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

May 4th	Give Big Day
May 4th - 6th May	SW MT Sage Grouse "Lek" Tour
5th - June 30th	SAS Spring Birding Series
May 10th	The Messenger - an award winning film
May 10th - June	Story Mill Community Park Bird Walks SAS
7th May 12th	Celebrates World Migratory Bird Day SAS
May 14th	Annual Sweet & Savory Social Science
May 15th	Inquiry Series
May 18th	MT Audubon Nominations Due
May 19th - June 24th	Birdathon
June 8th - 10th	MT Bird Festival - Wings Across the Big Sky
June 28th	Birdathon Celebration and Awards
July 21st	MT Land Reliance Bat Walk

GIVE BIG DAY!

Join us at the SAS Give Big Donor Lounge, May 4th at Wild Birds Unlimited, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Live birds from the MRCC will be there for the first hour and a $10 WBU gift card will be given to everyone who makes at least a $25 donation during the donor lounge.

Sacajawea Audubon Society Annual Sweet & Savory Potluck Social

Featuring Ronan Donovan, National Geographic Photographer & Wildlife Biologist

Monday May 14th, 2018 at 6pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf St. (off of South 19th street)

Well, another year of Sacajawea Audubon has slipped by like a fleeting feathered guest at your backyard feeder and the annual "Sweet & Savory Potluck" is upon us! As we say goodbye to a year of exceptional programing and the dedicated, six-year leadership of SAS President Loreene Reid, we are also looking forward to a summer full of SAS Birding Field Trips, Workshops, and Special Events for all bird lovers of all levels.

Please join us **May 14th** for our Annual SAS Meeting. Bring something sweet or something savory to pass around as you mingle with both SAS members and non-members; all are welcome!

Keynote speaker this year is Photographer and Biologist, Ronan Donovan. Ronan began his fieldwork as a biologist working with spotted owls in Yosemite National Park. For the past decade, Ronan pursued fieldwork around the world - from whales and dolphins around to the world, to a year living in Uganda's Kibale National Park researching wild chimpanzees, and conducting wildlife surveys around Montana. Ronan made the transition from field biologist to photographer in 2014 when he began working for National Geographic Magazine's special issue on Yellowstone.

Join Ronan as he shares images and stories of birds and other wildlife from around the world - with a specific focus on the avifauna here in Montana that captivated Ronan during his early career as a photographer.

The social will begin at 6:00pm with the Sweet & Savory Potluck followed by the program. Program will include keynote speaker photographer & biologist Ronan Donovan, opportunity to meet the new slate of SAS Officers and Board Members introduced in this newsletter. As with every year, the newsletter will take a hiatus until September, but your suggestions for improvements are always welcome. Until next fall, Happy Birding!

Calling all Bird Lovers!!
Story Mill Community Park Bird Walks

-Image Courtesy of Dan Mills

Dates: Thursdays May 10th, May 17th, May 31st, and June 7th
Time: 8:00am - 9:30am

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!**

Exclusive BAT walk for Sacajawea Audubon members!

Date: Saturday July 21st
Time: 8:00 pm
Kelly Ranch in Bozeman

Come and explore the fascinating world of bats at the historic Kelly Ranch along the Gallatin River with bat expert Matt Bell, on a **BAT WALK!** You'll see bats as they emerge to forage and use ultrasound equipment to hear bat echolocation. You'll also learn: "Where do bats go in the winter?" "Where do they go during the day?" "How do they catch their prey?" "What kind of bats live in MT?" "What kind of habitats do they like?"

Matt Bell has a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and is currently on the staff of the Montana Land Reliance. His work has exposed him to the fascinating world of bat research.

Space is limited to **30 participants**. Bring a headlamp or flashlight and a jacket, as it gets cool after the sun goes down. To reserve a spot please contact Kathryn Kelly at (406) 579-5481 or kathryn@mtlandreliance.org

Science Inquiry Series

-Image Courtesy of Neil Cornish

Museum of the Rockies
Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 7 pm
Sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences
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.

