JANUARY 2019

Sacajawea Audubon News

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

Calendar *at a* Glance
JANUARY 2019

3	SAS Board Meeting at the Lehrkind Mansion
5	Ruby Valley Christmas Bird Count
14	SAS Monthly Program
16	SAS Book Group Discussion

"State of Montana Birds"

"We use the best available science to ensure the survival of Montana's birds and other wildlife."

~ Larry Berrin, Executive Director Montana Audubon

Monday, January 14, 2019
Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off of S. 19th)
Social at 6:30 pm / Program at 7:00 pm

Montana's habitat is diverse and filled with 433 species of birds. From Montana's Rocky Mountain peaks in the West to its Great Plains in the East, Montana Audubon is working to conserve these natural ecosystems and safeguard its biological diversity. Join Larry Berrin, executive director of Montana Audubon, as he gives us a glimpse of the State of Montana Birds and bird conservation work across Montana. Including, the recent Montana Audubon River Initiative addressing the need for riparian habitat conservation along rivers and streams across the state, the citizen science efforts focusing on the Long-billed Curlew Initiative, Black Swift research in Glacier, and the annual Breeding Bird Surveys. The 66th Montana Legislature will convene in January 2019. Montana Audubon will once again take a leading role into researching, strategizing, testifying, and lobbying on bills that affect Montana's wildlife, habitat, and critical environmental laws. Larry will address Montana Audubon's present challenges and successes in passing numerous pieces of legislation to protect wildlife species and habitat.

Larry has been involved in the field of conservation for over 25 years holding such positions as Vermont State Education Director for the National Audubon Society, President/CEO of Asbury Woods Partnership (Pennsylvania) and Director of Conservation Education for Discover Your Northwest where he led the campaign to develop the first Children's Forest in the Northwest—The Deschutes Children's Forest in Oregon. Larry is an avid birder and has led international eco-trips to places such as Mexico, Costa Rica, the Galapagos, the Amazon, and Kenya.

Sacajawea Audubon Society programs are free and open to the public. Our programs feature a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May, at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off of S. 19th). Join us for a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00 pm.

Long-billed Curlew photo by Lou Ann Harris

Lou Ann Harris

Raptor Raffle Winners Announced

Sacajawea Audubon is pleased to announce the winners of our recent Raptor Raffle drawing, held December 10th at the Ellen Theatre!

- Erna Smeets - Bridger Bowl Ski Pass
- Karin Utzinger - Bridger Bowl Ski Pass
- Janice Miller - Weekend stay for 2 at the Lehrkind Mansion B & B
- Rosemary Johnson - Guided birding trip with Steve Hoffman of Merlin Birding
- Nora Miller - Patagonia Backpack
- Norm Dusenberry - Sola Cafe Gift Certificate

Many thanks to the following:

- Bridger Bowl
- Lehrkind Mansion B & B
- Steve Hoffman, Merlin Birding
- Patagonia
- Sola Cafe

Sacajawea Audubon would also like to thank everyone who purchased a raptor raffle ticket. The funds raised will go directly to the annual fall Bridger Mountains Raptor Count, started in 1991 by HawkWatch International.

The Bridger Ridge provides viewing of one of the largest Golden Eagle migrations known in the lower 48 states. Recent Golden Eagle count totals have varied from 1,000 to 1,400 eagles per season, with up to 200 individuals tallied on peak migration days (usually during the first two weeks of October).

Data obtained over the last 28 years has provided scientists with valuable information about trends in Golden Eagles and other raptor populations. Sacajawea Audubon, in partnership with HawkWatch International (HWI), is coordinating this scientific project for the second consecutive season.

Sacajawea Audubon's Watch At Home Project

People living in neighborhoods with more birds, shrubs and trees are less likely to suffer from depression, anxiety and stress according to research by academics at the University of Exeter, the British Trust for Ornithology and the University of Queensland.

In February 2018, Sacajawea Audubon implemented our pilot Watch At Home program at Hyalite Country Care in Bozeman. The Watch At Home project enhances the quality of life for Senior and Disabled citizens by providing and maintaining bird feeders and bird baths at local nursing homes, assisted living facilities or at their homes. This program also provides education materials and presentations.

