# 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

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| November 9th | Bird Sightings to John Parker |
| November 13th | SAS Monthly Meeting |
| November 29th | Science Inquiry Series |
| December 6th | SAS Book Club Meeting |

**FeederWatch - Count Feeder Birds for Science**
www.feederwatch.org
Count Feeder Birds for Science ... Participant Photos. Send us your photos! Show us your count site, your birds, or you watching your site with loved ones!

# SAS November Program:
# Lodgepole pine invasions in the Southern Hemisphere

**Monday November 13th, 2017 at 7pm**
**Hope Lutheran Church**
**2152 W. Graf St (off S. 19th street)**

For November, Sacajawea Audubon welcomes Bruce Maxwell, professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences in the MSU College of Agriculture and is lead author of the agriculture chapter of the Montana Climate Assessment, which was published in September. Maxwell specializes in applied plant ecology, including agroecology, invasive plant ecology, and weed biology. He has researched the design and development of sustainable production systems and adaptive management strategies for annual and perennial weeds in crop and natural ecosystems. Maxwell is currently studying precision agriculture technologies to improve profitability and sustainability of small grain production in the northern Great Plains. He has also studied crop-weed competition, herbicide resistance evolution and economic thresholds of weeds and invasive species, as well as land use change and the consequences of fire as a disturbance in plant communities.

For this talk, Maxwell will present on his research addressing Lodgepole pine invasions in the Southern Hemisphere. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), *native to* the Northern Hemisphere, has been introduced widely in the Southern Hemisphere and is an invasive species of concern. In its native mid-latitude ecosystems *P. contorta* is considered a fire adapted species because its life history and reproductive traits allow it to become a monoculture dominant tree with frequent wildfire. If fire frequency increases in similar latitudes where it has invaded in the Southern Hemisphere the non-fire-adapted native trees could be threatened by long-term dominance by lodgepole. Our research aims to understand the interaction among ecological factors that determine the invasion rate, extent and potential impact of lodgepole invasions in Argentina, Chile and New Zealand.

**LOVE BIRDS?**
**BUY A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP**

## Science Inquiry Series: Capturing an Eclipse by Balloon

**Wednesday, November 29th at 7 pm**
**Hager Auditorium**
**Museum of the Rockies**

*Photo courtesy of Angela Des Jardins*

On August 21, student teams across the country sent balloons aloft to conduct scientific studies of the total solar eclipse. Angela Des Jardins, principal investigator of the NASA-sponsored Eclipse Ballooning Project and director of the Montana Space Grant Consortium, will discuss early results of what the students learned and how it contributes to our understanding of eclipses and their effects. The Science Inquiry Series is sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences and 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.***

## Book Group to Read *The Hidden Life of Trees*

*The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate, Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben asks us to consider the life and relationships with in healthy forests. Wohlleben worked for the forestry commission in Germany for 20 years and now "runs an environmentally friendly woodland where he works for the return of primeval forests." He is described as following in the tradition of "great naturalist story-tellers." The discussion will be on December 6, 2017, at the Hope Lutheran Church from 5:30-6:45pm. If you are new to the book group please email Adele Pittendrigh and let her know. (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com)

Book Group Schedule 2017-2018
**December 6, 2017** The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate, Peter Wohleben (2016)
**January 17, 2018** Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival, Bernd Heinrich (2006)
**March 7, 2018** The Genius of Birds, Jennifer Ackerman (2016)
**April 18, 2018** The Bone Museum: Travels in the Lost Worlds of Dinosaurs and Birds, Wayne Grady (2000)

## Audubon Adventures: Fostering the Next Generation of Citizen Scientists

- Did you know that a bumblebee has a thick coat of fur so it can be out pollinating when it's too cold for other bees
- Did you know that scientists tracked Hope, a whimbrel, and found she flew 3,500 miles without stopping!!

