SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

April 2017

Calendar at a Glance

April 1st	Spring Birding at Ennis Lake
April 3rd - 4th	BZN Public Meeting CGNF
April 10th	SAS Meeting
April 16th - June 24th	SAS Spring Birding Series
April 19th	Science Inquiry Series
April 20th	SAS Bookclub
April 27th - June 24th	SAS Birding Workshops
May 4th	Headwaters IBA
May 4th & 5th	Give Big Event
June 2nd - 4th	SAS Red Rocks Lake Field Trip
June 7th - 9th	Pre-Bird Festival Field Trips
June 9th - 11th	MT Bird Festival
June 12th	Post-Bird Festival Field Trip

Animal Alert: Cutting-Edge Research

Monday April 10th, 2016 at 7pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf St (off S. 19th street)

Our season of monthly programs continues on April 10th with a fascinating look at the warning system that birds use to alert other birds and animals to danger. UM Biology Professor Erick Greene will present a program on his research about how birds and mammals share information about predators.

Birds are exceptionally good at detecting predators, and they have a variety of important alarm calls that they produce to warn others. These alarm calls can convey very specific information (e.g. "snake," "perched raptor," "flying raptor," "coyote"). Many species of birds and mammals understand the alarm signals of others. Together, all the watching eyes and ears in the forest form a complex communication network that acts as a distant early warning system about predators. This talk will share some of the latest results of cutting-edge research about how birds and mammals share information about predators.

Erick Greene is a professor in the Division of Biological Sciences and in the Wildlife Biology Program. He grew up in Quebec, Canada, with twin passions for music and nature. Erick dropped out of high school and lived for a year in the Galapagos Islands, helping out on studies on Darwin's Finches. He worked on Ospreys in Nova Scotia for an undergraduate senior thesis. He then received a PhD from Princeton University. Erick has been able to combine his interests in music and biology by studying how animals use sounds to communicate with each other. He has also been able to come full circle and return to studying Ospreys in Montana. He has received numerous awards for teaching and conservation.

Headwaters IBA Survey

May 4, Thursday
Headwaters IBA (Important Bird Area) Survey
Carpool at Albertsons Grocery in Belgrade at 7:10 am

Please join us for a walking Spring IBA Survey at Headwaters State Park, Three Forks, MT, on Thursday, May 4th. We will meet at 7:30 am at the State Park kiosk at the entrance across from the Camp Ground. With 3 survey groups we hope to catch early nesting species as well as a few migrants. There is usually lots of activity on the cliffs when we all meet at 11 to survey the Boat Launch site.
Bring your eyes, ears and good ID skills on May 4th.

Contact: Martha Collins at 579-0506

Reminder: Last Book Club of the Season

The final reading for the SAS Book Group this year is *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, by Carl Safina. The discussion of *Beyond Words* will be on April 20, 5:30-6:45PM, in the Hope Lutheran Church. Please send email to Adele Pittendrigh if you are participating for the first time: adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com. Happy Reading!

LOVE BIRDS?
BUY A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP
TO SUPPORT
SACAJAWEA AUDUBON!

Science Inquiry Series

April Topic: DNA Surgery for Curing Genetic Diseases
Featuring: Dr. Blake Wiedenheft
Location: Museum of the Rockies
When: Wednesday **April 19th** at 7 pm

Explore cutting edge science topics, their latest developments, and their relevance to Society--through speaker presentations followed by conversations between speaker and audience. This month we explore the topic **DNA Surgery for Curing Genetic Diseases**. How can immune strategies used by bacteria to fight off viruses be employed to cure genetic diseases in humans? Dr. Blake Wiedenheft, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at MSU, and recent winner of a Presidential Early Career Award, will present his research insights and their implications.

Sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences
Free to the public

It is your time to speak up for wildlife and habitat conservation in the Custer Gallatin National Forest!

Speak up for wildlife and habitat conservation in the Custer Gallatin National Forest!