May 15 – A Revolution in Astronomy

How do you revolutionize astronomy four centuries after Galileo first turned a telescope to the sky? **Dr. Neil Cornish**, MSU professor of physics, offers his answer in a discussion of gravitational wave observatories detecting collisions of black holes and neutron stars, and providing new insights into the nature of gravity, the properties of matter at extreme densities, and the origin of many elements in the periodic table.

World Migratory Bird Day 2018: *"The Year of the Bird"*

Celebrate the "Year of the Bird" and the actions you can take to help birds, 365 days of the year.

May 10th & 12th

Join Sacajawea Audubon as we celebrate one of the most spectacular events across the planet--BIRD MIGRATION! This year marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the "Year of the Bird" and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years. World Migratory Bird Day is a celebration of our planet's major migratory bird corridors, or flyways, namely the African-Eurasian, the East Asian-Australasian, and the Americas flyways. Events are taking place at refuges, parks, museums, schools, zoos, and right here at Bozeman's trails, theaters and library. Please help Sacajawea Audubon Society kick off the inaugural World Migratory Bird Day Festival in Bozeman.

SAS **invites the public to the following free events** celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2018 "Year of the Bird":

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, May 10th

7:00 PM - *"The Messenger"* Join us at the **Crawford Theater at the Emerson Center** for this 2016 award-winning film. An artful investigation into the causes of songbird depletion and the compassionate people who are working to turn the tide, *The Messenger* is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. http://songbirdsos.com/

Saturday, May 12th

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Take A Bird-watching Hike

Hikers will find GVLT ambassadors at local trailheads from **7 AM to 9 AM,** where they will provide information about birding, birding ethics and the trails— locations are subject to conditions. ***Check GVLT website https://gvlt.org/ for additional details on trails we are hosting.***

Saturday, May 12th

10 AM to 2:00 PM - Festival of Family Activities at the Bozeman Public Library

There will be something for everyone! Live Birds, Learn more about the 100-year old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Live Music, Games and Crafts, Dress up like your favorite bird and go on a Migration March, Learn how to use binoculars and join a bird-watching walk, Birding books and apps in the Bookmobile, and MUCH MORE…

Saturday, May 12th

4:00 & 7:00 PM - End the day of celebrating birds at the Ellen Theatre with our two featured films:

4:00 PM "Fly Away Home" (1996 film). *Rated PG*

In this Oscar-nominated film, a father and daughter lead a flock of orphaned Canada Geese south by air--dramatizing the actual experiences of "Operation Migration" in 1986, when ultra-light aircraft were used to lead birds on migration.

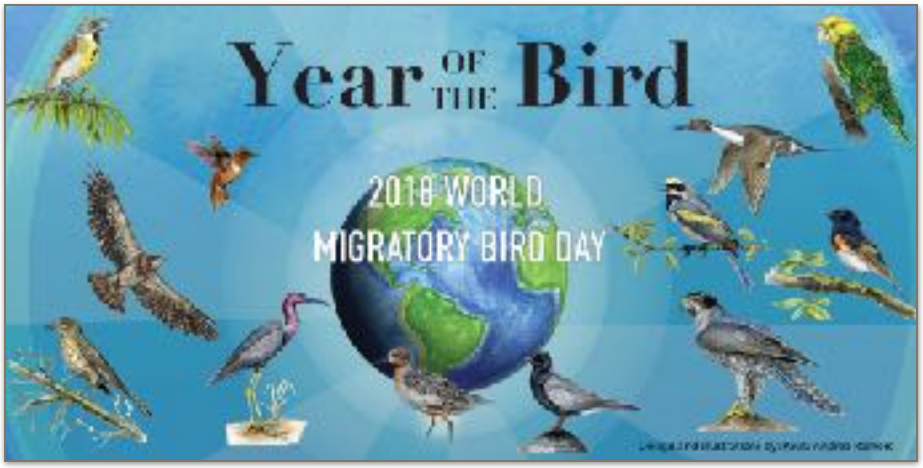
7:00 PM *"Winged Migration"* (2001 film). Rated G

This beautiful film portrays the immense journeys routinely made by birds during their migrations. Filmed on all seven continents.

