SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

October 2018

Calendar at a Glance

Oct. 4th	**SAS Board Mtg at the Lehrkind Mansion**
Oct. 5th	**Bridger Raptor Fest Keynote, Ellen Theater at 6:30pm**
Oct.6th & 7th	**Bridger Raptor Fest at Bridger Bowl**
Oct. 8th	**SAS Monthly Program**
Oct. 17th	**SAS Book Group Discussion**

Love birds?

Buy a local membership to support Sacajawea Audubon!

October 8th Monthly Program: The Misunderstood Bat

For some, bats are associated with spooky haunted houses, witches on broomsticks and other forms of Halloween iconography--but for others, bats are among the most fascinating animals on earth. Come join Tom Forwood, naturalist and assistant director of Lewis and Clark Caverns, to learn about the world's only flying mammals. Often persecuted and reviled, bats show some of the most unusual and amazing adaptations and they deserve our respect and maybe even our affections. Come learn about some of these amazing adaptations and find out what is often the case in nature, that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Sacajawea Audubon members may remember Tom Forwood for his informative and highly entertaining presentation in April about birding Lewis and Clark Caverns, for his wonderful field trips over the years, and for his presence on the birding trails around SW Montana where he goes birding every day he can.

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

Snack Schedule Change for Monthly Meetings

Please note: If your first or last name begins with the first letter of the month, please try to bring a snack. If your name doesn't match any month... pick a month of your choice (just one) and bring a snack. Hopefully this will eliminate the need to sign up. No time to bake? No problem. Bring a bunch of bananas, a bag of apples, or chips. This will also ensure that folks with gluten issues have something to snack on. We'll see how this works.

Don't forget! If your name (first or last) begins with "O"please bring a snack for the October Meeting!

Thoughts? Suggestions? Contact Sherry Staub, 563-370-0757; scstaub@mchsi.com

2018 Bridger Raptor Festival - Oct. 5th, 6th, 7th

It's time for the 21st Annual Bridger Raptor Festival, October 5th, 6th & 7th at Bridger Bowl! Sacajawea Audubon is again co-hosting and will be offering several fun children's activities.

Friday night kicks off the Festival at the Ellen Theatre with Amanda Rodewald, Keynote Speaker: Coffee, communities, and conservation: how your cup can make a difference. The lecture begins at 6:30 pm.

Saturday and Sunday's events begin at 10 a.m. at both Saddle Peak and Jim Bridger Lodge at Bridger Bowl.

There will be family activities including: Build a Bird House, Binocular Target Blitz, Face Painting, Nature Journaling, Raptor ID with Amy Seaman, interpretive walks with MOSS, and live raptor presentations.

There will be an up-to-date raptor count board at the Sacajawea Audubon booth for you to see what birds are being seen up at the Bridger Hawk Count site. Bridger Raptor Fest is FREE and a great family-friendly, community event. So grab the kids & grandkids, (but please no dogs) and come up to Bridger Raptor Fest!

****We need VOLUNTEERS!**

If you would like to help out at this year's raptor festival, please contact Lou Ann Harris at 406-600-3585.

For more information and festival schedule, go to: www.bridgerraptorfest.org/current_events

Bird Notes

Harlequin Ducks are rarely seen in this area outside of Yellowstone National Park, especially during the fall when they are returning to the Pacific Northwest. So it was very noteworthy that Matt Ruuhela saw **6 Harlequin Ducks** on the Gallatin River, about eight miles south of Big Sky on August 19th.

On September 9th Forrest Rowland spotted a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Cottonwood Reservoir. Buff-breasted Sandpipers are long distance migrants, which breed in the high Arctic and winter on the pampas of southern South America. With fewer than 30,000 Buff-breasted Sandpipers remaining in the world, and their widely disbursed migration routes, finding one in Montana is an exceptionally rare occurrence. Forrest returned to Cottonwood Reservoir again on September 14th, and found a **Sanderling** and an **American Golden-Plover**. The following day, the participants on the Sacajawea Audubon field trip to Harrison Reservoir were treated to close views of another **Sanderling**, **2 American Golden-Plovers**, and eleven other species of shorebirds. The **Short-billed Dowitcher** that Ed Harper discovered at Cottonwood Reservoir August 30th is always a good find (and identification challenge) away from their preferred coastal migration paths.

