SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

October 2017

Calendar at a Glance

Oct 4th	**MT FWP Duck ID Class**
Oct 6th, 7th, & 8th	**Brider Raptor Fest**
Oct 9th	**SAS October Meeting**
Oct 14th	**Madison Valley IBA Bird Survey**
Oct 18th	**Science Inquiry Seminar**
Oct 18th	**SAS Book Club**
Oct 21st	**Ennis Lake Field Trip**
Oct 22nd & 23rd	**Raptor ID Class & Field Trip**

Madison Valley IBA Bir Survey

Please join SAS in a bird survey at the Madison Valley IBA on October 14th. For those interested in helping or for more information contact Paulette Epple at pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

SAS October Program: Montana's Mysterious Bats

Monday October 9th, 2017 at 7pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf St (off S. 19th street)

Come and discover the fascinating and mysterious world of bats. This program will explore the importance of bats to our ecosystem and agriculture, bat biology, threats to bat populations, current research, rabies, myths, echolocation, and more! You'll also learn what you can do to help promote bat conservation in your own back yard.

Matt has been leading bat walks and bat education programs for the past six years as a volunteer for the Montana Wild Education Center (FWP) in Helena. As a passionate bat advocate, Matt also volunteers to help humanely resolve bat/human conflicts in homes. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and currently works for the Montana Land Reliance.

Sacajawea Audubon meets every 2nd Monday of the month, October through May. Our meetings are held 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. Our programs are free and open to the public.

2017 Bridger Raptor Festival Oct. 6th, 7th, & 8th

Friday October 6th at 7pm at the Ellen Theater
Saturday & Sunday October 7th & 8th at 10am at Bridger Bowl

Friday night kicks off at the Ellen Theatre with a special free screening of "The Eagle Huntress". The show begins at 7 p.m. 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 Montana Audubon/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

LOVE BIRDS?
BUY A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks to Host Duck Identification Class

Wednesday Oct. 4th, 2017
FWP's Region 3 Headquarters
1400 S. 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will present a duck identification workshop, tailored to both waterfowl hunters and bird watchers on Wednesday, Oct. 4, in Bozeman. The free class will begin at 6:30 p.m. Retired FWP Wildlife Division Assistant Administrator, Jeff Herbert, will present hands-on identification tips and a video. Jim Hansen and Claire Gower representing both Central and Pacific Flyways, and Matt Wemple, Warden Sergeant from R3 enforcement will also be available to explain and answer questions about Montana's waterfowl species and Montana's hunting regulations and seasons.

Montana's duck and goose hunting season opens Sept. 30th following a special two-day youth waterfowl season for hunters ages 10 to 15 on Sept. 23rd and 24th. This is a great opportunity for those wishing to introduce anyone young or old to ducks or duck hunting. It's also great for those who enjoy bird watching and would like to be better at identifying duck species on the water or in flight, or for those who ventured out on opening weekend who might want to brush up on correctly identifying. Everyone will get a free duck identification booklet. If duck hunters have harvested ducks the prior weekend, they should feel free to bring in wing specimens that they would like to have identified.

Raptor ID Class and Field Trip - An immersive, two-day raptor identification experience

October 22nd & 23rd

As part of International Hawk Migration Week, Steve Hoffman, raptor expert and former Executive Director of MT Audubon will teach a raptor ID class for all skill levels on Friday, October 22nd, and lead a Field Trip to the Golden Eagle Migration Survey (GEMS) study site near Duck Creek Pass in the Big Belt Mountains near Townsend, on Saturday, October 23rd. The workshop will be limited to 30 persons and pre-registration is required - early reservations are advised. To reserve your place send your non-refundable $50 check, payable to "Montana Audubon" to: Montana Audubon, P O Box 595, Helena, MT 59624. Please put "GEMS Raptor ID" on memo line of your check. Please include the name, email and contact information for the participant with your check. For more information contact Janice Miller at jan2854@gmail.com .

Science Inquiry Series

Museum of the Rockies
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.

Oct 18 – **Unseen Yellowstone: Microbial Discoveries and Biotech Applications**
Hot springs are natural ecosystems where microorganisms have adapted to high temperatures and unique geochemical environments, making them ideal locations for understanding extreme ecosystems. Dr. Brent Peyton, Director of the Thermal Biology Institute at Montana State University, will tell you why thermal features are "target" environments for isolating novel and robust microorganisms for biotechnology and energy applications.

East Gallatin Recreation Area: From town dump to birding hotspot

Black-Crowned Night Heron

This park on the north side of Bozeman features many different habitats including Glen Lake, marshes, grassland, hedgerows, and riparian woodlands. Located between the confluence of Bozeman and Rocky Creeks (which form the East Gallatin River) and Bridger Creek, this area is a natural pathway for a wide variety of migrants and home to many breeding birds. Along with river corridors, the mountains and passes on the east side of Gallatin Valley also funnel birds to this location.