For More Details on These Events Visit www.sacajaweaaudubon.org.

THANK YOU for supporting Sacajawea Audubon Society by participating in World Migratory Bird Day! It is our hope that you will continue to volunteer and support our work to conserve wildlife and their natural habitats and promote the enjoyment of birds in Southwest Montana.

Thank You to our Sponsors: **Trident Cement Plant...** ***Your neighbor in sustainability*****, Bozeman Public Library, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Raptor Conservation Center, and Birds & Beans**



Announcing the Sacajawea Audubon 2018 Birdathon

Help us meet our goal!

Birding and Pledge Period: May 19th - June 24th

Birdathon Award Celebration: June 28th

Spring is here, which means it is time to call your favorite birders and do a half or full day birdathon between Saturday, May 19 – Sunday, June 24, 2018. The goal of the Birdathon challenge is to identify as many bird species as possible within a 6-hour or 24 hour period. Are you up for the challenge?**Our goal this year, in celebration of the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, is to get 100 birdwatchers to participate in Sacajawea Audubon's Birdathon.**

Get a few of your birding friends together and spend a great spring half-day or a 24 hour period outdoors, scanning skies, trees, shrubs, fields and water - even your backyard feeder - ***for the birds!!*** To participate in this challenge, you will collect pledges per bird species and the money raised supports all the Sacajawea Audubon conservation and education projects. If you are unable to participate in a Birdathon, you can still help us raise funds for SAS conservation and education projects by supporting your favorite team or team participant through your pledge. You can also donate to your team online.

Join us for the Birdathon Award Celebration on Thursday, June 28. Awards are:

- **Most $$ Raised**
- **Rookie Award**
- **Sitting Duck Award**
- **Carbon Neutral Award**
- **Mentor Award**
- **Best Bird Award**
- **Most Pledges Collected**
- **Raptor Award (most raptors seen)**
- **Sacajawea Audubon Award (most flickers seen)**
- **Montana Audubon Award (most magpies seen)**
- **Most Species Identified (Adult & Youth divisions and half-day & 24 hour period)**

For information on how to register your team or get on a team or join Steve Hoffman's Team to raise money for the Bridger Mountain Raptor Migration Project visit www.sacajaweaaudubon.org or email birdathon@sacajaweaaudubon.org or call 600-6666. Sacajawea Audubon website has great ideas to how to do a Birdathon (maps, field guides, awards and pledge sheets).

Bird Notes

Hopefully as you are reading this, the snow will have disappeared from the valleys and more inviting spring weather will have arrived, along with the first hummingbirds of the year. As of mid-April the continuing snow and cold is still having a major impact on the birds attempting their northward migration. In recent decades the Snow Goose movement through Montana has been mostly over by the end of March. This spring, the continuous series of storm systems stalled the waterfowl migration, with tens of thousands of **Snow Geese** still present in the state until the third week of April. Another species that occurred this spring in exceptional numbers were **Canvasbacks**, with rafts numbering in the hundreds on the reservoirs in this area. Greater Scaup are a somewhat uncommon species east of the divide, but a few are seen every spring migration. When Greater Scaup are seen locally, it's usually single birds or just a handful. So the **37 Greater Scaup** seen by Andrew Guttenberg and Tom Forwood at Ennis Lake on April 14th was extraordinary. The last spring to delay the migration anything like this was in 2013. These same weather patterns also delayed the departure of the arctic breeders that spend the winter in our area. In mid-April **Northern Shrike**, **American Tree Sparrow**, and **Common Redpoll** were being seen in numbers more typical of mid-March.

The nasty weather didn't prevent a few shorebirds from attempting to get a jump on the season. Two **American Avocets** were spotted March 31st, by Robin Wolcott at the Three Forks ponds, which is the earliest record locally. That same day Bucky Ballou saw a single **Long-billed Curlew** near Twin Bridges, which is also an early record for this area.

