SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

March 2017

Calendar at a Glance

March 8th	Madison Valley IBA
March 13th	SAS Meeting
March 18th	Central Pond Field Trip
March 22nd	Science Inquiry Series
March 9th	SAS Bookclub
April 1st	Spring Birding at Ennis Lake
April 20th	SAS Book Group
April - June	Birding Workshops
June 9th - 11th	MT Audubon Annual Festival

A Madison Valley IBA bird survey will be held on Wednesday, March 8th. Contact Paulette Epple at bigskyepples@msn.com or phone 406-580-6186 if you are interested.

Y to A: 2016 Highlights!

Note Location: Ellen Theater!

Monday March 13th, 2016 at 7pm
Ellen Theater
Downtown Bozeman

-Photo Curtesy of Kevin Rhoades, Billings Gazette

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, Sacajawea Audubon presents a special evening with wildlife cinematographer Bob Landis.

Bob Landis will present his lectured video, Y to A: 2016 High Lights, on Monday, March 13th at the **Ellen Theatre** in downtown Bozeman. The program is a summary of the best sequences filmed in Yellowstone and Denali this past year by Landis. It includes the usual cast of characters; wolves, coyotes, foxes, bears and a variety of birds, with emphasis on interesting behavior. A few sequences have already been incorporated into current projects; most are waiting in line for future programs. Outstanding sequence goes to the golden eagle attacking a coyote in an attempt to steal its food. The program is suitable for all audiences with kill sequences left on the cutting room floor. A review of a just-completed program about the Hayden and Canyon wolf packs is included as a trailer.

Bob starting filming wildlife with his father in 1960 as a rank amateur. His father took extensive big hunting trips in northern British Columbia. These were documented in 16mm film. On these hunts, Bob was told to go "shoot". It was left to him to decide to shoot with camera or gun. Landis has long put the gun aside, but continues to "shoot" with a camera, full-time professionally since 1993. He was lucky to be on the scene and fully equipped when wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone. In the succeeding 21 years, Bob co-produced eight one hour programs for **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** and **NATURE**. His favorites are **IN THE VALLEY OF THE WOLVES** for **NATURE** on PBS, and **THE RISE OF BLACK WOLF** for the **National Geographic Channel**. Bob considers himself semi-retired, mostly tired, and has gone back to his roots of producing, with a partner, his own programs. The most recent being: **WHITE WOLF OF THE HAYDEN PACK**, and **WHITE WOLF OF THE CANYON PACK**.

The social starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Beer, wine & coffee will be available for purchase. There is a suggested donation of $5.00 to help support Sacajawea Audubon conservation programs.

LOVE BIRDS?
BUY A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP
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SACAJAWEA AUDUBON!

2017 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BIRDING WORKSHOPS

Birds inspire curiosity and a sense of wonder. Ever wonder who exactly is whistling "Hey Sweetie!" outside your window in the wee hours of the morning? Or how to identify a bird based on a flash of yellow feathers? 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 and -- *new this year* -- 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.

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

Science Inquiry Series

Sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences

Topic: Adaptations in Owls
Featuring: Denver Holt
At: The Museum of the Rockies
When: Wednesday March 22 at 7 pm

How well can owls see at night, how well can they hear, how silently do they fly, why are they so hard to find—and why do people admire them so much? Denver Holt, president of the Owl Research Institute, will discuss what owls can tell us about adapting to environments. This event is free to the public.

Explore cutting edge science topics, their latest developments, and their relevance to Society--through speaker presentations followed by conversations between speaker and audience at the **Science Inquiry Series**.

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. 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 April 1st.** 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.

SPONSOR A BLUEBIRD NEST BOX!

Sacajawea Audubon is once again offering bluebird box sponsorships for the upcoming 2017 nesting season. It's a fun way to support our chapter's conservation projects.

Sponsorship costs **$15** per year per box, and you can sponsor up to 3 boxes total. Once you have signed up and mailed in your check, 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.

