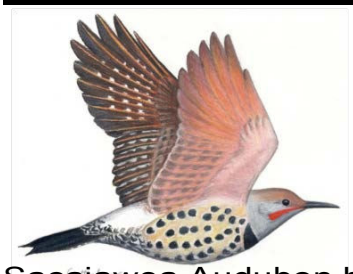


SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

May 2017

Calendar at a Glance

April 27th - June 24th	SAS Birding Workshops	May 13th - June 25th	SAS Birdathons
May 4th	Headwaters IBA	June 2nd - 4th	SAS Red Rocks Lake Field Trip
May 4th & 5th	Give Big Event	June 7th - 9th	Pre-Bird Festival Field Trips
May 8th	SAS Meeting	June 9th - 11th	MT Bird Festival
May 11th - June 8th	Story Mill Bird Walks	June 12th	Post-Bird Festival Field Trip
May 13th	Global Big Day	June 29th	SAS Birdathon Award Party
May 9th	MT Audubon Award Nominations Due	July 8th	Trident-Peregrin Celebration

Sacajawea Audubon Annual Meeting

Birds and Wildlife of Pantanal

Monday May 8th, 2017 at 6pmHope Lutheran Church 2152 W. Graf St (off S. 19th street

Come join us for Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) Annual Meeting Monday, May 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Our meeting begins with a **Sweet and Savory Pot Luck Social** and Featured a Program on ***Birds & Wildlife of Brazil***, one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, is a dream destination for any naturalist.

Sacajawea Audubon welcomes Forrest Rowland of Rockjumper Birding Adventures as our keynote speaker. Forrest will talk about the Brazilian, Bolivian, and Praguay region of Pantanal. The Pantanal is the planet's largest tropical wetland, encompassing 96,500 square miles (250,000 square kms) of emerald forests, savannas, swathing rivers and shallow lagoons. Highlighting the birds and culture of Pantanal, this special program will be a photo odyssey of some recent experiences our presenter has enjoyed during his past tours. Questions are welcome during a brief period at the end of the program Forrest Rowland's first birding trip, at the tender age of 9- years-old, was to the beautiful island nation of Trinidad, and the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Center. Among the riot of Toucans, Trogons, Hummingbirds, and tropical foliage, he found his calling. 28 years later, Forrest still spends much of the year guiding tours, conducting research, and traveling the World for the sake of birds and birding. Not restricted to the Western Hemisphere, Forrest has lived and worked in the Sultanate of Oman, and birded in some 34 countries. While Rowland's birding expertise is centered in the North Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, he has published articles on various aspects of birds and birding in the United States. Rowland has participated in research projects and led trips from the hottest deserts of Arizona, to the wet Northwest forests of Oregon, across the nation to Ohio and the Appalachian Mountains. Currently, Rowland works full-time as New World Product Director for Rockjumper Birding Adventures, leading a variety of tours across the globe, and organizing new itineraries from his home office in Livingston, Montana.

Everyone is welcome to join SAS and share their interest in birding and conservation. The Sacajawea Audubon Society Annual Meeting will include a Sweet and Savory Social, including treats provided by members, a short business meeting to vote on nominated board members and a featured program by Forest Rowland on Birds & Wildlife of Brazil. at 6:00 p.m., at the Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman. We invite the public to attend our meetings and participate in our field trips and learn how you can get involved in one of our many conservation initiatives to help protect birds and wildlife of southwest Montana.

Black Swift Volunteers Needed!!!

Do you enjoy bird-adventures? Willing to hike and gaze at waterfalls? Enjoy scrutinizing wet cliff faces for obscure moss nests? Enjoy birding at dawn and dusk? If you're like the majority of birders in Montana, you've never seen a black swift. THIS SUMMER COULD CHANGE THAT!!

Montana Audubon has funding this year to expand on our citizen science effort to look for additional swift nests in Montana- including potential sites in the Bitterroot. Amy Seaman will be putting on two trainings this summer – 1 in Glacier National Park, and 1 outside the park. Both will be held in mid-July and will be limited to 12 people. And, she even has a little bit of funding for mileage and stipend for those of you who are able to complete a training, and then commit to doing one survey.

If you'd like to participate in this project, please contact Amy (aseaman@mtaudubon.org). Join the echelon of cool birders out there who tell others that they are "going swifting" and remember that "swifting" is not for the faint of heart. Surveying for this bird requires long hikes, tremendous patience, and difficult terrain navigation even at night. But it sure is fun!
For a taste of what "swifting" can be like - check out our website and blogposts from the last few years' surveys!
http://mtaudubon.org/?s=black+swift

Trident-Peregrine Trail

This spring and early summer construction of the Trident-Peregrine Trail will be completed. Benches, interpretative signs and a shade structure with a picnic table will be added as trail side amenities. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on the morning of July 8, 2017 to celebrate the completion of the trail. Besides the ribbon cutting, activities will include bird walking tours, cliff bird viewing, kite making, gold panning, tours of the CRH-Trident plant and a small BBQ. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these activities, please contact Vickie via email: vickie.backus@gmail.com.