Perhaps the biggest surprise earlier this spring was the **Burrowing Owl** that Peter Murray photographed near Old Chico on March 25th. There is only one earlier sighting for Montana, which was a Burrowing Owl seen on March 21st at the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. That sighting was a real anomaly, as Burrowing Owls are rarely seen west of the divide.

-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

State Logging Project Threatens Important Bozeman Bird Habitat

Sacajawea Audubon Society's (SAS) latest "Birding Hotspots" pamphlet identifies the Triple Tree Trail as having "… perhaps the greatest bird diversity of any short hike in the Gallatin Valley." The hike on Mount Ellis State Land is similarly featured as a very attractive hike for birders. The area between these two hikes consists of the Limestone Creek and No-Name Creek drainages, which are among the few remaining roadless, wild areas in the Gallatin Front adjacent to Bozeman. This area is an important habitat for not only birds, but for elk, moose, mountain lion, bobcat, red fox, coyote, wolverine, American marten, black bear and wolf. [See Steven Gehman, "Wildlife Surveys in the Limestone West Area," April, 2017]

Unfortunately, this important bird and animal habitat is the target of the Montana DNRC's proposed "Limestone West" logging project. First proposed in 2016, the project has been delayed several times and many SAS members have supported the Save Our Gallatin Front citizens' coalition (SOGF) in opposing the logging project.

We anticipate that this issue will come to a head this Spring when the DNRC is expected to release its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At that time, the public will have 60 days to submit its comments and to participate in a public hearing. *It will be critical for as many SAS members as possible to submit comments and to participate in this public hearing.*

SOGF, with the support of many SAS members, has already had some success in impacting this logging project. The DNRC has delayed its decision several times; it has decided to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement, rather than just an Environmental Assessment; and it has reduced the acreage to be cut from 730 to 600 acres (in their Alternative A) and even more in their Alternative B (373 acres).

In its EIS, the DNRC will evaluate taking no action; its Alternative A; its Alternative B; and the conditions for granting a Conservation License. Alternative A provides for logging 600 acres, consisting of 84% lodgepole and 16% Douglas Fir. 9.1 miles of roads would be built up and down Limestone Creek and across No-Name Creek and 3.8 miles of these roads would be reclaimed. Alternative B would eliminate the harvest on the steepest slopes and reduce the acreage to 373 acres, consisting of 93% lodgepole and 7% Douglas Fir. This Alternative provides for 6.2 miles of roads to be built, and 1.6 miles of those roads to be reclaimed. In both Alternatives A & B, the lodgepole would be clear cut and the Douglas Fir would be thinned.

Until we see the EIS, we will not know whether the Conservation License is a viable option to consider. The EIS will set out the time period of the license as well as its conditions. Obtaining the conservation license would also require SOGF to undertake a substantial fundraising effort and to outbid the loggers. [See the DNRC's report outlining these alternatives and related maps.]

SOGF believes the Limestone West area is a unique and special area that should be preserved in its current pristine and natural state for the birds and animals which thrive there. We urge SAS members to advocate for no logging in Limestone West (the no-action alternative).

Craig Campbell, the head of the Bozeman DNRC Unit, has stated to us that his biggest personal concern with the proposed logging project is that the intrusion of new roads (and resulting people) into the pristine Limestone Creek and No-Name Creek drainages will forever change the character of these areas. SOGF also is concerned about the sediment impact on Limestone and No-Name creeks; the drying up of the terrain from the logging; the creation of a viewshed eyesore which will affect everyone enjoying the area; and the proliferation of weeds.

We encourage SAS members to become active in the SOGF coalition and to consider making a contribution to SOGF to help us fund our advocacy efforts. SOGF has hired experts to provide input to the DNRC and to help us evaluate the EIS professionally when it comes out. We will also engage in advertising and marketing efforts to get the broader Bozeman community engaged in the issue. SOGF has also taken the steps to become a Montana nonprofit corporation and currently has an application pending with the IRS to achieve a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. For more information about SOGF, see SOGF website.

We have a lot of work ahead of us and we would greatly value your participation. Please contact Jack Leddick, SAS member and SOGF Director, if you would like to get involved and/or make a contribution. (jackleddk@pkrnet.com)

2018 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.