We are all lucky enough to enjoy the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF), and all the beauty, wilderness, wildlife, and recreation it affords us. A special opportunity is coming up for us to speak up for our vision of the future of the Forest as the CGNF revises its forest plan. Public meetings are being held soon in Big Timber, Livingston, and Bozeman and we hope you'll join Sacajawea Audubon in promoting management that protects our special places and the wildlife, including non-game species, and the habitat that they need to thrive.

Bozeman Public Meetings
April 3 – 4, 2017
April 3 from 5:30 – 7:45 p.m. ***and*** April 4 from 1:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. & Quick Summary 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Larkspur Ballroom, (2023 Commerce Way, Bozeman)

The meetings offer a couple different involvement options:

- The evening public meetings start with an overview presentation of the CGNF planning process; then there will be an opportunity to break out into work stations where you will have a chance to express your vision for the CG National Forest for the coming decades.
- The half-day meetings provide more in-depth collaborative sessions with small group discussions to develop a plan for the future of the Forest.

Attend both sessions, in your community, if you can and speak up for the values you treasure most in the Forest.

Sacajawea Audubon Society encourages you to attend and acknowledge the role you see that our Forest plays in the health of the populations of the many non-game bird species that live in the Forest.

For more information contact Paulette Epple, SAS Co-Conservation Chair, at pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

2017 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BIRDING WORKSHOPS

REMINDER: Sacajawea Audubon Society is offering a BEGINNING BIRDING WORKSHOP and INTERMEDIATE BIRDING SHORT COURSES. All courses 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 tune in to what you see, hear, and love about the wild birds around us. Contact Ashley at ashmartens@yahoo.com or 208-883-4998 for more information and to register for all classes detailed below.

BEGINNING BIRDING IN FOREST AND FIELD WORKSHOP

Participants will be introduced to the basics of birding through 3 evening classroom sessions and 3 field trips to a variety of habitats in the valley. We will cover bird families, common birds in our region, and what to look and listen for when seeking out the identity of a bird. There will be 2 sections of this course this year. Section A will have field trips on Saturday mornings. Section B will have field trips on Sunday mornings. Sections A and B will meet together classroom sessions.

Cost for Beginning course: $95 for Sacajawea Audubon members; $115 for non-members. Please make checks payable to "Sacajawea Audubon Society" and mail to Ashley Martens at 42 Hitching Post Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715.

Classroom Sessions

Sections A & B: Thurs evenings April 27, May 18, & June 8
6:30-8pm Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trips

Section A: Saturday mornings April 29, May 20, & June 10
7-10am Various Locations

Section B: Sunday mornings April 30, May 21, & June 11
7-10am Various Locations

INTERMEDIATE BIRDING SHORT COURSES

These are the perfect classes for birders who want to boost their birding skills up a notch and start studying more details of plumage, bird behaviors, and more sight and sound identification tips for specific bird families or groups. Choose as many courses as you like!

CAVITY NESTERS

Together we'll explore the ecology of birds in our region who either excavate their own cavities (like woodpeckers and nuthatches) or nest in existing cavities (like bluebirds, chickadees, and some owls). We'll also hone in on how to identify woodpeckers by calls, drums, and more. This trip happens early because most of these species breed early (and there are not so many leaves out so we can spot them easily)!

Classroom Session: Thurs, April 20th 6:30-8pm; Field Trip: Sat, April 22nd 7-10am

BIRD LANGUAGE

Birds are the true messengers of the forests. They can tell us if there's a fox hiding in the brush, a person about to run down the trail, or a sharp-shinned hawk or owl about to fly through. Come learn the ancient art of bird language. We'll learn the 5 voices of the bird and some alarm patterns in class. We'll practice identifying these voices and patterns in the field and conduct a "bird sit" together. Awareness of bird language also inevitably leads to a deeper awareness of self.

Classroom Session: Thurs, May 11th 6:30-8pm; Field Trip: Sat, May 13th 7-10am

Cost per short course: $45 for Sacajawea Audubon members; $55 for non-members. Please make checks payable to "Sacajawea Audubon Society" and mail to Ashley Martens at 42 Hitching Post Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715. Maximum 8 students. Supply lists will be provided upon registration.