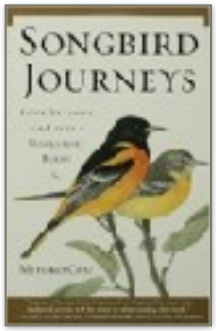
Book Group: And the Winners Are. . .

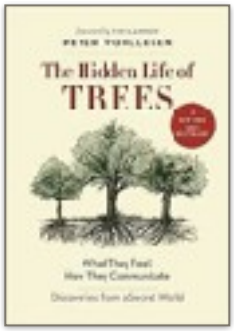
The book group voted on book choices for next year:

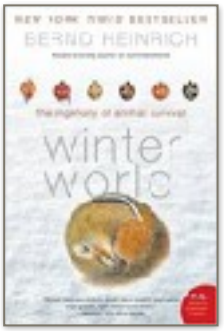
- *Songbird Journeys,* Miyoko Chu (2006)
- *The Hidden Lives of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate,* Peter Wohlleben (2016)
- *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival,* Bernd Heinrich (2006)
- *The Genius of Birds*, Jennifer Ackerman (2016)
- *The Bone Museum: Travels in the Lost Worlds of Dinosaurs and Birds*, Wayne Grady (2000)

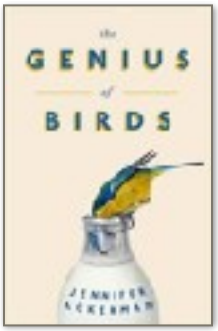
Everyone is invited to participate in the book group. You can drop in from time to time or you can join the core group that attends most of the meetings. The discussions are lively and informal, giving everyone new insights and perspectives on the books.

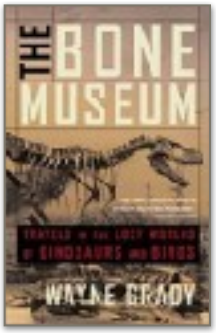
The first meeting to discuss *Songbird Journeys* will take place on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, in the Hope Lutheran Church from 5:30-6:45. If you are new to the group, please let Adele Pittendrigh know that you plan to participate so that you can receive updates about book group meetings. adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com.











Bird Notes

Mountain Bluebird

Spring is probably the most anticipated time of year for birders. After a long Montana winter, there is nothing quite like seeing the first bluebird of the year. If the bluebirds are the first drop of excitement in a birder's year, then May is a torrent. Every day this month brings the possibility of seeing or hearing birds that have been absent from the landscape for six or even eight months. Earlier in the season several of these arriving birds serve as a time table for the advancing spring season.

The honors for spotting the first bluebird of the year, goes to Matt Keefer. On February 24th Matt saw a single **Mountain Bluebird** along the Missouri River, just north of Trident. Infrequently, another species of bluebird will pass through the Gallatin Valley, and on March 21st Mel McCarver discovered a **Western Bluebird** east of Belgrade along Spain Bridge Road.

The second most anticipated early migrant to arrive are the Sandhill Cranes. On March 2nd, while scouting for late winter raptors near Penwell Bridge Road northeast of Belgrade, Martha Collins spotted a single **Sandhill Crane**.

Typically, the third early migrant to signal spring are the Tree Swallows, and true to form, the first ones seen this year were reported on March 14th. This group of 7 **Tree Swallows** were observed by Lou Ann Harris flying above the Madison River near the Red Mountain fishing access site.

Say's Phoebes are the first flycatcher to arrive in Montana, but March records are always notable. So, the **Say's Phoebe** that Mark Fowler saw on his property northeast of Ennis March 20th was quite a surprise.

Tree Swallow

An **Osprey** seen March 26th, along the Yellowstone River was getting a bit of a jump on the main wave to follow during the next couple of weeks. Mitch Hurt saw this Osprey about two miles north of Emigrant in Paradise Valley. The first **Swainson's Hawk** to be seen in this area was observed by Sam Koenen, just west of Bozeman on April 12th.

A single **Common Loon** at Ennis Lake March 31 was just about on schedule for when to expect the first ones in southwest Montana. This bird was seen from the north shore of the lake by Tom Forwood and John Parker.

The first Long-billed Curlews usually arrive in our area the first week of April, so the single **Long-billed Curlew** that Derrick Rathe and Tom Forwood saw near Willow Creek was expected. Expected or not, curlews have to be one of the most thrilling birds to see and hear on the prairie.

At least two uncommon species of waterfowl were spotted among the migrating ducks and geese that moved through this area during March. At least 3 different male **Eurasian Wigeon** were reported locally, including one on Central Park Pond March 13-14th, one on Ennis Lake March 14th, and yet another seen on Cottonwood Reservoir March 18th by Kim Obbink and Vic Fesolowitz. On March 13th while driving down the Interstate past the Belgrade gravel pits, Andrew Guttenberg had a **Greater White-fronted Goose** fly over his car. A great 75 mph identification!

Greater White-Fronted Goose

-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

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GLOBAL BIG DAY

13 MAY 2017

JOIN THE FUN AND COUNT OUR LOCAL BIRDS!