May 5 Saturday: Headwaters State Park
Leader: Martha Collins
Contact: 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 5 Saturday: Owl Prowl
Leader: Tom Forwood
Contact: 406-570-6432 or tforwood@mt.gov
Meet at the Museum of the Rockies at 7 PM. Some of the owl species we hope to hear, and possibly see, include Northern Pygmy-Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Great Horned Owl, and possibly others. 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. Be prepared to be out well after dark. **10 person limit**

May 6 Sunday: Shields Valley Driving Tour
Leader: Forrest Rowland
Contact: 814-573-1391 or rowbird2005@gmail.com.
(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. **Meet at the Clyde Park Post Office parking lot, at 7:00 AM for car-pooling.**

May 13 Sunday: Triple Tree Trail
Leader: Lou Ann Harris
Contact: 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**

May 16 Wednesday: Bozeman Fish Technology Center
Leader: John Parker
Contact: 586-5863 or conundrumjp@gmail.com
(Until late morning, light walking)
There are several habitat types that come together in this relatively compact area, including the riparian areas along Bridger Creek and the conifer slopes of Drinking Horse Mountain. We will try to find some of the earlier migrants, and many of the breeding birds should already be on their territories at this location. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and American Dippers are expected here. If time permits we may also bird some of the parkland further down stream along Bridger Creek. **10 person limit**

May 19 Saturday: Old Town Road and Milligan Canyon
Leader: Tom Forwood
Contact: 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**

2018 Sacajawea Audubon Spring Birding Series (cont.)

May 23 Wednesday: Mount Ellis
Leader: Don Profota
Contact: 406-579-3200 dprofota@gmail.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.**

May 26 Saturday: Sweet Grass County Prairie Bird Tour
Leader: Beth Madden
Contact: 406-224-1012 or bethmadden64@gmail.com
(The 5-6 hour driving tour wrap up by early-mid afternoon) Celebrate the "Year of the Birds" 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. **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.**

May 26 Saturday: East Gallatin Recreation Area
Leader: Andrew Guttenberg
Contact: 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 2 Saturday: Paradise Valley Driving Tour
Leader: Mitch Hurt
Contact: 406-223-4919 or wildbirdhunting@gmail.com
(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. **Meet at Livingston Albertson's parking lot, northeast corner at 7:30 AM for car-pooling.**
June 3 Sunday: Spanish Creek
Leader: John Parker
Contact: 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 5 Tuesday: Sourdough Nature Trail
Leader: Adele Pittendrigh
Contact: 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 8-10: Please join us at the 2016 Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Kalispell, MT.
Contact Montana Audubon at **(406) 443-3949** or go to **www.mtaudubon.org Come join the fun.**

June 16 Saturday: Mission Creek
Leader: Robin Wolcott
Contact: 581-5418 or pajaros@wewolcotts.com
(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. **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. 14 person limit**

2018 Sacajawea Audubon Spring Birding Series (cont.)

June 17 Sunday: Rocky Mountain Rd Bluebird Trail
co-Leader: Janne Hayward
Contact: 587-6124 or jannehayward@gmail.com
co-Leader: Lou Ann Harris
Contact: 600-3585 or 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. **The participants on this trip will meet at 8:30 AM, at the north end of the Target parking lot.** Due to the sensitive nature of the work, we are limiting these field trips to **8 participants**.

June 23 Saturday: Rocky Creek
Leader: Billy Burton
Contact: 406-925-9405 or mtnhotspinger@gmail.com
(Until late morning, bring muck boots if you plan on getting close to the beaver dams) Many species of warblers can be viewed in the riparian willow/alder thickets, with possibilities of American Redstart and Lewis's Woodpecker. Mature cottonwoods offer a unique opportunity to view cavity nesters including Wood Ducks. Many different species of waterfowl, and other birds associated with the creek may also be present.