The total number of bird species seen at EGRA is very impressive, with nearly 200 species recorded at this birding hotspot. Glen Lake attracts many types of waterfowl, including over 20 species of ducks. Of course the best time for viewing waterfowl is during the fall from late September till freeze up, or in the spring from ice-off through April. You just never know what might surprise you on a cold fall or spring morning; maybe White-winged Scoters or perhaps a flight of Red-breasted Mergansers.

Bay-breasted Warbler

The EGRA is probably best known for the wide variety of passerines that both breed and migrate through the area. Especially in September and May, birders are likely to find the expected migrants and possibly something more unusual for the area. At least 17 species of warblers have been seen in the park, including a growing list of rarities. Who wouldn't want to find a Black-throated Gray Warbler or a Chestnut-sided Warbler? With as many species of sparrows as warblers frequenting the park, those willing to search the thickets and grassy areas could be in for a treat.

It isn't just ducks or small passerines that are attracted to this jewel in the city. An assortment of other birds take advantage of the combination of all these various habitats. On at least a couple of occasions **Black-crowned Night-Herons** have been observed roosting in the willows next to the lake. And it's not unusual to see an **American Dipper** along the creek, or a **Solitary Sandpiper** wading in the east marsh.

Solitary Sandpiper

Originally, Glen Lake was developed as a gravel pit and the area between the lake and the East Gallatin River was the Bozeman city dump. Even though the dump was covered with soil in the early 1980's, you can still see the occasional refrigerator or rusty car fender poking through the dirt along the stream bank. After the landfill was covered, Sacajawea Audubon paid for the grass and wildflower seed that was used to reseed what is now the grassland between the lake and east woods. In the early 1990's Sacajawea Audubon planted some of the native shrubs that make up the hedgerows bordering the grasslands. In recent years, Sacajawea Audubon has been helping to eradicate the formerly extensive stands of burdock in the east woods. This 83-acre park is jointly owned and managed by the City of Bozeman and Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Black & White Warbler

On the morning of September 14th as the first cold storm of the autumn arrived, Oliver James was rewarded with a couple of rarities taking shelter in the woods on the east side of EGRA. The **Bay-breasted Warbler** that Oliver saw was only the third time this eastern warbler has been seen locally. There have been approximately 30 sightings of Bay-breasted Warbler in Montana, with half of these sightings coming from the far northeastern corner of the state. Not as rare as the Bay-breasted Warbler, but still a great find this far west in Montana, was the **Black and White Warbler** Oliver found that morning. Later that afternoon Andrew Guttenberg, Tom Forwood, Matt Keefer, and Oliver all got to share looks at two **Blackpoll Warblers**. While not as rare as either the Bay-breasted or Black and White Warblers, Blackpoll Warblers are still a nice find this far west.

Anyone who has been birding at the East Gallatin Recreation Area a few times will have some great birding memories and stories to tell.

-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

Growing Success for the Kestrel Nest Box Project

Each year we anxiously wait with fingers crossed to see which of our nest boxes, if any, American Kestrels will choose to use. We hope we have chosen good locations but it's challenging trying to get into the head of a kestrel. This year they graced us with nests in 12 of our boxes (up from 9 last year) and with an additional 4 boxes that we were invited to monitor on the Flying D Ranch, our volunteers were kept busy watching over 16 nests.

So many stories to tell….. There was one nest that was abandoned early, with 4 eggs left un-incubated. Another very late season nest failed when the eggs never hatched and the adults were forced to leave them. It appeared those eggs were infertile, but why? One nest had such an abundance of prey in the area that there were 3 fresh dead voles in the box for the 3 nestlings and they were not even hungry. Another box had such committed parents that they stayed bonded to their box even though Search and Rescue spent one evening practicing landing helicopters in the field right in front of their box. Perhaps the most memorable nest box check was when we gave a tour to the visiting director of the American Kestrel Partnership, Sarah Schulwitz, and almost stepped on a rattlesnake.

Of the 14 boxes that had success this season we had 60 young hatch and 58 of those survived to fledge. All nestlings were banded this year and one young bird in each box gave up 2 body feathers for the American Kestrel Genoscape Project, a study to better understand the migration routes and destinations of different populations of kestrels.

Our kestrels gave us a surprisingly long nesting season this year. The earliest eggs were laid in the last days of April and the majority of eggs were laid in May which is typical, but we were amazed to find two boxes where egg laying commenced in late June. The birds in those boxes had to endure more of our hotter than average temps in the 90's this summer. The last nest of 5 young finally fledged about the 20th of August – just barely enough time for the juveniles to learn hunting skills and be ready to migrate.

We are always looking for good locations to site new kestrel boxes. Ideally the habitat should be very open with short, sparse, dry grass and perhaps some sage brush. The valley bottom with hayfields and tall grass usually does not work, but the dry hills surrounding the valley seem to be preferred. If you own suitable land or have an idea for a new location please contact Paulette Epple at pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org

For Burdock: NO PLACE TO HIDE!

