SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

September 2018

Calendar at a Glance

Sept. 1st	**Headwaters-Three Forks Field Trip**
Sept. 4th	**Wildlife Lecture on Sandhill Cranes at the Kelly Ranch, 7pm.**
Sept. 6th	**SAS Board Meeting**
Sept. 10th	**SAS Monthly Meeting**
Sept. 15th	**Harrison Reservoir Field Trip**
Sept. 17th	**Community Pint Night at MAP Brewing**
Sept. 19th	**Science Inquiry Series**
Oct. 5th-7th	**Bridger Raptor Festival**

Channel Migration Easements & River Health of the Yellowstone

Monday September 10, 2018 at 7:00pm
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf St. (off of South 19th Street)

The health of Montana's rivers is critical to the ecological health of the entire state. The natural migration of river channels across valley bottoms provides many important functions valued by Montanans, including flood water storage, improved water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. A Channel Migration Easement introduced by Montana Aquatic Resources Services (MARS) is an innovative approach to conservation that can help protect the ecological benefits of natural river channel migration while compensating landowners for their land potentially lost to erosion or damaged by flooding. This presentation by Wendy Weaver will give us an insight into the benefits of CMEs and restoring and protecting Montana's aquatic resources.

Wendy Weaver, Executive Director at MARS, is a licensed professional civil engineer with over 20 years in land development, water, wastewater infrastructure, and water resource design. Wendy is a member of the Montana State University (MSU) Civil Engineering Advisory Committee, and serves as a Professional Mentor of MSU Engineers Without Borders, working to bring clean water and sanitation to elementary schools in rural Kenya. She has also worked as a consultant with the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Stillwater Mine on their Good Neighbor Agreement, which was developed between the community and the mine to protect the area's quality of life, agricultural land and water. She strongly believes in protecting and enhancing Montana's valuable water resources, and promoting landscape resiliency, and more often than not– can be found on or near water.

Sacajawea Audubon Society programs are free and open to the public. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May, at Hope Lutheran Church. Join us for a social at 6:30 p.m.

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 "S" (all you "Susan's and Smith's" out there) Please bring a snack for the September Meeting!
Thoughts? Suggestions? Contact Sherry Staub, 563-370-0757; scstaub@mchsi.com

From The President

There have been some changes at Sacajawea Audubon since we last published our newsletter in May. We moved a few board members to new roles and added two new board members. John Edwards is now Vice President. Adele Pittendrigh took over as Secretary, and Loreene Reid is an At-Large Board Member. Our new board members are Stephanie Nelson and Debi Naccarto. Paulette Epple stepped down from the board after (at least) 8 years. We will miss her, but very happy that she is continuing as Conservation Chair. Finally, yours truly has taken over the reins as President.

Loreene Reid served as our President for 6 years and she helped the chapter grow into a vibrant, active conservation group that we can all be proud of. We now boast a membership of over 600. Our conservation and education projects are many and are making a difference in the community. We owe Loreene a debt of gratitude for her tireless work over the past 6 years.

On another topic, we have also made a change on our newsletter. We are moving to have a paid person produce the newsletter each month in an effort to get it to members in a more timely manner. Our volunteer newsletter editor of the past 10 years, Mary Cloud Ammons, has produced our newsletter through two out-of-state moves and raising two young children. Now that is true dedication, and we so appreciate her work over the past decade. We hope Mary Cloud will keep her hand in and write an article or two when she has time.

Speaking of the newsletter, the costs of printing and mailing the paper copy has gotten expensive. So we have made the decision to start charging a nominal fee of $10 per year for folks who want a mailed copy. Please see Adele Pittendrigh's article in this edition for more details.

I am looking forward to a busy and exciting year for Sacajawea Audubon. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs or field trips. I especially want to encourage those of you who are members, but have never made it to a program. We have a fun social half-hour with coffee, tea and goodies, followed by an always interesting and educational presentation. There is a reason why our programs average anywhere from 60 to over 100 people! Come and find out what you're missing.

-Lou Ann

2018 Sacajawea Audubon Fall Birding Series

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.

September 1, Saturday: Headwaters-Three Forks

Trip Leader: Robin Wolcott
Contact: 406-581-5418 or pajaros@wewolcotts.com
Meet at 7:45 am at the Museum of the Rockies. Carpool and leave at 8 am.

Early September is the peak of fall migration with an amazing diversity of birds passing through Montana. This field trip will take advantage of the many birding opportunities in the Headwaters State Park and Three Forks area. The trip will last until early afternoon, but let's be prepared for anything. Bring a lunch. Bring a scope if you have one. Bring your enthusiasm and your flexibility.

Participants limited to 14
To reserve a spot on the trip or for more information please contact the trip leader. Email contact preferred.

September 15, Saturday: Harrison Reservoir

Trip Leader: John Parker
Contact: 406-586-5863 or conundrumjp@gmail.com
Meet at 7:45 am at the Museum of the Rockies. Carpool and leave at 8 am.

The emphasis of this trip will be on waterfowl and shorebirds, while exploring all the shorelines and other habitats around Harrison Reservoir. September is the peak of the fall migration, so we will likely be making other stops on the way to and from Harrison Reservoir to look for other migrants. This trip will last until mid to late afternoon, so bring a lunch and anything else you may need for a day in the field. Scopes will be especially useful on this trip, as many of the birds will be distant.

Participants limited to 12
To reserve a spot on the trip or for more information please contact the trip leader.