SPARROWS & ALLIES

Those little brown birds can be difficult to tease apart. We'll hone in on plumage, habitat, and songs and calls clues for the sparrows of our region so that we can begin to appreciate their subtle beauty and differences.

Classroom Session: Thurs, June 1st 6:30-8pm; Field Trip: Sat, June 3rd 7-10am

WARBLERS

What is better than yellow feathers?! We'll learn to identify differences between these wonderfully little flashy, fidgety birds and sort them out with plumage, song/call, and habitat clues.

Classroom Session: Thurs, June 15th 6:30-8pm; Field Trip: Sat, June 17th 7-10am

THRUSHES & OTHER SONGSTERS: BIRDING BY EAR

The songs of the thrushes are some of the most magical sounds of summer. We'll learn to identify these birds by sight and song, as well as the many other lovely songsters in our region. This class will focus more on birding by ear than by sight, but of course we will take some time to explore and enjoy visual identification as well. Other bird families we will be sure to include are: vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, and the western tanager.

Classroom Session: Thurs, June 22nd 6:30-8pm; Field Trip: Sat, June 24th 7-10am

2017 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. Bring any food or beverages that you will need during the course of the trips, and some of the longer trips might require that you pack a lunch. 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 all skill levels of birders to participate. Come have a good time and learn something new.

❖ **April 16 Sunday: Owl Prowl**
Leader: Tom Forwood
406-570-6432 or tforwood@mt.gov
Meet at the Museum of the Rockies, 7 PM Some of the owl species we hope to hear, and possibly see, include Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl and Great Horned Owl. This is an evening field trip, so please dress for cold weather, including warm boots. Snowshoes are not necessary, but grippers might be helpful if conditions are icy. The location of the Owl Prowl is TBD possibly including several locations. **10 person limit**

❖ **April 29 Saturday: Shields Valley Driving Tour**
Leader: Forrest Rowland
814-573-1391 or rowbird2005@gmail.com.
Meet at the Clyde Park Post Office parking lot, 7:00 AM for car-pooling. (Options for half to full day) Visit Shields Valley's birding hot spots. 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.

❖ **May 6 Saturday: Headwaters State Park**
Leader: Martha Collins
586-9478 or 579-0506 or 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 13 Saturday: Paradise Valley Driving Tour**
Leader: George Kelly
406-220-0282 or gjkingfisher@gmail.com
Meet at Livingston Albertson's parking lot, northeast corner at 7:30 AM for car-pooling. (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 near the peak of songbird migration, this trip should yield a huge variety of birds.

❖ **May 13 Saturday: Middle Cottonwood Canyon**
Leader: Brad Barth
406-640-2628 or barth.brad@gmail.com
(4-5 hours; moderate walking with some rocky terrain; 2- 3 miles) This is an opportunity to stretch your legs and look for some early arriving migrants in the Bridger foothills north of Bozeman. Middle Cottonwood has a mix of riparian habitat, mature north facing conifers, and relatively dry open south facing hillsides. We'll be looking for species such as Western Tanager, MacGillivray's Warbler, Calliope Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Swainson's Thrush along the lower reaches of the canyon. **12 person limit**

❖ **May 20 Saturday: Old Town Road and Milligan Canyon**
Leader: Tom Forwood
406-570-6432 or tforwood@mt.gov
(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 21 Sunday: Triple Tree Trail**
Leader: Lou Ann Harris
600-3585 or montlou311@gmail.com
(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.**

2017 Sacajawea Audubon Spring Birding Series (cont.)

❖ **May 24 Wednesday: East Gallatin Recreation Area**
Leader: John Parker
406-586-5863 or conundrumjp@gmail.com
(4-5hour trip; easy walking at most two miles) There are lots of possibilities with this local area. Over 180 bird species have been seen in the recreation area. This will be near the peak of migration, so we hope for some surprises. With a pond, riparian habitat, limited grassland, and mature cottonwoods we hope to see good diversity of what Gallatin Valley has to offer. Species may include flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Black Headed Grosbeak. **12 person limit**

