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

March 3rd	March SAS Book Club
March 5th	Madison River IBA Survey
March 11th - 12th	Raptor ID Workshop and Field Trip
March 14th	SAS Monthly Meeting
March 17th-20th	46th Annual Nebraska Crane Festival
March 26th	Birding at Ennis Lake
March 31rd	Habitat Connections
April 2nd	Annual SAS Owl Prowl
April 6th-7th	River Restoration and Bank Stabilization Workshop
April 21st	April SAS Book Club
June 3rd - 5th	Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival

Call for Montana Audubon Award Nominations!

Please nominate a deserving person for their work for conservation! We are now seeking nominations for awards that will be given away at MT Audubon's June annual meeting. The awards acknowledge individuals who exemplify a commitment to birds, other wildlife, and habitat conservation. This year awards include Conservationist of the Year, Environmental Educator of the Year, Special Achievement, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award. To nominate your candidate, visit mtaudubon.org/about/award/. To be considered for this year's award, nominations must be submitted no later than May 19, 2016. Nominations can be submitted by email (jellis@mtaudubon.org) or mailed to Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624. Questions? Contact Janet Ellis at 406-443-3949.

African Adventure!

Monday March 14th, 2016 at 7pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

Sacajawea Audubon takes you on an African Adventure at their March 14th program with Wes Krause, founder of African Environments and Mountain Madness adventure travel. Wes will share with us some of the highlights of walking in Arusha National Park, elephant watching in Tarangire, soda lake ecosystems of the Great Rift Valley, walking in the vast wilderness zones of Serengeti National Park and game viewing in the famous caldera of Ngorongoro Crater.

He will share insights into the Maasai pastoralist and Hadza Bushman way of life. Wes has been an avifauna enthusiast for decades and will stir your curiosity for some of the "must see" birds of Tanzania such as: Silvery Cheeked Hornbill, Hartlaub's Turaco, African Jacana and Lilac Breasted Roller, Little Bee Eater & Crowned Crane.

Wes Krause has been living in Tanzania and organizing adventures for over 30 years. As a youngster growing up in Colorado, Wes constantly dreamed of being in the wilderness. In his 20's Wes climbed and adventured in Alaska, New Zealand, Kenya, Uganda, Russia, Tajikistan and Nepal. Wes later directed branch schools for the National Outdoor Leadership School in Washington State, Alaska and Kenya. In 1983 Wes and his climbing partner Scott Fischer started Mountain Madness, operating trips all over the world. By 1991 adventures to Tanzania had become so popular Wes started African Environments with two Tanzanian partners.

Sacajawea Audubon meets every 2nd Monday of the month, September through May. Our meetings are held at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off of S. 19th). Come for the social beginning at 6:30 p.m. A short chapter meeting starts at 7 p.m. with the program following after. Our programs are free and open to the public.

Join SAS for These Local Events!

Spring Birding at Ennis Lake

A sure cure for spring fever is lots of early spring birds! The primary focus of this trip will be the migrating waterfowl at Ennis Lake. At this time of year the ducks will be at their dazzling best in full breeding plumage, and usually in great abundance. This is also near the peak of migration for some of the larger waterfowl, such as Tundra Swans and Snow Geese. Along with the waterfowl, this trip will provide a good opportunity for finding other early migrants such as Sandhill Cranes, Tree Swallows, and Mountain Bluebirds. It is spring in Montana so be sure to be prepared for the weather, with plenty of warm layers of clothing for a day out in the elements. We will return to the museum mid afternoon, so bring a lunch and snacks. This trip will meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot at **8 AM Saturday March, 26th**. After arranging for carpooling, we will head for Ennis Lake at 8:15. There is a **15 person limit** for the trip, so sign up early. Contact Vic Fesolowitz at 539-8251 to reserve a spot.

Annual Owl Prowl

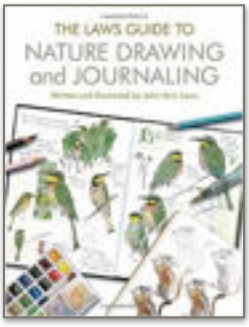
Join Sacajawea Audubon for our annual Owl Prowl on Saturday, **April 2nd**. MT State Park Naturalist and avid birder Tom Forwood, Jr. will lead the field trip. Some of the owl species we hope to hear, and possibly see, include Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl and Great Horned 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.

Interested participants need to contact Tom Forwood to sign up at tjfishing75@gmail.com or phone 406-570-6432. Field trip limit is 10 people. Registered participants will meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot at 7:00 p.m. for carpooling.

Good Reads for March and April

On **March 3rd**, the SAS Book Group will discuss the fascinating biography of Phoebe Snetisinger: *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds*, by Olivia Gentile. The book we will discuss on **April 21st** is *Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhood with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers and Other Wildlife* by John Marzluff. The book is described as optimistic, showing how our actions in cities and towns can make human environments more hospitable to birds. Book discussions start at 5:30pm at Hope Lutheran Church. For more information or if you are new to the book group, please contact Adele Pittendrigh. (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com)

Nature Journaling: *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*



A potent combination of art, science, and boundless enthusiasm, the latest art instruction book from John Muir Laws is a how-to guide for becoming a better artist and a more attentive naturalist.