These are just two of the facts that students can learn by reading the magazines in our new Audubon Adventures kit, Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees. If you know a 3rd through 6th grade teacher, tell them about these free kits purchased by Sacajawea Audubon. Any order of any of the 38 topics comes with a free classroom lesson with Ashley Martens. If a teacher's students (or anyone) have computers, they can read an online copy of magazines at audubonadventures.org. There are lots of activities for kids at this site too. Watch a video and make a native seed ball, for example. At the next meeting, come and see the kits at the back tables. Hilary and Peggy will be glad to talk to you about the kits. For more information contact Hilary to order a kit, 599-1446 or ralphhilary@gmail.com

## Time to Celebrate! The Trident-Peregrine Trail Has Completed Phase 1!

Sacajawea Audubon is pleased to let our members know that the long-planned Peregrine Trail at Headwaters State Park has completed Phase 1.

The Trident-Peregrine Trail is a short, handicap-friendly trail along the Missouri River. The cliffs across the river are one of Montana's most viewable and successful nesting sites for peregrine falcons, hence the trail's name. Benches, interpretive signs and a picnic table with a shade structure invite visitors to pause and learn about the bird life and geology of the area. Steve Hoffman, founder of Hawk Watch International and former Executive Director of Montana Audubon says, "This new trail provides outstanding 'watchable wildlife' opportunities for the general public throughout the year." Though various birds can be seen year-round, the best time to look for falcons is between April and mid-July. It's also important to know that Missouri Headwaters State Park is an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area (IBA), which is a network of sites critical for the conservation of birds. A formal dedication of the trail was held July 8th, with a ribbon cutting, birds walks and interpretation, kids activities, and a BBQ hosted by CRH.

Trident-Peregrine Trail is the result of a collaborative effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the CRH-Trident Plant, Sacajawea Audubon Society, and MSU Landscape Design. The land where the trail is constructed was originally gifted by Trident to the state in 1966 for improvement of Missouri Headwaters Park river access. Funding for the trail came from NorthWestern Energy and the Missouri-Madison River Fund Trust. A special thank you goes to Vickie Backus, who kept the project going despite many unexpected roadblocks, and to John Parker, who provided the input on the trail's interpretive bird signage. We invite you to take a drive out to the park and visit the new trail!

*-Lou Ann Harris*

*Photos courtesy of Robin Wolcott*

## A Montana Welcome to Larry Berrin - The New Executive Director of MT Audubon

Montana Audubon announces the appointment of Larry Berrin as its new Executive Director. An avid birder, Berrin has dedicated his career of more than 25 years to conservation science and environmental education in multiple states including Pennsylvania, Vermont and Oregon. Montana Audubon is a leader in wildlife conservation in Montana and one of the largest conservation organizations in the state.

Berrin comes to Montana Audubon from Asbury Woods Partnership in Erie, Pennsylvania. As President & CEO, he led a major acquisition of the 205-acre Asbury Woods and Nature Center. Previously, Berrin served as Principal Executive/Manager at the Oregon Department of Forestry where he managed the Tillamook Forest Center. Berrin has also served as Branch Director for Discover Your Northwest in Central Oregon at the Deschutes National Forest. In this role, he led the effort to develop the 1.3 million-acre Deschutes Children's Forest, the first of its kind in the northwest.

Earlier in his career, Berrin served as State Education Director in Vermont for the National Audubon Society where he was the recipient of that organization's 2001 ACE Award in the category of Team Achievement.

Join Sacajawea Audubon in welcoming Larry Berrin as the new Executive Director of Montana Audubon.

## Bird Notes

*Swainson's Hawk*

The storminess and unsettled weather during the second half of September and early October had a major impact on this fall's migration, with many different birds having to delay their southward journey. This abrupt change in seasons made for numerous opportunities to find exceptional and exciting birds in our area.

Most years Swainson's Hawks have left Montana by the end of September. This fall, several **Swainson's Hawks** were seen into the first week of October between Bozeman and Three Forks. Several people noted an unusually high numbers of Turkey Vultures in the Gallatin Valley late into September, including a kettle of **33 Turkey Vultures** south of Goldenstein, on September 23rd.

*Long-tailed Jaeger*

On September 17th, Tom Forwood discovered what at first was thought to be a juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Three Forks Ponds. This jaeger which remained at the ponds for three days was seen and photographed by many observers. After carefully inspecting the photographs and consultation with experts, the jaeger was determined to be an immature **Long-tailed Jaeger**. Even rarer than Parasitic Jaeger, this was only the 12th Long-tailed Jaeger to have been documented in Montana. Also at the ponds that day were two **Sabine's Gulls**, another Arctic nester, which typically migrates over open ocean waters. On September 17th two more **Sabine's Gulls** were discovered, one seen by all of the participants on the Sacajawea Audubon field trip to Harrison Reservoir, and another seen by Robin Wolcott at Ennis Lake.