The rarest find of the season in our area was the adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** that surprised Andrew Guttenberg during an evening visit to Davis Lane Pond in Bozeman on September 13th. Andrew saw a gull fly in from the west and initially didn't think much of it. Then it started plunge diving like a tern, unlike the usual Ring-billed Gulls. On the second look, the gull proved to be Montana's seventh record for this diminutive gull which breeds on rocky cliffs of the far north and is seldom seen away from the open ocean. Beside its rarity, this kittiwake it was only the second Montana record of an adult and the earliest fall record by nearly two months. Three days later, 2 immature **Sabine's Gulls** were seen at Harrison Reservoir by the Sacajawea Audubon party. Breeding on the tundra in the high Arctic, Sabine's Gulls are also highly pelagic and seldom migrate over the interior of the continent.

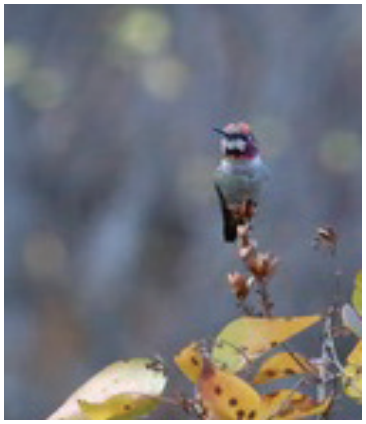
An **Anna's Hummingbird** visited Vic Fesolowitz's feeder southeast of Bozeman on September 7th. This is only the fifth record of Anna's Hummingbird in our area. Three of the previous four records for this species in this area were during the fall of 2015. The area's first record for Anna's Hummingbird was forty years earlier.

As Lou Ann Harris was driving over the East Gallatin River on Springhill Road August 22nd, she noticed multitudes of Eastern Kingbirds. After Lou Ann pulled over, she realized there were kingbirds fly catching everywhere and they were absolutely covering the tree branches. As difficult as it was to count the swirling birds, Lou Ann counted a minimum of **90 Eastern Kingbirds**. What an amazing bit of serendipity to catch this peak migration wave of migrants as they feasted on an insect hatch over the river.

While birding the East Gallatin Recreation Area September 6th, Ed Harper and Robin Wolcott got a fleeting look at a Brown Thrasher. This was only the fourth time a **Brown Thrasher** has been reported in the Gallatin Valley.

Robin was also thrilled to find an immature **Lewis's Woodpecker** behind her south Bozeman home on September 11th.

On September 14th, John Parker had a brief look at a **Magnolia Warbler** along the Sourdough Nature Trail in south Bozeman. The only other local records for this "eastern warbler" were during last year's bad weather warbler fallout at the East Gallatin Recreation Area in mid to late September.



Anna's Hummingbird
Lou Ann Harris

-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*

Check Out Montana eBird!

Montana Audubon launched its Montana eBird portal during our 19th annual Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival in Kalispell this past summer. On the website you can access a great deal of Montana-specific bird information on species, hotspots, recent checklists and links to data collected by other eBirders across the state.

In addition, photos from local birders, sightings of uncommon birds and Montana Audubon's news feed can easily be found there.

Make Montana eBird your homepage today: www.ebird.org/mt

Bird of the Month

Lou Ann Harris

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata

Length: 4.7-5.5 inches

Weight: 0.4-0.5 oz (12-13 grams)

As the leaves begin to turn color this fall, you may notice small streaky yellow and brown birds with a distinctive sharp chip call flitting through the trees around the Gallatin Valley. The Yellow-rumped Warbler, one of our most common warblers, shows up early in the spring and is usually the last to leave in the fall.

This warbler with its trade-mark "yellow-rump" is the easiest to see during the fall migration, when they pass through in large numbers. They are the most versatile forager of all warblers. You most likely will spot them fluttering from a tree branch to catch a flying insect. They will also pick insects out of spiderwebs and grab them off piles of manure. Yellow-rumped Warblers switch over to eating berries in the fall. They are the only warbler able to digest the wax found in bayberries and wax myrtles, which allows them to winter further north, sometimes as far as Newfoundland, but mostly across much of central and southeastern U.S. Western populations move to the Pacific Coast to winter and other populations migrate to Mexico and Central America.

Their summer plumage is striking. Both sexes are a smart gray with flashes of white in the wings and yellow on the face, sides, and rump. Fall and winter birds are paler brown, with bright yellow rump and usually some yellow on the sides.

