SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

Jan 11th	SAS Monthly Meeting
Jan 14th	Audubon Adventures Brainstorming Session
Jan 21st	SAS Book Club
March 17th - 20th	46th Annual Crane Festival
June 3rd - 5th	Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival

Thanks!

Your Sacajawea Audubon Society volunteers working behind the scenes to produce this newsletter would like to extend a special thank you to Sharon Hanton, who donated to SAS a memorial contribution in the name of our SAS President's father, Don Whitmore. Thank you, Sharon, for starting the New Year with this kind gesture of gratitude!

To The Ends Of The Earth: Travels to the Antarctic Peninsula and Beyond

Monday Jan 11th, 2016 at 7pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

Sacajawea Audubon invites you to learn about one of the least visited places on Earth. The Antarctic Peninsula and associated islands are arguably the most remote, spectacular and wildlife diverse regions remaining on earth. Bob Martinka will highlight a 19-day cruise he and his wife Cathy took to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island and the Antarctic Peninsula in January 2014. They followed parts of a route that Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton and his men traversed on their disastrous 1914-1917 expedition. Bob's presentation will highlight the history, scenery and amazing wildlife of the region.

Bob obtained degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology from Colorado State University, Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Montana State University. He worked for almost 30 years with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. In his retirement years he has become an avid photographer, traveling to numerous locations around the globe to pursue his interest in most wild things, including birds, mammals, dragonflies and flowers.

Sacajawea Audubon programs are free and open to the public. We meet every 2nd Monday, September through May, at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off of S. 19th). Come for the social at 6:30 and share cookies, coffee and conversation. The program starts following a brief chapter meeting at 7 p.m.

Book Group's First Book of the New Year

The Sacajawea Audubon Book Group is reading Scott Weidensaul's *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding* in January. It promises to be a fun and informative read by the author of *Living on the Wind.* The discussion begins at 5:30 in Hope Lutheran Church on January 21, 2016. All are welcome, but please let Adele Pittendrigh know if you are planning to attend for the first time. (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com)

Educational Resources: Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is a nonfiction, nature magazine designed for 3rd through 5th graders and supported financially by our local chapter for children in Park and Gallatin counties. We are starting to get the word out to our local schools about this resource and I am having an organizational meeting for people who would like to brainstorm the best way to do this. The meeting is January 14th, Thursday at 1 PM at my house, 226 Stafford Av.

Thanks, Hilary Johnson, 599-1446

Participate in the SAS Conservation Project Survey

As mentioned in the December's Newsletter, we would like to strengthen our conservation impact by increasing the number of conservation-related projects we support and the number of volunteers engaged. Please help us learn more about your bird conservation interest by completing the survey below. Your answers can be mailed to **Sacajawea Audubon, P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711** or dropped off at the February Monthly Meeting. Alternatively, you may also take the survey online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTPY6TJ

1) Are you interested in volunteering for bird conservation?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No, I prefer to volunteer in other ways
   ___ No, I prefer to support Audubon in other ways, e.g., donations.

If you answered yes, please continue.

2) What type of bird conservation projects would you like to volunteer for (check all that apply)?
   ___ Participate in a hands-on project
   ___ Represent SAS & be a voice for bird conservation at community partnership meetings
   ___ Conduct bird surveys
   ___ Help raise money to fund bird conservation projects
   ___ Be active in political activities involving bird conservation
   ___ Help with grant writing
   ___ Other_____

3) How often can you commit to a bird conservation project?
   ___ A few days a year
   ___ 1-2 days in the summer
   ___ A few days a month
   ___ Weekly during the summer
   ___ Other

4) Would you be willing to lead or take charge of a conservation project?
   ___ Yes, I am comfortable organizing and communicating with people.
   ___ Yes, I would be interested if I received some help getting started.
   ___ Yes, if there was one or more people to help.
   ___ No, I prefer to help only.