While participating in the Madison Valley IBA survey October 14th, the east side team of Jim Belli, Kathrine Boyk, Paulette Epple, George Kelly, and John Parker were amazed to find a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at the Valley Garden fishing access site. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are very localized breeders in southwestern Montana, and had never been observed during migration in this area.

Even though Western Bluebirds nest as close as the Helena area, surprisingly they are seldom found in passage through our area. So, Jim Manning was fortunate to get a photograph of a **Western Bluebird** along Carpenter Road west of Logan, on September 18th.

*Magnolia Warblers*

The run on locally uncommon warblers continued at the East Gallatin Recreation Area. At least two different **Magnolia Warblers** were seen at EGRA by Paulette Epple, Oliver James, and Matt Keefer, during the period of 19-25 September. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen in the same area of the woods September 19th, by Oliver, Matt, Andrew Guttenberg, and Tom Forwood. In September this area's third record Bay-breasted Warbler was found in the east woods of the EGRA, and then on October 9th Zachary Perry discovered another **Bay-breasted Warbler** in the bushes west of the East Gallatin River. The elusive **Mourning Warbler** that Andrew Guttenberg was finally able to get a good look at October 5th, was off of Gooch Hill Road west of Bozeman. This Mourning Warbler was one of the rarer warblers seen this fall, with the only other local record being during spring migration in 2016. Black-throated Gray Warblers have been seen in Montana fewer than twenty times, but have been found locally twice now. Knowing this, Forrest Rowland and I were very excited to see an adult male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** three miles south of Livingston on September 27th.

**The Black-headed Grosbeak** that was coming to Paulette Epple's feeders from September 30 to October 4th is a new late record for Montana. Black-headed Grosbeaks are long distant Neotropical migrants and have usually left the state by the second week of September.

***-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

*Photos curtesy of audubon.org*

# 2017 Bridger Raptor Festival Volunteer Thank You!

The Sacajawea Audubon Board of Directors would like to thank all the volunteers that helped the 22nd Annual Bridger Raptor Festival be such a great success! Once again there was a huge turnout and a big part of that was our fun kids' activities. Thousands, young and old attended over the weekend and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The "Passport to Education" activity was a big hit, and the bird skins at the SAS table were a source of endless fascination by kids and their parents. The Binocular Blitz game was very popular and even snow squalls on Sunday didn't stop the participants. Build A Nifty Nest Box was of course our most popular activity and we sold out of kits by 1 p.m. on Sunday. One young boy was overheard thanking his dad for bringing him to the festival! Thanks to Bridger Bowl for hosting the raptor festival and being a great partner.

Mike Vivion - Chapter festival coordinator
Paulette Epple - Build A Nifty Nest Box coordinator
Loreene Reid - Binocular Blitz Game coordinator
Ashley Martens - Passport to Education coordinator
Hilary Johnson, Peg Kismet - Audubon Adventures materials
Lou Ann Harris - Volunteer coordinator, SAS Table
Bozeman Sr. Center Woodworkers - Chickadee nest box kits;
Rodger McCormick, coordinator
Loren Acton - Kestrel nest box kits
Simkins-Hallin Lumber - who donated all the lumber for the nest boxes!

## Festival Weekend Volunteers

Mary Alke
Carol Anderson
Glenda Barnes
Jim Belli
Gina Carolan
David Cole
Hobart Collins
Martha Collins
Steve DuBois
Leo Freeman
Sharon Hanton
Janne Hayward
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### Sacajawea Audubon Society Officers and Committee Chairs

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| Vice President | Lou Ann Harris | 600-3585 | louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
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| Conservation Chair | Lou Ann Harris | 600-3585 | conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
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| Membership Records | **OPEN** | | |
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| Audubon Adventures | Hillary Johnson | | ralphhilary@gmail.com |

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**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 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/

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Mail this form with your check to:
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**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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