The oldest recorded Yellow-rumped Warbler was at least 7 years old.

Source: All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Burdock On The Run!

As a result of the efforts of a small army of incredibly hard-working and dedicated volunteers, burdock is definitely "On The Run!" In 2018 it was obvious to all who worked on our various burdock pulls that great strides have been made in removing this heinous, invasive weed from many of our favorite bird habitats. And the numbers tell the story: In 2016 we removed a total of 4,800 pounds of burdock from the environment, disposing of it (ultimately) at the Logan Landfill. In 2017, with an even more concerted effort, we removed 5,000 pounds. This year, working in the same areas, we could only find 2,800 pounds to remove and send to the landfill. What an improvement! Patches of burdock where we have been consistently cutting are significantly diminished!

For example, the "M" trailhead has historically been one of the worst infestations. But our efforts are paying off --over the years we have been hauling out about 1000 pound of burdock annually. This year we had to hunt for burdock seed stalks and found only 320 pounds to haul away. It's great when you get to get to send volunteers home early!

Similar stories can be told about: the Gallagator Trail corridor; East Gallatin Recreation Area; Langhor Park; Drinking Horse; Sourdough Nature Trail; Story Mill Park; Sypes Canyon trailhead; Triple Tree Trail; Headwaters State Park; Bozeman Ponds; Bogart Park; and many other areas where dedicated individuals are working diligently to keep Burdock on the Run!

Speaking of volunteers, a record number of volunteers showed up in 2018 to fight the burdock scourge – 52 in all, ranging in age from 8 to 80+ years-old! Some out of town visitors from the east coast even showed up to help, having seen an event advertised on our website.

Sacajawea Audubon's "Knock Out Burdock" initiative is only proving successful due to the hard work and time commitment from our wonderful volunteers. So, from the birds and wildlife and your SAS Board members, THANKS TO YOU ALL! - Mary Alke, Glenda Barnes, Susan Bilo, Lila Bishop, Norm Bishop, Nancy Blake, Annie Buchwald, Gina Carolan, MaryAnn Clayton, Hobart Collins, Stacy Davis, John Edwards, Andy Epple, Paulette Epple, Leo Freeman, Robin Giesecke, Jimmy Godin, Lou Ann Harris, Janne Hayward, Mary Heath, Deb Henry, Libby Henry, Cade Hollingsworth, Graham Hollingsworth, Lucy Hollingsworth, Molly Hollingsworth, Hillary Johnson, Dave Kimmet, Peggy Kimmet, Chris Mangold, Jane Mangold, Ashley Martens, Hugh McFadden, Greg Mortenson, Lynn Mugaas, Hilary Owl, Marilyn Palmer, John Parker, Tara Povalish, Anne Ready, Mary Lee Reese, June Safford, Bob Schumacher, Judy Tsiang, Mike Vivion, Becky Ward, Kevin Ward, Richard Wolcott, and Sally, Twyla, Henry and his wife, and all the others that are working on their own to eradicate burdock.

By Paulette Epple

Oct. 17th - SAS Book Group Discussion of "Braiding Sweet Grass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

"Braiding Sweet Grass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer will be the first book of the season for the Sacajawea Audubon Book Group. The group will meet at the Hope Lutheran Church on April 18 from 4:00—5:15pm. If are new to the group and plan to participate, please let Adele Pittendrigh know. (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com)

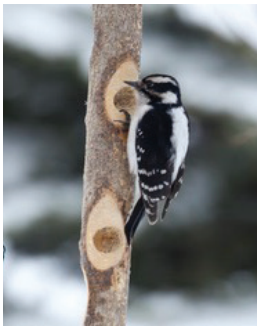
What is Project FeederWatch?

Lou Ann Harris

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November 10th through April 5th and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive our 16-page, year-end report, Winter Bird Highlights. Participants also receive access to the digital version of Living Bird, the Cornell Lab's award-winning, quarterly magazine.



Lou Ann Harris

There is an $18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents ($15 for Cornell Lab members). The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights).

Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible. Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

Visit the FeederWatch website for more information at https://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate/#instructions

Exciting Field Opportunity : Raptor Migration Observer in SW Montana

(September 19, 2018)

MONTANA RAPTOR MIGRATION OBSERVER needed IMMEDIATELY to conduct 28th consecutive count for the Bridger Mountain Raptor Migration Monitoring Project (15 miles northeast of Bozeman, MT). This survey began 27 August, and will be continued each day (weather permitting) through 10 November 2018. (PLEASE NOTE: Two observers were successfully recruited months ago, but unfortunately one has resigned for personal reasons.) The successful candidate will be recruited as a volunteer, and will receive a daily per diem rate of $40-50, depending on experience. (Per diem payments are NOT subject to income tax, and are provided biweekly.)

Applicants must have superb visual acuity, be in good physical condition, relish long hours in the field with variable weather conditions (including cold temperatures and strong winds), and be able to work effectively as a team member with one other co-worker. Most importantly, the applicant must possess outstanding in-flight identification skills for all western diurnal raptor species.

The two-observer team will conduct daily, standardized (minimum 8 hours/day) counts of the migration. Weather permitting, observers will generally work 6 days/week, with additional observer support provided by local, highly qualified volunteers. A ski patrol cabin is available for onsite overnight accommodations atop the Bridgers (8600-ft. elevation) at no charge (courtesy of Bridger Bowl Ski Area). The successful candidate must provide his/her own high-quality binoculars and suitable (warm!) field clothing.

PLEASE submit cover letter, resume and 2-3 references (with phone numbers and email addresses), and dates of availability to: swhoffman0322@gmail.com. If you have questions about this opportunity Steve Hoffman welcomes your call (406-461-5714). Applications will be reviewed upon receipt, and we are hopeful the successful candidate will be available to begin observing promptly.

New Board Member

The Sacajawea Audubon Board of Directors is proud to introduce our newest board member, Jackson St. Clair. Jackson comes to us through the MSU Leadership Institute Boardroom Bobcats program. He will serve one year as a non-voting board member. Jackson is a graduate student pursuing his Master's of Architecture at Montana State University. He is originally from Spokane, WA, and moved to Bozeman in 2014. Outside of school, he is passionate about music, art, and hiking. He is interested in conservational efforts in particular because of his architectural education. Sustainability and environmentalism are important to him personally, and he works to promote these ideals in and outside of the classroom. We look forward to Jackson's contributions to Sacajawea Audubon!

SacajaweaAudubonNews

Paper Newsletter Delivery Available for $10.00

Last spring, Sacajawea Audubon asked members who receive paper newsletters in the mail to go paperless. The purpose was to save the cost of mailing the paper newsletters so we would have more money for conservation and education programs. The cost of mailing newsletters last year was over $3600.

In the future, folks who want to continue receiving the paper newsletter can purchase a subscription for $10 per year, which will cover the costs of mailing the paper version. People have until December 1 to send their $10; after December 1, SAS will mail paper copies only to those who have purchased a subscription. Everyone who currently receives an electronic newsletter will continue to receive their electronic copy.

--Adele Pittendrigh

Please mail your check to Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board of Directors

President	Lou Ann Harris	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards	johnedwards@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Adele Pittendrigh	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Janne Hayward	tres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Loreene Reid	loreener@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Chris Nixon	chrisfnixon@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Sharon Hanton	sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Billy Burton	billyburton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Debi Naccarto	debinaccarto@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Member at Large	Stephanie Nelson	stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Board Members:

MSU Student Leadership	Jackson St. Clair	jacksonstclair@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Committee Chairs & Project Leaders

Conservation Chair	Paulette Epple	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bird Sightings	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Field Trips	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	Stephanie Nelson	newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Monthly Program	Carl Roth	programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website	Stephanie Nelson	stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Membership	Loreene Reid	membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality	Sherry Staub	hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Sacajawea Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1771
Change Service Requested

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

Sacajawea Audubon Society Monthly Newsletter is available electronically to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members September through May. Members and non-members can receive a mailed paper newsletter for an annual $10 subscription fee. Please send your check to the address below.

Deadline for article submission is the 15th of the month preceding the month the articles will appear. Send articles electronically to Stephanie Nelson at: newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org .

Change of Address:
Please notify membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org if you have a change of address or are away. Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society Website** at;
www.sacajaweaaudubon.org .

Sacajawea Audubon Society Membership

_____Basic Membership ----------$25

_____Supporting Membership --------$50

_____Mailed newsletter fee ----------$10

Additional Donation of $_____

You may renew or join online on our website:
www.sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Mail this form with your check to:
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

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.

Montana Audubon: 406-443-3949; P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624;
mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org; www.mtaudubon.org