Debi Naccarto with Wild Birds Unlimited Bozeman sponsored the project by donating and installing bird feeders and a heated bird bath along with bags of bird seed. After a month, the birds found the feeders and the residents of Hyalite Country Care began observing and documenting the birds coming to the feeders. Sacajawea Audubon member Sherry Staub began weekly "bird chats" during the noon meal time. In addition,

Black-capped Chickadee by Lou Ann Harris

Sherry took residents of Hyalite Country Care on a field trip to SAS's Bluebird Trail. Residents were thrilled to be able to see eggs, newly hatched as well as adult birds thanks to Janne Hayward, Lou Ann Harris and Loreene Reid.

SAS is looking to expand this project in 2019. We need your assistance. Do you know a facility that would like to participate in the Watch At Home project? Would you be willing to volunteer your time to help maintain bird feeders and bird baths at a facility? Would you be willing to participate in "bird chats" at a sponsored Watch At Home facility? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, email scstaub@mchsi.com.

Thank you to Watch At Home Sponsor

Bozeman's Wild Birds Unlimited
2047 Oak Street, #105
Bozeman, MT 59718

Thank you also to **Don & Marilyn Murdock** for their donation of birdseed.

Evening Grosbeak by Lou Ann Harris

JOIN THE FLOCK & FLY HIGH TOGETHER

SAS Annual Local Membership Drive for 2019

If you enjoy our field trips, monthly programs or our conservation work, please join Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS). 100% of your dues will directly support SAS's educational and conservation programs.

Even if you belong to the National Audubon Society, we need your support through a Local SAS Membership. As a Sacajawea Audubon member, you'll enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that your annual dues will be used locally, for conservation right here in your own neighborhood. You can choose from the following membership levels:

Basic Membership.....$25
Supporting Membership $50

SAS Members Are…..

- Protecting working lands for birds and other wildlife.
- Preserving and protecting bird species and their habitats.
- Supporting bird-friendly communities in Montana with our bird-friendly landscape program.
- Contributing to important environmental education programs for people of all ages and abilities on birds, wildlife and habitat.
- Supporting vital partnerships between other nonprofit environmental groups, citizens and local government to shape the health of our community.
- Advocating for important local and regional environmental issues.

SAS Members Enjoy:

- Free Monthly Keynote Speakers.
- Free guide to birding around the Gallatin Valley & beyond.
- Free member e-newsletters published nine times a year.
- Participating in citizen science projects.
- Member-only discounts on educational courses, programs, special events, and other purchases.
- Opportunities to meet new people who share an interest in birds, wildlife, the environment, and conservation.
- Free guided birding field trips.

While SAS is a chapter of both the National Audubon Society and Montana Audubon, your SAS membership does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. We are an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with its own board of directors, membership, budget and programs. We rely on financial support from local members to carry out our wide array of programs.

As we approach our 52th year, we hope you will join us in building on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education and action. You can fill out the membership form below or join online at sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Thank you!

Sacajawea Audubon Society Membership

Individual or Family

☐ Basic Membership $25

☐ Supporting Membership $50
(Supporting local conservation & education project)

☐ Additional Donation .....$_____
- ☐ *Bridger Raptor Study*
- ☐ *Education*
- ☐ *Wetland Capital Campaign*

Name _____

Address _____
(Street or PO Box)

_____ _____ _____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

❖ Sacajawea Audubon News is sent by email. There is a $10 annual fee for a paper copy mailed to you.
☐ *I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me and have included an additional $10 to cover the annual cost.*

❖ We do not share your information except with Montana Audubon, so your contact information is safe with us.

Mail this form with your check to:

Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
PO Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

Thank you for your membership and donation. We look forward to birding with you!

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Mountain Chickadee by Lou Ann Harris

Birds of Southwest Montana and the Changing of Our Climate Workshop

What are scientific models predicting for birds and climate change in Southwest Montana?