❖ **May 27 Saturday: Sweet Grass County Prairie Bird Tour**
Leader: Beth Madden
406-224-1012 or bethmadden64@gmail.com
Meet in Big Timber (Big Timber is 63 miles east of Bozeman on Interstate 90) at the Town Pump located at I-90 Exit 367 at 8:00 AM for car-pooling. (The 5-6 hour driving tour should wrap up by early-mid afternoon) Celebrate the arrival of spring on the prairies! We will follow an approximately 40-mile driving route through prairie and agricultural landscapes north of Big Timber. Past trips have yielded curlews, cranes, raptors, and prairie songbirds from Bobolinks to longspurs. Stops at wetlands will feature water birds**.**

❖ **May 27 Saturday: Mount Ellis**
Leader: Audrey Evers
218-742-7885 or alynnebirds@yahoo.com
(4 -5-hour trip; moderately strenuous walking 3 miles) This slow-paced hike of approximately 3 miles, 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 many 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.**

❖ **June 3 Saturday: Paradise Valley Driving Tour**
Leader: Mitch Hurt
406-223-4919 or wildbirdhunting@gmail.com
Meet at Livingston Albertson's parking lot, northeast corner at 7:30 AM for car-pooling. (Options for half to full day) Visit Paradise Valley birding hotspots with local guides – spring creeks, prairies/hillsides, and possibly as far as Dailey Lake. The diversity of habitat covered on the trip, along with it being near the peak of songbird migration, should yield a huge variety of birds. Early on this trip we will visit a bird banding station along the Yellowstone River.

❖ **June 3 Saturday: East Gallatin Recreation Area**
Leader: Andrew Guttenberg
406-451-5427 or afgutte@hotmail.com
(4-5hour trip; easy walking at most two miles) There are lots of possibilities with this local area. Over 180 bird species have been seen in the recreation area. This will be near the peak of migration, so we hope for some surprises. With a pond, riparian habitat, limited grassland, and mature cottonwoods we hope to see good diversity of what Gallatin Valley has to offer. Species may include flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Black Headed Grosbeak. **12 person limit**

❖ **June 4 Sunday: Spanish Creek**
Leader: John Parker
586-5863 or conundrumjp@gmail.com
(until mid afternoon; moderately strenuous walking on forest trail, with several hundred foot elevation gain) This trip follows Spanish Creek through the Flying D Ranch, to the edge of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. We will spend much of the morning birding along the road focusing on the grasslands and forest edges. Once at the trailhead there is an interesting juxtaposition of habitats, which support an interest mix of birds. In one direction the trail borders the wet willow riparian area along Spanish Creek, while going in the other direction, the trail climbs through dry open slopes. **12 person limit.**

❖ **June 6 Tuesday: Sourdough Nature Trail**
Leader: Adele Pittendrigh
599-5086 or Adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com
(4-5 hour easy walking) After leaving the MOR parking lot, this trip will begin at the Gardner Park entrance. The trail is an easy, level stroll following Sourdough Creek. This trip is at the peak of the breeding season so we should see and hear a variety of flycatchers, thrushes and warblers. Some of the neotropic birds nesting here are Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, and Black-headed Grosbeak. **8 person limit.**

❖ **June 9-11: Please join us at the 2016 Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Great Falls, MT.**
Contact Montana Audubon at **(406) 443-3949** or go to **www.mtaudubon.org**. Come join the fun.

