing birds, including nest building, egg laying and raising young. Due to the sensitive nature of the work, we are limiting these field trips to **8 participants**.

American Birding Association Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

* Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.
* Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, filming, photography, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.
* Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be con-trolled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure that birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or to dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and that does not interfere with others in the same area.

4(e) Ensure that everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

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The ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be freely reproduced for distribution/dissemination

Bird Notes

As you are reading this, we will be experiencing the peak of the spring migration. But, backing up to the beginning of this spring's migration; Mike Becker won the first bluebird of the year sweepstakes. On February 23 Mike saw a very early male **Mountain Bluebird** near his house outside of Harrison.

Previously in this column I've written about the spectacular concentrations of bluebirds in the Gardiner Basin, during equinoctial storms. Up to an estimated 7,500 Mountain Bluebirds have been observed in the fields from the North Gate to Stevens Creek, in Yellowstone National Park. When this phenomenon occurs during the fall migration you are likely to see a variety of birds (especially Yellow-rumped Warblers) mixed in with the bluebirds. These fallouts occur when storms force the bluebirds to seek open ground in the lower elevations to the north of the Yellowstone Plateau.

Jim Belli had the good fortune to experience this spectacle this past April 5th.

He wrote: "I was watching the weather in anticipation of just such an event as Easter Sunday's winter blast. The timing was indeed perfect for bringing about the mass gathering of **Mountain Bluebirds** in Gardiner Basin. I shouldn't even try to convey numbers. Like counting ducks on Ennis Lake, except these bluebirds are small and in constant motion. I could easily count 200 panning across the flat at Stephens Creek, but that I'm sure doesn't begin to account for it. Enjoyed good looks at Horned Larks out there too. Gardiner Basin was just the beginning of a bluebird day. The ranger in his booth at the park entrance station had a front row seat for the masses gathered on the flat there. He said it was especially beautiful to see those spots of blue against the fresh snow that covered the ground first thing in the morning. Lower Lamar Valley was another great spot. Mid-day I watched bluebirds dancing around pronghorn bedded down in the sagebrush. When I came back through in the evening the pronghorn were up and the bluebirds were moving back and forth across the road. My favorite sighting occurred as I had my binoculars trained on a black bear. Suddenly a blizzard of bluebirds swept across my vision. Swirling blue snowflakes."

On that same day Mitch Hurt counted at least **300 Mountain Bluebirds** along Six Mile Road, on the way into Daily Lake in Paradise Valley.

While taking part in the Madison Valley IBA (Important Bird Area) survey March 15th, Paulette Epple and Kathryn Hiestand saw 3 **Tree Swallows** at the Meadow Lake fishing access site at the northwest corner of Ennis Lake.

Four days later Vic Fesolowitz and I were excited to see a male **Eurasian Wigeon** on the opposite corner of Ennis Lake.

On the exceptionally early date of March 21st, Tom Forwood and Shannon Knodel found 5 **Sage Thrashers** along Old Town Road north of Three Forks. Over the next several days, up to a dozen could be seen or heard at this location.

Martha and Hobart Collins were very surprised to hear a **Sora** calling, March 29th, from their neighbor's property near Four Corners.

Blue Jays are somewhat expected in Livingston or in Bozeman during fall or winter. A bit more unusual, was the **Blue Jay** that passed through Paul Gore's yard March 21st, seven miles southwest of Bozeman.

In a prelude to the possible rarities to come, an **Eastern Phoebe** was discovered April 5th by Larry and Ellie Akins, at the small retention pond behind Macy's in Bozeman. This is only the 19th Montana record for this species, with most of the sightings coming from the eastern third of the state. Interestingly, of the five observations of Eastern Phoebes in the last one and a half years, three of these observations have been in Gallatin and Park counties.