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

Lou Ann Harris
PO Box 11341
Bozeman, MT 59719

BLUEBIRD BOX SPONSORSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

EMAIL _____

OF BOXES SPONSORED _____

IS THIS SPONSORSHIP A MEMORIAL? _____

IN WHOSE NAME? _____

WILLING TO SHARE WITH ANOTHER SPONSOR? _____

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

MT Audubon Annual Bird Festival

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

Come join us for *Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon, June 9-11, 2017, at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn in Great Falls.* All festival activities will take place Friday through Sunday at the Heritage Inn, including registration, field trip departures, guest speaker presentations, meals, banquet festivities, our 40th Anniversary barbecue, and much more. The Heritage Inn is easily accessible from any exit to 10th Avenue South 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 the local chapter, the hotel will try to accommodate you at our contracted rate outside the block. We suggest you make your reservations soon by calling 406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256.

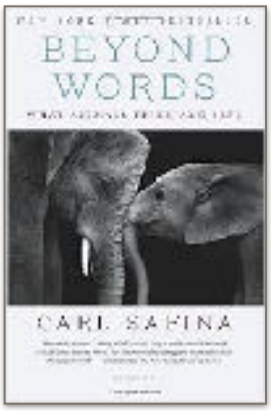
Our Festival Registration Brochure is scheduled to be mailed early March, with an online registration system active soon after. Use either system to register. The brochure is full of information on the festival events and all the field trips that will be available.

If you are a volunteer or field trip leader with UMBA, be sure to get the special registration form to fill out and mail in; Nora or Kay will have the forms and details.

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

- Keynote speaker - David Ringer from National Audubon – "Protecting Birds and the Places they Need, Today and Tomorrow."
- Friday evening – Barbecue and celebration of Montana Audubon's 40 years!
- Saturday afternoon – Montana Audubon staff will present information about their programs and work to conserve birds and their habitats, and to educate all ages on the importance of our conservation efforts.
- Saturday and Sunday mornings - Educational field trips in and around Great Falls.

Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon has decided that they are unable to manage a Silent Auction this year, so the only items for bid will be the custom tours arranged by Montana Audubon. There will be a BIG raffle this year plus our fun basket raffles. Stay tuned for more information on other special happenings at or around this festival event.



Beyond Words: Last Book of the Season

The final reading for the Sacajawea Audubon Book Group this year is *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, by Carl Safina. Safina has won numerous awards and much recognition for his writing. *Beyond Words* is his seventh book. It's described as beautiful, compassionate, surprising, delightful, and enlightening. 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!

Bird Notes

Varied Thrush

Locally, the most unusual bird this past month was a **Varied Thrush** that was at Ray and Linda Forrest's yard along Deep Creek in Paradise Valley. The Varied Thrush was an erratic visitor, feeding on millet and finely crushed corn underneath their feeders from February 3rd to the 9th. This is only the fifth local record for Varied Thrush, during the winter period (Dec. 15 – Feb. 15).

On February 8th, Glenda Barnes saw a **Northern Shrike** at Headwaters State Park. The only **Gyrfalcon** reported from the Gallatin Valley this winter, was seen east of Manhattan on January 21st, by Jim Manning.

Northern Shrike

This past winter Roxanna McLaughlin has been feeding up to 200 **Gray-crowned Rosy Finches** at her house near Bozeman Pass. On February 9th, taking advantage of the concentration of finches, a **Northern Pygmy Owl** was able to catch one. Roxanna said that the owl took two hours to pluck and totally consume the rosy finch.

Northern Pygmy Owl

Now that we've left the late winter birding doldrums behind us, it's time to start looking forward to the first bluebird of the year. The arrival of the first bluebirds in early March is the signal that the migration floodgates are about to open. I hope everyone has a chance to get out and enjoy the first waves of waterfowl and the calling Sandhill Cranes during this coming month.

-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

Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

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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/

LOVE BIRDS? BUY A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP TO SUPPORT SACAJAWEA AUDUBON

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_____

Street Address_____

City_____

State_____ **Zip Code**_____

Phone_____ - _____ - _____

Email_____
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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