2017 Sacajawea Audubon Spring Birding Series (cont.)

❖ **June 17 Saturday: Mission Creek**
Leader: Robin Wolcott
581-5418 or pajaros@wewolcotts.com
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 (until mid-afternoon; mostly driving with light walking on roads). 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. **14 person limit**

June 18 Sunday: Rocky Mountain Rd Bluebird Trail
Leaders: Janne Hayward
587-6124 or jannehayward@juno.com
and Lou Ann Harris
600-3585 montlou311@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.**

❖ **June 23 Friday: MT's Nightjars at Lewis & Clark Caverns**
Leader: Tom Forwood
406-570-6432 or tforwood@mt.gov
Meet at the lower Visitor Center parking lot at 7:30 PM. (2 1/2 hour; 2-3 mile walk) 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 flying Poorwills with the possibility for some owls and several bat species as well. Insect repellent, good walking shoes and layering clothing for changing conditions are recommended. **15 person limit**

❖ **June 24 Saturday: Kelly Canyon and Battle Ridge**
Leaders: Ron and Cheryl Farmer
586-3987 or 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. **12 person limit**

Have you dreamed of making history? Of course, we all have. And now we have a chance to be a part of Gallatin Valley's day of giving - an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community. We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach of **our goal of $1,000 and 100 donors**! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important bird conservation work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On May 4-5, starting at 12:00AM midnight, visit **https://www.givebiggv.org/organizations/sacajawea-audubon-society** and make a donation to us, and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in our state. You will have 24 hours to make your donation, and all giving will end at 11:59pm on May 4-5.
Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Lou Ann Harris at montlou311@gmail.com or call (406) 600-3585. Thank you in advance for your generosity to Sacajawea Audubon Society!

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.**
   - 1.1. Support the protection of important bird habitat.
   - 1.2. To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
     - 1.2.1. 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.
     - 1.2.2. 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.
     - 1.2.3. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
   - 1.3. 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.
   - 1.4. 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.**
   - 2.1. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
   - 2.2. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
   - 2.3. 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.**
   - 3.1. Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
   - 3.2. Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
   - 3.3. 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.
   - 4.1. 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.
   - 4.2. 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.

5. **Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:**
   - 5.1. Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
   - 5.2. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and that does not interfere with others in the same area.
   - 5.3. Ensure that everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

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MT Audubon Annual Bird Festival

June 9th -11th, 2017 Great Falls, Montana

The annual Bird Festival is fast approaching. You should have received your registration brochure by now, so please register early by mailing the registration page or go online at www.mtaudubon.org. Field trips are already filling up—while still plenty of options available, but you may not get your first choice. If you're registering online, you only choose one field trip per day as the system will not allow you to register for a trip that is full; if you are registering by mail, be sure to include 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.

Rooms have been blocked at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn. Call 1-406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256 and mention you're with Montana Audubon to get the discounted rate.

Register soon and join us in Great Falls in June. Check out your brochure for Upper Missouri Breaks pre- and post-trips, email the chapter at umbaudubon@gmail.com, or call either of the following for more information: Candace Beery 907-306-6320 or Kay Silk 406-453-0545.

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes outstanding 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 at www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html. Nominations are due at the office by May 19, 2017.

Mail completed forms to *Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena MT 59624*.

Pre-Festival and Post-Festival Field Trips

Hosted by the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter

This year, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter (UMBA) is offering three trips that are designed to extend your stay in Central Montana. As these trips are separate from the Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival, you register and pay for the trips directly to the UMBA Chapter. See below for the registration form. UMBA is sponsoring two Pre-Trips and one Post-Trip. The Chapter will provide transportation from Great Falls and experienced leaders.

American Prairie Reserve Field Trip
June 7th – 9th, 2017

Itinerary: 3 Days
Departing From: Great Falls, MT
Travelers: Limited to 10 Guests
Cost: $750 per Guest

Few places on earth have intact prairie habitat and ecosystems as the American Prairie Reserve and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. On this three day journey, view wildlife in rich environments, while learning about conservation and restoration efforts in the grassland region.