In a straightforward text complemented by step-by-step illustrations, *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling* (Heyday Books, March 2016) includes dozens of exercises to lead the hand and mind through creating accurate reproductions of plants and animals, as well as landscapes, skies, and more. While the book's advice will improve the skills of already accomplished artists, the emphasis on seeing, learning, and feeling will make this book valuable to anyone interested in the natural world, no matter how rudimentary their artistic abilities.

For a limited time, Heyday Books is offering Sacajawea Audubon Society Members a 10% discount on *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*. Just visit their website at www.heydaybook.com and enter "Sacajawea Audubon — code SA1NL" at checkout. I received a copy of this book recently and found it to be beautifully done and truly inspirational.

Bird Notes

This past month, several birds that are seldom seen in this area during the winter were found. Three **American White Pelicans** were observed on January 25th flying over Central Park Pond by Martha Collins, Hobart Collins, and Lou Ann Harris. This was only the second time pelicans have been documented locally during the month of January. The **Turkey Vulture** that Scott Dean spotted west of Logan on January 16th was the first January record for this area of Montana. There are only a handful of Turkey Vulture records for the entire state of Montana during the winter period of December 15 to February 15. Ned Bixler discovered an immature **Ferruginous Hawk** near Black's Ford along the Madison River on January 19th. This Ferruginous Hawk was still being found in the same area well into February. On February 7th, Mike Vivian spotted and photographed a **Sandhill Crane** in Paradise Valley, between Emigrant and Point of Rocks. Sandhill Cranes have been noted a number of times over the years, late in February. But, this is the first crane to be documented during the first three weeks of February, other than an injured Sandhill Crane near Jeffers during the winter of 2004.

The **Barn Owl** that perched on Jocelyn Allen's deck, south of Churchhill was the most exceptional sighting of the past month. This Barn Owl seen during the first week of February is the first ever reported in Gallatin County. Over the past five years there have been one time sightings of Barn Owls in Broadwater, Madison, and Park Counties.

The male/female pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** that have been frequenting the Sourdough Nature Trail, have achieved near rock star status, with many birders getting close views of their activities. Several people got to witness the Pileated Woodpeckers' dramatic interactions with a resident pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks.

A **Northern Shrike** was seen the first of February, at the Regional Park in west Bozeman, by Dorrie Green. This is the second winter in a row that Dorrie has watched a Northern Shrike catching voles at the park.

The **Green-tailed Towhee** that was discovered by Audrey and Joel Evers, while participating in the Ennis Christmas Bird Count December 16th, was seen until at least the end of January. This is only the second over wintering record for Montana, the first being a towhee that spent the winter of 2006 in southwest Bozeman.

White-winged Crossbill sightings have been few and far between, so it was exciting to hear that Judy Belding had a flock come to her feeders in south Bozeman, February 3rd and 4th. There were four males and two females in this small flock of crossbills.

-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

June 3-5, 2016 Missoula, Montana

Come join us for Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by Five Valleys Audubon in cooperation with Bitterroot Audubon, June 3-5, 2016, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula. We are very excited about our facility at Riverfront Park along the Clark Fork River, where all festival activities will take place Friday through Sunday, including registration, field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, and much more. The Holiday Inn Downtown is located off the Van Buren or Orange Street exits off I-90 and provides easy access to all our birding activities and field trips. Currently we have rooms blocked for festival-goers Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to tell them you're with the Montana Audubon Bird Festival group to get the special rate! If you're planning to arrive early or late to take in the pre- and post-trips sponsored by Five Valleys Audubon, the Holiday Inn will try to accommodate you at our contracted rate outside the block. We suggest you make your reservations soon by calling 1-800-399-0408 or 406-721-8550. Our Festival Registration Brochure is scheduled to be mailed early March, with the online registration system active soon after. Use either the registration brochure or the online system to register. The brochure is full of information on the festival events and all the field trips that will be available.

Here's a Sneak Peak at Some of our Scheduled Events for the Festival:

- Keynote speakers are Erick Greene, wildlife biology professor at the University of Montana, and Kate Davis, founder of the non-profit educational organization, Raptors of the Rockies, now in their 29th year. Erick will speak about the danger of being a hawk as well as provide a bird's eye view of the Clark Fork River watershed and the Ospreys role as environmental sentinels. Kate will discuss the vital educational programs and projects she spearheads.
- Friday evening - a look at Montana Audubon and the beginning of a year-long celebration of 40 years of conservation achievements!
- Also see the long-awaited Birds of Montana book, meet the authors, and get your autographed copy.
- Hear from the American Prairie Reserve and their work in Montana.

Stay tuned for more information on other special happenings at or around this festival event.

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

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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:_____
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____ 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

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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