June 24 Sunday: Limestone Creek Canyon
Leader: John Parker
Contact: 406-586-5863 or conundrumjp@gmail.com
(1/2 day trip walking on a small trail, with some rough terrain for 4 miles). Limestone Creek is the least disturbed drainage in the Gallatin foothills south of Bozeman. This lightly used area is a refuge for a wide variety of wildlife that requires deep forests for cover, including some old growth spruce-fir. Some of the birds to expect on this trip include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, and MacGillivray's Warbler. These public lands, owned by the state of Montana, are scheduled to be logged as part of the Limestone West Timber Sale. Along with some great birding, we will also discuss the impacts/implications of the impending logging operation on this drainage and surrounding public lands.

June 30 Saturday: Sixteen Mile Creek
Leader: Tom Forwood
Contact: 406-570-6432 or tforwood@mt.gov
email is preferred
Come see one of Gallatin County's hidden birding gems. Tucked away at the north end of the county is Sixteen Mile Creek. This remote drainage offers serene beauty and some fantastic bird life. Large numbers of Veerys, Lazuli Buntings, Spotted Towhees and even some Yellow-breasted Chats make the creek bottom their home. The trip will travel up to the Middle Fork Canyon where many Cordilleran Flycatchers call home and other mountain habitat species reside as well. The return trip usually figures extensive Common Nighthawk activity. This trip requires a bit of dirt road driving, though they are generally in good shape by this time. **We will meet at the NE corner of the Belgrade Albertson's parking lot at 4:00 PM and will be returning after dark, so plan to pack a to go meal or have an early dinner. Round-trip time will likely be 5+ hours. 15 person limit.**

2018 Sacajawea Audubon Birding Workshops…Full!

All 2018 Sacajawea Audubon Beginning and Intermediate Birding classes with Ashley Martens are now full. Thank you so much for your support of these classes. If you have suggestions for future class topics, feel free to contact Ashley Martens at ashmartens@yahoo.com. Happy Birding!

-Ashley Martens True Nature Education

American Birding Association Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

*Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

*Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, filming, photography, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

*Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be con-trolled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure that birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or to dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and that does not interfere with others in the same area.

4(e) Ensure that everyone in the group knows of and practices this code

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wings MONTANA AUDUBON across the big sky

June 8th through 10th
Kalispell, Montana

We're delighted to bring Montana Audubon's 19th Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival to northwest Montana this season! Our longstanding community event is co-hosted this year by the Flathead Audubon Society and will be held at the Kalispell Red Lion Hotel, June 8-10, 2018.

Registration opens at 1:00pm; plan to sign in and enjoy a special presentation Friday afternoon, followed by a dinner buffet and our keynote address. This year's featured speaker is noted conservationist Dr. Stuart Strahl of the Chicago Zoological Society who will give a talk entitled, "Birds, People, & Communities – Charting the Future of Conservation"

Fun festival events like our "Cakes for Conservation" dessert fundraiser, Nature Adventure Tour silent auction, and more are on tap for this year. And of course, amazing birding field trips are scheduled around the Glacier-Flathead region over the weekend in addition to timely bird conservation presentations on Montana Audubon's work. A variety of informational tables and festivities will be on hand as we celebrate efforts to conserve our birds and wildlife across Montana.

Visit our website for information on the Festival headquarters, speakers, and fantastic birding field trips to help you decide how to spend your bird festival weekend in and around Kalispell.

Register now; *the field trips fill fast*! We make it easy: register online at www.mtaudubon.org, call the Montana Audubon office in Helena (406) 443-3949, or e-mail info@mtaudubon.org to request a registration form.

A Call for Nominations! Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes outstanding individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife by **presenting awards** at the Saturday evening 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
- Special Achievement Award.

To make a nomination, download a nomination form at www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards. We must receive nominations by May 18th, 2018. Mail completed forms to *Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena, MT, 59624.*

Welcome to the New Board Members & New Officers At Sacajawea Audubon Society!

Sacajawea Audubon has developed a slate of new board members and officers to be presented at the May membership meeting.