InFARMation Tour
June 9th, 2017

Itinerary: ½ day (4 hours)
Departing From: CMR High School, 228 17th Ave NW, Great Falls
Travelers: Limited to 8 guests
Cost: $30 per Guest

The InFARMation Pre-Trip is a community Ag Advocacy Project to showcase Montana's rich agricultural production. Signs are placed in fields to identify the different crops growing in the area, helping to make the traveling public more aware of the agriculture around them. The Electric City Future Farmers of America Chapter of Great Falls is working with Central Montana Tourism Region, as well as other contributors to sponsor this opportunity to learn about prairie habitat and agriculture.

Missouri River Float Field Trip
June 12th, 2017

Itinerary: ½ Day
Departing From: Great Falls, MT
Travelers: Limited to 16 Guests
Cost: $160 per Guest

Join UMBA Chapter on an exciting birding adventure with beautiful mountain scenery on the Missouri River. This is a relatively leisurely float in the Wolf Creek Canyon area, with a fast current and a few riffles, with no rapids or white water. The cost includes lunch and transportation to the canyon. The trip is perfect for couples, individuals and families.

Interested? Please contact UMBA about the three UMBA chapter sponsored trips, at umbaudubon@gmail.com, www.facebook/uppermissouribreaksaudubon or www.umbaudubon.com

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Trip

June 2- 4, 2017

Join us as we celebrate Sacajawea Audubon Society's 50th anniversary with a 3-day 2-night bird watchers trip to the world-renown Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. This is a wonderful guided bird watching trip for beginner to advance birdwatchers.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is located in the scenic and isolated Centennial Valley of southwestern Montana, approximately 40 miles west of Yellowstone National Park. The refuge has a vast array of habitat, ranging from high elevation wetland and prairie at 6,600 feet, to the harsh alpine habitat of the Centennial Mountains at 9,400 feet above sea level. It is this diverse, marsh-prairie-sagebrush-montane environment that gives Red Rock Lakes its unique character.

Birds are special residents at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge rich wetlands and nearby forests makes ideal habitat for breeding and feeding birds in early June. Red Rock Lakes is best known for being the primary location for the efforts saving the trumpeter swan from extinction. In addition to the beautiful trumpeter swan, there are a minimum of 232 other species of birds that have been recorded within the refuge. Some of the many species we hope to see are: Long-billed Curlews, Sandhill Cranes, Sage Thrashers, Brewer's & Vesper Sparrows, White-faced Ibis, American Avocets, Willets, Dowitchers, Ferruginous Hawks, Northern Harriers, Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles, Swainson's Hawks, Short-eared Owls, and various ducks, flycatchers, kinglets, warblers, vireos, tanagers, thrushes, woodpeckers and, if we're lucky, Sage Grouses.

Details for this special Red Rock Wildlife Refuge trip:

- Departs from Bozeman at 3:00 PM on Friday, June 2, returning to Bozeman by 5:00 PM on Sunday, June 4.
- Limited to 12 participants
- Guided by Wildlife Biologist, Endangered Species Specialist, Steve Hoffman, past director of Montana Audubon and Hawkwatch International
- Cost $450 (*includes transportation to-and-from Bozeman, lodging & all meals at Elk Lake Lodge and Steve Hoffman's professional guiding)*

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For more information, a full itinerary or to register contact Loreene Reid at pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org or 406 600-6666.

Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Loreene Reid	600-6666	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Membership Records	**OPEN**		
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Webmaster	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website Updates	Stephanie Nelson	587-3052	s.n.mayfly@gmail.com
Audubon Adventures	Hillary Johnson		ralphhilary@gmail.com

Board members	Chris Nixon	christopherfnixon@yahoo.com
	Sharon Hanton	sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Rick Sanders	ricksanders@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Mike Vivion	mikevivion@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Adele Pittendrigh	adelepittendrigh@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Paulette Epple	bigskyepples@msn.com

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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 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

Membership

____Basic Membership————$25

____Supporting Membership-——$50

Additional Donation of $_____

You may renew or join online on our website: http://www. http://sacajaweaaudubon.org/

Name_____

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SAS does not share email addresses with anyone except Montana Audubon, so your address is safe with us.

Mail this form with your check to:
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT
59771-1711

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

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