5) Are you currently a member of Sacajawea Audubon Society?
   ___ Yes
   ___ No
   ___ Soon to be

6) Would you like to be contacted in the future regarding bird conservation opportunities?
   ___ No
   ___ Yes, please provide contact information below.
   Name:_____
   Phone:_____
   Email:_____

Bird Notes

Tundra Swan

The peak movement of Tundra Swans, Trumpeter Swans and Snow Geese through this area seems to have been November 16-17. That night, Hobart and Martha Collins saw **12 Tundra Swans** on a small pond near their house. They had never seen swans stop at this pond along Cobb Hill Road, before. On November 17, Paulette Epple, Lou Ann Harris, and I went to Ennis and Harrison Lakes, and nearly all the ponds of any size west of Bozeman had some combination of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans on them. At Ennis Lake there were over 500 swans resting in the middle of the lake, and around **750 Snow Geese** congregating in the southwestern corner of the lake. At Harrison Reservoir there were 450 swans were scattered mostly on the far shores sleeping, so it was hard to identify them as to species, but seemed to be about 10:1 Tundra to Trumpeters at this location. On the eastern shore about **1,000 Snow Geese** were massed in one flock.

A couple of late pelicans were around into December. A single **American White Pelican** was spotted by Robin and Richard Wolcott at Ennis Lake, December 10th. It's possible that this pelican is and injured bird, since there had been a single pelican seen several times at Ennis Lake during the middle part of November. Another pelican was at Central Park Pond for several days during the first week of December. Vic Fesolowitz who first saw the pelican at Central Park Pond, went back on December 8th, and found a **Double-crested Cormorant** at the pond.

Double-Crested Cormorant

Early in November a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was frequenting Terry Danforth's yard southwest of Belgrade. This Sharp-shinned Hawk was successful catching at least one of the numerous House Finches.

Anna's Hummingbird

The **Anna's Hummingbird** that appeared near Cameron November 2nd was last seen there on November 22nd.

Jeff Safford, who lives on Hill Street in south Bozeman, had a **Steller's Jay** in his yard December 9th. Jeff who has been at this location for many years, said this was only the second time he's seen a Steller's Jay there.

There was another flurry of **Pileated Woodpecker** sightings around Bozeman this past month. On November 29th, I saw a female Pileated Woodpecker near the mouth of Hyalite Canyon. While birding the Sourdough Trail in south Bozeman, December 2nd, Lou Ann Harris saw another female Pileated Woodpecker. And on December 5th, Kevin Ellison spotted a Pileated Woodpecker flying from Lindley Park.

Several sparrows have been lingering into the early winter. A **Chipping Sparrow** was seen by Lou Ann Harris just northwest of Bozeman on November 14th. This would be a state late record, except for the overwintering (2013-14) Bozeman Chipping Sparrow, and one seen on the Missoula Christmas Bird Count (December 1983). As Tom Forwood was walking the Creekwood Trail along Bridger Creek December 1st, he found a **White-crowned Sparrow** in one of the thickets. A single **White-throated Sparrow** was coming to Paulette Epple's yard in the northeast Bozeman from November 16th through the first week of December. During the third week of November we had **2 White-throated Sparrows** around our yard near Hyalite Canyon. One of these White-throated Sparrows was still around till December 14th.

Chipping Sparrow

White-Throated Sparrow

-John Parker

Thank you to all our sharp-eyed birders for reporting your great sightings. Please report your Bird Sightings by the 9th of the month to John Parker at 586-5863 or birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Sponsor a Bluebird Box!

Sacajawea Audubon is introducing a fun new way to support our chapter's conservation projects. We are giving members the opportunity to sponsor one of the bluebird boxes that we monitor on Rocky Mountain and Pass Creek Roads.

Sponsorship costs **$15** per year per box, and you can sponsor up to 3 boxes total. Once you have signed up, we will assign you a box number, and as the bluebird nesting season begins you will receive emailed updates and photos. At the end of the season, we will post a complete list of all the boxes including their sponsor's name and the nesting results in the newsletter & on the SAS website.