Drink Beer For Birds - Community Pint Night, Sept. 17th

Come and quaff a delicious local beer at MAP Brewing and support bird conservation in Gallatin County. Between 4-8 pm on Sept. 17th, a portion of every beer sold at MAP will be donated to Sacajawea Audubon. SAS Members will be on hand with spotting scopes and binoculars to identify birds out on Glen Lake, as well as answer general bird-related questions from brewpub patrons. MAP Brewing is located at the edge of the East Gallatin Recreation Area on Manley Road. The EGRA is well-known as a birding hotspot and over 180 species have been recorded there over the past 10 years.

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

Last winter's huge snowpack along with the cool spring and early summer, delayed some species' breeding and nesting, especially at higher elevations. Sandhill Cranes seemed to have been affected by the lingering snow and late melt. Several people noted seeing Sandhill Crane colts in late July and early August that were smaller than expected for that late in the season. On July 5th Ed Harper and I were surprised to see a crane still on a nest north of Wilsall.

Central Park Pond was the place to be on June 23rd. That morning Paulette Epple spotted a **Snowy Egret** at the pond. There are approximately ten records for Snowy Egrets in southwestern Montana over the past forty-five years, with six of those sightings in the past seventeen years. Later that day while doing a "Big Day", Josh Covill, Tom Forwood, and Andrew Guttenberg stopped by the pond and amazingly heard and then saw a **LeConte's Sparrow**. LeConte's Sparrows are only known to breed, or even be seen, in the far northwestern and northeastern corners of Montana. This sparrow continued singing west of the pond until at least July 8th, affording many birders the opportunity to see the bird, which was a first for southwestern Montana. Unfortunately, the Snowy Egret was a one day wonder.

Dave Story was lucky to hear an **American Bittern** at the small pond along Bench Road south of Three Forks on May 22nd. Likely a migrant that was just passing through our area, this bird was not seen or heard again.

On June 27th while exploring the far northern reaches of Gallatin County near Maudlow, Tom Forwood and John Parker were thrilled to watch three **Lewis's Woodpeckers** fly-catching overhead. This apparent family group could possibly represent the first breeding record for Gallatin or the surrounding counties. Three days later, participants on Sacajawea Audubon's Sixteen Mile Creek field trip were able to relocate these spectacular woodpeckers.

While walking some undisturbed prairie grasslands on state land north of Big Timber May 26th, Beth Madden and the other sixteen people on the Sacajawea Prairie Birding field trip discovered a **Baird's Sparrow**. Beth, who has birded the area extensively, said this was the first time she has seen this grassland obligate at this location.

Early in the morning of June 6th John Parker heard, then saw a stunning male **Blackburnian Warbler** close to the mouth of Hyalite Canyon. This is only the fourth record in southwestern Montana for Blackburnian Warbler.

Great-tailed Grackles have been documented fewer than ten times in Montana, so the one Tom Forwood saw at the Cardwell fishing access was quite a find.

Baltimore Orioles are very rarely seen in western Montana so it was exciting to hear about one frequenting a feeder five miles east of Bozeman on May 29th.

-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*

Invite Birds to Your Backyard!

As our communities expand, with more subdivisions being developed, more land being paved over, and more sterile lawns being installed, all against a backdrop of climate change, what's a bird to do? Even though natural habitats are succumbing to development, we have an opportunity to provide birds with what they need to survive here in our communities. By designing landscapes with birds in mind and choosing the right plants, we can provide quality habitat in our own backyards.

This past year Sacajawea Audubon has embraced the National Audubon initiative to promote bird friendly communities and the national 'Plants for Birds Program'. With support from the National Audubon Society's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants, we developed a guide to bird-friendly landscaping highlighting a selection of plants that are specific and hardy to our area: Landscaping for Birds in Southwest Montana. These brochures are available at our monthly programs, at Cashman Nursery and Lawson Greenhouse, and are in the hands of several landscape firms in town. You can check out the online version on our website at

http://sacajaweaaudubon.org/sacajawea-audubon-backyard-landscaping-flyer/

No matter the size of your yard, you can make an impact by planting bird friendly plants. Even a few pots on a patio filled with flowers such as salvia, columbine, or bee balm can bring in hummingbirds and other pollinators. Or consider planting a bird favorite like serviceberry or chokecherry in your yard and watch the cedar waxwings, grosbeaks, catbirds, and robins gobble up the fruit in late summer. If you have enough space you can create a multi-layered habitat. Use evergreens for cover, plant canopy trees like aspen or birch for perches and nesting sites, add a variety of fruiting shrubs and small trees for food, and include low growing perennial flowers and ground covers to attract pollinators and provide seeds. Remember, the more densely you plant and the more variety you provide, the happier the birds will be!

Book Group Reading List and Schedule for 2017-18

October 17, 2018: *Braiding Sweet Grass: Indigenous Wisdom*, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer.

December 5, 2018:*When Eagles Roar:* The Amazing Journey of an African Wildlife Adventurer, James Alexander Currie.

January 16, 2019: *A Sand County Almanac,* Aldo Leopold

March 6, 2019: *The Homing Instinct: Meaning and Mystery in Animal Migration*, Bernd Heinrich.

April 17, 2019: *Mozart's Starling*, Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Sacajawea Book Group discussions take place at Hope Lutheran Church, from 4:00-5:15pm.
If you are new to the group or want to be added to the book group mailing list, please contact Adele Pittendrigh (adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com).

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			**Committee Chairs & Project Leaders**		
President	Lou Ann Harris	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org	Conservation Chair	Paulette Epple	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards	johnedwards@sacajaweaaudubon.org	Education Chair	Travis Kidd	traviskidd@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Adele Pittendrigh	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org	Bird Sightings	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Janne Hayward	tres@sacajaweaaudubon.org	Field Trips	John Parker	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Member at Large	Debi Naccarto	debinaccarto@sacajaweaaudubon.org			
Member at Large	Stephanie Nelson	stephanienelson@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 of 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

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