"You often hear of climate change being all doom and gloom, but one of the findings is that in winter especially, parks are going to become more important sanctuaries for birds," says Audubon Society avian biologist Joanna Wu. Some birds may even stop migrating if winters are mild enough that they can tolerate local conditions, says Wu.

Sacajawea Audubon Society's Birds of Southwest Montana and the Changing of Our Climate Workshop will look at 5 birds in Southwest Montana and the challenges they have, with regards to patterns of migration or breeding in Montana. What healthy habitats do these migrating and breeding birds need? A dangerous myth is that we simply can't solve the effect of the changing of our climate. That is not true. We will look at what we can do to shape the future of our Bird-friendly Communities. Cost: $20/person ($45 for non-members; net proceeds will be used to support the Bird Friendly Community Projects) Register on-line at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org Registration is limited.

Classroom: Wednesday, January 23, 6:00–7:30 pm, Bozeman Public Library

Field Trip: Saturday, January 26, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

January 16th SAS Book Group Reminder

The SAS Book Group will discuss Aldo Leopold's classic, *A Sand County Almanac,* on January 16th, from 4:00-5:15pm in the Hope Lutheran Church. All SAS members are welcome to attend.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board of Directors

President	Lou Ann Harris pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards johnedwards@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Adele Pittendrigh sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Janne Hayward tres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Loreene Reid loreener@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Chris Nixon chrisfnixon@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Sharon Hanton sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Billy Burton billyburton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Travis Kidd traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Debi Naccarto debinaccarto@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Stephanie Nelson stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Board Members:

MSU Student Leadership	Jackson St. Clair jacksonstclair@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Committee Chairs & Project Leaders

Conservation Chair	Paulette Epple conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	Travis Kidd traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bird Sightings	John Parker birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Field Trips	John Parker birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	Stephanie Nelson newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Monthly Program	Carl Roth programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website	Stephanie Nelson stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Membership	Loreene Reid membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality	Sherry Staub hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Sacajawea Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1771

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 Society Monthly Newsletter is available electronically to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members September through May. Members and non-members can receive a mailed paper newsletter for an annual $10 subscription fee. Please send your check to the address above.

Deadline for article submission is the 15th of the month preceding the month the articles will appear. Send articles electronically to Stephanie Nelson at: newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Change of Address: If you have a change of address or are away, please notify membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society website** at: sacajaweaaudubon.org

COFFEE . . .

Wouldn't you like to wake every morning knowing you're doing your part to preserve important bird habitat?

We think it's such an important choice that we've organized a **Sacajawea Audubon Coffee Club** to make buying and enjoying the right bird-friendly coffee a breeze. And if you're not already drinking shade-grown organic coffee, you'll be thrilled by the rich, clean flavor of Birds & Beans coffees. Birds & Beans coffees are certified as bird-friendly by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Birds and Beans is, in fact, the only coffee that is Organic, Fair Trade and Certified Shade Grown! That means that not only are the beans grown without pesticides or herbicides, and by workers who are fairly compensated, but NO rain forests have been destroyed. This coffee is not grown in the understory of a previously cut rain forest. Rain forests are a critical habitat for migratory song birds. No Habitat = No Songbirds.

So, if you enjoy the fresh brewed aroma and flavor of coffee every day…now you know that you are ensuring the future of those bird hikes you also love with every cup.

Birds and Beans is allowing our club to order coffee directly online with NO shipping costs and at a discounted price to Sacajawea Audubon Members and any other conservation group in Bozeman through the Bird City, Wisconsin Coffee Club website! This is not something that Birds and Beans usually does, but given the huge interest and appreciation for birds in our area, they are going to make this possible for us!

Visit birdsandbeanscoffee.com/birdcity and enter the password birdsmatter.

NOTE: this is only good on 5 lb packages, frac packs, or a case of six 12 oz packs. Note also that products on the page are limited to ground or whole bean; the default ground is medium. (If you prefer other options, you can always order the coffee on your own from the B & B website but without the discount and free shipping!)

Questions? Contac Sherry Staub at (563) 370-0757 or email scstaub@mchsi.com