A bluebird box sponsorship makes a great gift or you can sponsor a box in memory of a loved one. The money raised will fund the expenses of maintaining the bluebird trail, as well as Sacajawea Audubon's other conservation projects, such as the Kestrel Nest Box project and the Burdock Eradication Project. For more info, email Lou Ann at montlou311@gmail.com.

To sign up for a bluebird box sponsorship, please fill out the form below and send with a check to:

Lou Ann Harris
PO Box 11341
Bozeman, MT 59719

****Please make check out to SACAJAWEA AUDUBON**

BLUEBIRD BOX SPONSORSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL (required)_____ _____

OF BOXES SPONSORED _____

IS THIS SPONSORSHIP A MEMORIAL? _____

IN WHOSE NAME? _____

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: Wings Across the Big Sky

June 3-5, 2016 Missoula, Montana

Time to begin making those summer plans! … **Montana Audubon's** *Wings Across the Big Sky Festival***, co-hosted by Five Valleys Audubon Society,** will be held June 3-5 in Missoula. We invite you to spread the news and enthusiasm so we can all enjoy a fantastic turnout. Invite your out-of-state and nearby friends, birders and non-birders alike, to visit Missoula and surrounding areas to participate in abundant festival activities.

Included in this year's activities are close to 20 field trips scheduled each of two days. These include trips into the Rattlesnake Recreation area, Pattee Canyon, Lee Metcalf NWR, and Lolo Creek, among others, with the anticipation of seeing a varied array of species and habitats.

Festival headquarters will be located at the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park, 200 S Pattee Street, Missoula MT. Rose Leach, local festival chairman, and Five Valleys Audubon have been working with us and the Holiday Inn team on event logistics and service, This venue is going to supply us with excellent opportunities to host an expanded display area, concurrent Saturday afternoon presentations, a fun Friday night festival kickoff event, a popular bat walk, our keynote speaker, and a Saturday evening banquet dinner.

We are very pleased to announce that our keynote speaker Friday night will be Erick Greene, professor in the Division of Biological Sciences and in the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana. Kate Davis, author, photographer, artist, and "den-mother" to falconry birds, will be headlining the Saturday afternoon presentations.

Each month we will continue to feature developing news on the 2016 Bird Festival. Registration will begin in March. Stay tuned!

For more information contact:
Cathie Erickson: cerickson@mtaudubon.org
Montana Audubon's Bird Festival Coordinator

The 46th annual Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival
March 17-20, 2016 - Kearney, Neb.

Presented by Audubon Nebraska,
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary,
and Kearney Visitors Bureau

Check the festival website, http://nebraskacranefestival.org/, starting mid-December for updates and registration information. Call 402-797-2301 or email nebraska@audubon.org if you have questions. On-line registration will begin early January.

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

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Mailing Address

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

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

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

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

Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Loreene Reid	600-6666	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Secretary	Paulette Epple	586-0932	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair			
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	Jocelyn Allen	577-1246	hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.or
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	John Edwards		johnedwards@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Honorary Board Member	Peter Norlander		norlander@q.com

Membership Application

- National, State and Chapter Audubon membership
- 6 issues of ***Audubon*** magazine
- Monthly SAS newsletter September through May
- Support of National & local Audubon conservation efforts

____ $20 Introductory membership
____ Additional donation $ _____*

***All additional donations go directly to your Sacajawea Audubon Chapter.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ **Zip:**_____
Email: _____

____ I will go green: Please send me the Sacajawea Audubon newsletter by E-mail only. (Add email address above.)

Mail your check and application to:
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711 (C5ZN510Z)

I am interested in volunteering for:
____ Bird Surveys
____ Assist with educational activities
____ Invasive plant removal
____ Newsletter or website articles
____ Help with refreshments at meetings
____ Participate in chapter Birdathon

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