New and Continuing Board Members

Stephanie Nelson is a passionate birder and contributor to SAS programs. She has had a 30-year career in public health, including implementing the responsibilities of the Gallatin City-County Board of Health and the Health Department. Before she retired, she served on numerous boards and committees and chaired the local United Health Command. She currently serves as manager of the SAS website and looks forward to working with the SAS board of directors.

Debi Naccarto is an avid birder and enthusiastic supporter of SAS. She is the owner and manager of Wild Birds Unlimited in Bozeman. She has had a long career in pharmacy, pharmacy sales, and consultant management as well as owning and managing several small businesses. She believes in the SAS mission and wants to be more involved with birds and SAS people outside of her business. She is interested in helping SAS with finance, public relations, education and special events.

Loreene Reid is stepping down as President of Sacajawea Audubon and will continue working with SAS as a board member. Loreene has served as President of Sacajawea Audubon for six years, guiding the organization through a period of rapid growth and expansion. Thanks to her leadership, Sacajawea Audubon has prospered during the last six years and succeeded in developing and sustaining exceptional programs to protect birds and their habitats as well as promote community awareness, involvement, and education. SAS is fortunate that she will continue to help SAS grow and succeed and that she will continue pursuing her passion for conservation of all wildlife, especially the birds.

Chris Nixon has been an active member of the SAS board and is up for reelection to his 5th term on the board. He has made important contributions to SAS conservation efforts, especially through community outreach and conservation projects. He leads SAS's "Poo Poo" Project that puts caps over the open vents on vault toilets to protect birds from entering the vents and perishing when they can not get out.

New Officers

President: Lou Ann Harris
Vice President: John Edwards
Secretary: Adele Pittendrigh

Lou Ann Harris currently serves as Vice President of Sacajawea Audubon and Co-chair of the Conservation Committee. She has been active in all aspects of SAS work and has served on the board for 10 years. She monitors and maintains a Bluebird Trail of 52 nest boxes along with her other responsibilities for SAS.

John Edwards currently serves as SAS Secretary. He has served on the board for three years and is active in addressing conservation policy issues, including his work to improve efforts to keep migrating birds from landing in the Berkeley Pit.

Adele Pittendrigh is finishing her 3rd year on the board and leads Long-range Planning efforts and the SAS Book Group and assists with outreach and community programs.

Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

Board of Directors		
President	Loreene Reid	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	Lou Ann Harris	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	John Edwards	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Janne Hayward	treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Board Member At-Large	Sharon Hanton	sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Board Member At-Large	Adele Pittendrigh	adelepittendrigh@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Board Member At-Large	Billy Burton	billyburton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Board Member At-Large	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Board Members:		
MSU Student Leadership	Keaton Johnson	keatonjohnson@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Brook Sapia	brookesapia@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Committee Chairs & Project Leaders		
Conservation Co-Chair	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Co-Chair	Lou Ann Harris	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Bluebird Trails Project	Lou Ann Harris	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Burdock Eradication Project	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
IBA Madison Surveys	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
IBA Headwaters Surveys	Martha Collins	marthacollins@sacajaweaaudubon.org
IBA Harrison Lake Surveys	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bridger Raptor Migration	Mike Vivion	Michael.vivion@gmail.com
Berkeley Pit Advisory Bd	John Edwards	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bird Friendly Landscape	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vault Toilet Screens	Chris Nixon	chrisfnixon@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Gallatin Forest Plan Revision	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Story Mill Park Birding	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bird Sightings	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Christmas Bird Count	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Birding Classes	Asley Martiin	ashmartens@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs & Project Leaders (cont.)		
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Bridger Raptor Fest.	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Book Group	Adele Pittendrigh	adelepittendrigh@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Newsletter	MC Ammons	newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Website Updates	Stephanie Nelson	stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Hospitality	Sherry Staub	hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Birdathon	Loreene Reid	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Nomination Committee	Sharon Hanton	sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org

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Mailing Address

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

Sacajawea Audubon News is sent to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members monthly October through May. Deadline is the 20th of the month preceding the month articles will appear. Please send to: **Mary Cloud Ammons, 2742 E. Table Rock Road, Boise ID 83712** 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_____ - _____ - _____

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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