Introducing *Audubon Adventures* Teacher's Kits

Freebies for Teachers and Youth Leaders, Grades 3, 4 and 5. The National Audubon Society publishes the student magazine *Audubon Adventures* on a variety of interesting subjects from wildlife migration to action for Planet Earth to ecosystems. Teachers of classrooms can order kits which includes 4 different colorful magazines for each child and an educator guide. Also available are sets of magazines on one topic, individual magazines for home schooled children and a digital version for classrooms. This is great nonfiction material researched and written by the environmental experts at the National Audubon Society. Go online at audubonadventures.org to see what is available and then call or email Hilary Johnson to place your order for which Sacajawea Audubon will be happy to pay. ralphhilary@gmail.com or (406) 599-1446 to order or ask questions.

wings across the big sky — MONTANA AUDUBON

June 5-7, 2015 Helena, Montana

"Living on the Wind" – what a great theme for our 2015 Bird Festival featuring keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul who will be speaking on migration patterns. He will also be signing his books which will be sold at the festival.

Field trips are filling fast, so please register as soon as possible. Register by mail, or online at www.mtaudubon.org. Also—be sure to reserve your rooms at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel by calling 1-406-443-2100 or book online with the code MONT0604. (Be sure to mention that you are part of the Montana Audubon Bird Festival to get the group rate if you call.)

Don't forget to submit your bird-themed limerick or haiku. Submit up to two of each 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.

Call the Montana Audubon office at (406) 443-3949 if you have any questions about the festival or registration.

Recognize Your Peers!

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*.

Sacajawea Audubon Board Meeting April 6th, 2015

Present: Loreene Reid, Lou Ann Harris, Evelyn Acton, Chris Nixon, Richard Keigley, Jackie Wilson
Also Present: Mike Vivion, Hilary Johnson, Rick Sanders
Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Loreene Reid.
Minutes of March meeting were approved. Introductions of Mike Vivion and Hilary Johnson were made by Loreene.

Treasurer's Report
$35 bill from Outside Bozeman Magazine for the digital edition hyperlink to SAS was briefly discussed. Lou Ann mentioned that half the proceeds of the Raptor Class ($305) should be sent to Montana Audubon. Evelyn will send a check. We are in good financial shape.

President's Report
Board Nominations- Mike Vivion, Sharon Hanton and Rick Sanders will be nominated at May meeting. This will fill the 3 vacancies being left by Leo Freeman, Richard Keigley and Jeff Safford.
Annual Planning Meeting - Proposed dates are July 11th or July 18th. Loreene will send an email out to the board for availability and preference. Evelyn has offered her home again for the meeting.

Committee Reports
Education
Audubon Adventures-
Hilary Johnson gave a short presentation on the Audubon Adventures program. She has agreed to meet with the Curriculum Director of the Bozeman school district, plus possibly Belgrade & Livingston and bring the curriculum back into the schools. The cost of the kits will be paid for by SAS. Hilary will write up a short article about Audubon Adventures for the May newsletter.
Beginning Birding Classes-
Paulette has contacted Ashley Martens who will again teach two beginning birding classes for us in June.

Conservation - No report. Vickie was absent.

Old Business
Field Guides Sales - Does the chapter want to offer bird field guides for sale at our meetings and events? Tabled.
Parks Board Rep - Loreene feels we need representation on the Parks Board. She would like to find a member willing to do this.

New Business
East Gallatin Rec. Area Zoning - Lou Ann mentioned there is a proposed zoning change at the west entrance to East Gallatin Recreation Area, from parks/open space to residential. There are two meetings scheduled where this will be discussed. SAS should have someone present to speak in opposition of the change. Comments can be submitted online to the City.

Give Big Gallatin Valley - Lou Ann has registered SAS as a participant in this 24-hr online giving event May 5th.

Owenhouse Spring Demo Days - SAS will staff a table at this event on May 2nd from 10-4. Evelyn, Loreene and Chris will be present. MRCC may be able to provide an ambassador bird.

MRCC Family Fun Day - This will be held in early August and MRCC would like us to have a table. Rick will get us a date.

NEXT BOARD MEETING - May 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lou Ann Harris for Paulette Epple.

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

Change Service Requested

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
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	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)

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