Burdock Warriors

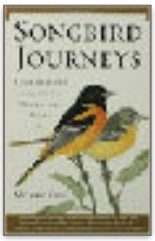
Burdock cannot escape the clippers, loppers, buckets and bags of the hard working burdock warriors of Sacajawea Audubon. We actually broke our high record of last year and removed a whopping ***5,000 pounds*** of burdock from our parks, trails, and neighborhoods, hauling it all to the landfill for proper disposal where it can do no harm. We reveled in our successes when we could find almost no burdock left in areas we've worked in for the past several years: the East Gallatin Recreation Area; the future Story Mill Community Park; the Triple Tree Trail; and along Bridger Creek in Legends Subdivision. So we expanded our reach by attacking new patches in the Regional Park, Bogert Park, the BMX Park, and the Bozeman Ponds Park. There were a few sad moments for our volunteers when we found casualties entangled in the burdock -- a pine siskin, a yellow warbler, 2 chickadees, and a bat were found hanging dead, caught in the horrible burs before we were able to remove the plants.

Take a moment to appreciate the lack of burdock going to seed as you visit parks and hike the trails around our area. Remember this invasive plant is a short-lived biennial and is unable to reproduce when all their burs are cut off before they can drop seeds (the month of August is ideal!) As we continue to deny the plants the ability to spread by seeds the stands of burdock will die out.

Another Sad Casualty

THANKS to the incredibly dedicated burdock volunteers that made this season such a success: Glenda Barnes, Doug Bartholomew, Patti Bartholomew, Norm Bishop, Diana Blank, Raymond Burkett, Gina Carolan, Hobart Collins, Martha Collins, John Edwards, Andy Epple, Paulette Epple, Leo Freeman, Brandon Haak, Lou Ann Harris, Janne Hayward, Kit Hefner, Chris Howard, Deb Kasper, Peggy Kimmet, Ashley Martens, Sunny Mavor, Peter McNair, Stephanie Nelson, Peggy Osborne, Noel Palmer, Oliver Palmer, Sadie Palmer, John Parker, Loreene Reid, Betsy Robinson, Jack Shaida, John Shellenberger, Judy Tolliver, Mike Vivion, Richard Wolcott, Robin Wolcott, and those whose last names are unknown, Jeff, Irving, Jennifer, Karen, and Rueben. THE BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE THANK YOU!

Book Group Seeks New Members; Third Year Opens with Songbird Journeys



Songbird Journeys: Four Seasons In the Lives of Migratory Birds by Miyoko Chu explores lives of songbirds and their migrations. "Songbird Journeys pays homage to the wonder and beauty of songbirds while revealing the remarkable lives of migratory birds and the scientific quest to answer age-old questions about where songbirds go...." The discussion of Songbird Journeys will be on October 18th, 5:30-6:45PM, in the comfortable youth room of the Hope Lutheran Church. The book group seeks new members, and all SAS members are warmly invited to participate. Discussions are informal, lively and fun. Please send email to Adele Pittendrigh if you are participating for the first time. (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com) Happy Reading!

Book Group Schedule 2017-2018
October 18, 2017 Songbird Journeys: Four Seasons in the Lives of Migratory Birds, Miyoko Chu (2006)
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)

Ennis Lake Waterfowl Field Trip

Saturday, October 21, 2017
Trip Leader: Mike Vivion 406-210-8071 michael.vivion@gmail.com
Meet at 7:45 am at the Museum of the Rockies. Carpool and leave at 8 am.

This date should catch migrant waterfowl and an assortment of other birds, including migrating loons and raptors. Ennis Lake is one of the premiere staging areas for waterfowl in southwest Montana. Some birds will still be in alternate plumage, offering some interesting identification challenges. Large numbers of waterfowl should be present. Bring a lunch, since we'll be out till at least mid-afternoon. Weather can be a challenge, so bring warm clothes and rain gear in case.
Participants limited to 16

To reserve a spot on the trip or for more information please contact the trip leader.

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
Secretary	John Edwards	581-0877	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	**OPEN**		
Field trips, Bird Count andBird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality/Coffee	**OPEN**		
Membership Records	**OPEN**		
Newsletter Ed./Design	Mary Cloud Ammons	600-0301	newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Program Chair	Carl Roth		programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Publicity Chair	**OPEN**		
Chapter Rep. to State	Mike Vivion		mikevivion@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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

Board members	Chris Nixon	christopherfnixon@yahoo.com
	Sharon Hanton	sharonhanton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Mike Vivion	mikevivion@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Adele Pittendrigh	adelepittendrigh@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Paulette Epple	pauletteepple@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Travis Kidd	travis@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Billy Burton	billy@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Honorary Board Member Peter Norlander norlander@q.com

Sacajawea Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid Bozeman. MT 59771
Permit No. 106

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 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_____ - _____ - _____

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

The Sacajawea Audubon Society Newsletter is Printed on 100% Recycled Paper