Global Big Day, 13 May 2017. A single day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2016, 17,000 people from 153 countries took part. In 2017, will you join us?

It's simple to contribute: go birding and then submit your data to **eBird**—how easy and fun is that? You don't need to do a full day of birding; even an hour or 10 minutes makes a difference! Go to http://eBird.org/globalbigday to learn more.
Don't forget, every bird counts for the Global Big Day. Whether it is a Red-winged Blackbird in your neighborhood or a critically endangered species on some remote island, eBird and the world want to know about it.

How can I follow the Global Big Day results? Go to **http://eBird.org/globalbigday**. This page will be updated throughout May 13th with sightings and photos from eBirders worldwide.

Calling all Bird Lovers!!

Story Mill Community Park Bird Walks

This spring Sacajawea Audubon Society and The Trust for Public Land will be offering guided bird walks to the developing Story Mill Community Park. Come learn about the planned park development, view the award winning wetlands restoration, and see the many bird species that call the Story Mill area their home.

We will meet on Story Mill Rd south of the Mill Elevator, at the trailhead of the Story Mill Spur Trail. Please contact Terra to sign up: terra.kopf@tpl.org or call 406-582-6245. Bring your binoculars, your eyes and your ears for a unique birding experience. Space is limited! Dates are: Thursday mornings May 11, May 18, May 25, June 1, and June 8. Time is 8-9:30 am

It's Time To Do Your Birdathon!

Birdathon is the chapter's biggest fundraiser and last year our members raised over $6,000. That's a lot of moolah to be used for our conservation and education projects! A Birdathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of collecting pledges per mile walked, you spend a great spring day outdoors with fellow birders, scanning skies, trees, shrubs, fields and water - even your backyard feeder - for birds. The challenge is to identify as many bird species as possible within a 6 or 24 hour period between May 13 – June 25, 2017. You collect pledges per bird species and the money raised benefits SAS's conservation and education programs.

Participation is easier: You don't have to be an expert. Call up your favorite birding friends and form a team. Each team should have at least 2 members. Fill-out our team registration form and send it in with a recommended $50 donation per team to Sacajawea Audubon. Then call up all your family, friends, hair stylists, insurance agents, yoga instructors, etc. and collect pledges. They can pledge per species or a set amount. Schedule a day to do your Birdathon between May 13 and June 25th. You can do a full day or half day. You can bird in your backyard, or cover a 3-county area or focus on birds in one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA). You can even do a Birdathon in another state!

To add to the fun there are all sorts of awards to compete for: Most Bird Species, Most $$ Raised, Most Pledges, Most Magpies, Most Raptors, Carbon Footprint Award, Most Species in an Important Bird Area, Most Bird Species in a Half-Day, Sitting Duck (for those who bird within a 100 yard area), etc. There will be an Awards Party at E. Gallatin Recreation Area on June 29th. How can you pass up this much fun and contribute to bird conservation and education in Southwest Montana.

Go to www.sacajaweaaudubon.org for registration forms, maps, bird list, field guides, fundraising tips, and other birdwatching tips. Contact Loreene Reid (call/email at 406 600-6666 or pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org) or Lou Ann Harris (call/email at 600-3585 or montlou311@gmail.com) for more information.

If you are not able to do a birdathon than support your favorite team or team participant by making a pledge!

Thank you and let's get out birding

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 Session

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!

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

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

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.

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**

GIVEBIG
MAY 4 & 5 2017

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!

MT Audubon Annual Bird Festival

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

Montana Audubon will conclude the marking of its 40th Anniversary year with a "birthday celebration" at the June Bird Festival. Join us and learn how Montana Audubon began as a fledgling organization and hear highlights from four decades of conservation successes! David Ringer, Chief Network Officer with National Audubon, will share insights on bird protection and how he engages people with practical conservation solutions in his keynote address, "Protecting Birds and the Places they Need: Today and Tomorrow."

Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon (UMBA) has worked steadfastly to bring extra fun to this year's festival with a Bird Calling contest, local vendors and great custom field trips. There will be many beautiful and creative desserts to choose from for our Dessert Auction, so come prepared to bid on one to enjoy at the banquet.

UMBA has also put together a diverse roster of field trips – but they are filling up fast, so please register as soon as possible. You can do so by mail, or online at www.mtaudubon.org. Also—if staying overnight, be sure to reserve your rooms at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn by calling 1-406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. (Please mention that you are part of the Montana Audubon Bird Festival to get the group rate.)

Contact Montana Audubon at (406) 443-3949 if you have any questions about the festival or registration.

Recognize Your Peers!

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife by presenting **Awards** at the Saturday evening Bird Festival 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 from www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards/. Nominations are due by May 19, 2017. Mail completed forms to *Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena MT 59624.*

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
Treasurer	Janne Hayward	587-6124	treas@sacajawea audubon.org
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Hospitality/Coffee	**Sharon Hanton**	**586-9500**	
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Publicity Chair	**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

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Sacajawea Audubon Society
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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_____

Street Address_____

City_____

State_____**Zip Code**_____

Phone_____-_____- _____

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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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