DECEMBER 2020

Sacajawea Audubon News

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

SPECIAL VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM Monday, December 14th, 2020:

"Nature's Best Hope: Sustaining Plants and Animals that Sustain Us" *with Doug Tallamy*

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Sacajawea Audubon Society and the Valley of Flowers chapter of Montana Native Plant Society are pleased to co-host a special holiday program featuring best-selling author and native landscaping advocate Doug Tallamy. Doug will discuss findings from his latest book, *Nature's Best Hope,* and share simple steps that each of us can—and must—take to reverse declining biodiversity in our world.

Mr. Tallamy brings a new approach to conservation that starts in our own yards. By landscaping with native plant communities that sustain food webs and biodiversity, we can enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them. If we do this in half of the area in America we now have in mowed lawns, we can create a new "Homegrown National Park"—a 20 million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain. This approach to conservation empowers each of us to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. His book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* was published by *Timber Press* in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014. Doug's new book, *Nature's Best Hope,* released by *Timber Press* in February 2020, is a *New York Times* Best Seller.

If you would like to attend the Monday, December 14 Virtual Program, please register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6519370989340301580. Share our special virtual holiday program using hashtags #sasbirds #naturesbesthope #conservation

SAS programs are free and open to the public. Our programs feature a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. ***Join us for a virtual social at 6:30 pm. Announcements and the program begin at 7:00 pm.*** *For more information on SAS Program Meetings contact Kyle Moon at* programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Above: Bluebird. Below: Sphinx dollii. Photos by Doug Tallamy.

GET YOUR 2021 SAS CALENDAR

Be reminded of important SAS dates and events, enjoy quotes about birds and by birders, and decorate your home or office with 12 months of stunning images of birds of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem by Sacajawea Audubon Society's own Forrest Roland and Kyle Moon. You can order the calendar for $25 either online at sacajaweaaudubon.org or when joining or renewing your SAC membership (*see membership form on page 3*). **Get—or gift—yours today!**

SAS JANUARY 2021 BOOK CLUB

In October, the SAS Book Club met both in person and online, but due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, we will be meeting ONLY online until further notice. Elisabeth Swanson has graciously agreed to be the facilitator for the online meetings. If you want to join in JANUARY (there is NO meeting in December) please let Elisabeth know. Her contact info is: elsswa@gmail.com or 406-570-8325.

The January book selection is: *Erosion* by Terry Tempest Williams. Even if you can't make the meeting....it's a worthy read. "Terry Tempest Williams is our great activist laureate. She is rooted as juniper, yet ephemeral as a sand dune. The forces that have eroded her are rapture and grief. What remains is elemental beauty...If Williams's haunting, powerful and brave book can be summed up in one line of advice it would be this: try to stare down the grief of everyday life, speak out and find solace in the boundless beauty of nature." *The New York Times*

The reading group invites all to join for a warm and welcome discussion to inspire you in all things Conservation of Nature.

Questions? Contact Sherry Staub at 563-370-0757 or mayawindsong@gmail.com.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

President	Chris Nixon pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Mary Schlosser treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Emma Narotzky sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Board Members

Billy Burton	billyburton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Travis Kidd	education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vicki Saab	vickisaab@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Aaron Clausen	aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Loreene Reid	loreener@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Forrest Rowland	forrestrowland@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Boardroom Bobcat Bri Daniels	boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Activity Leaders

Education Chair	Travis Kidd education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Co-Chairs	Paulette Epple conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org Adele Pittendrig adelep@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Field Trips, Bird Sightings	John Parker birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality	Sherry Staub hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Membership	Loreene Reid membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	OPEN newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Programs	Kyle Moon programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website	Lou Ann Harris webmaster@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Social Media	Bri Daniels boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Wetlands Preservation	Loreene Reid wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Book Club	Sherry Staub/Elisabeth Swanson hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter Design	Amy Kelley Hoitsma aok@mcn.net
Newsletter Proofing	Marjorie Smith

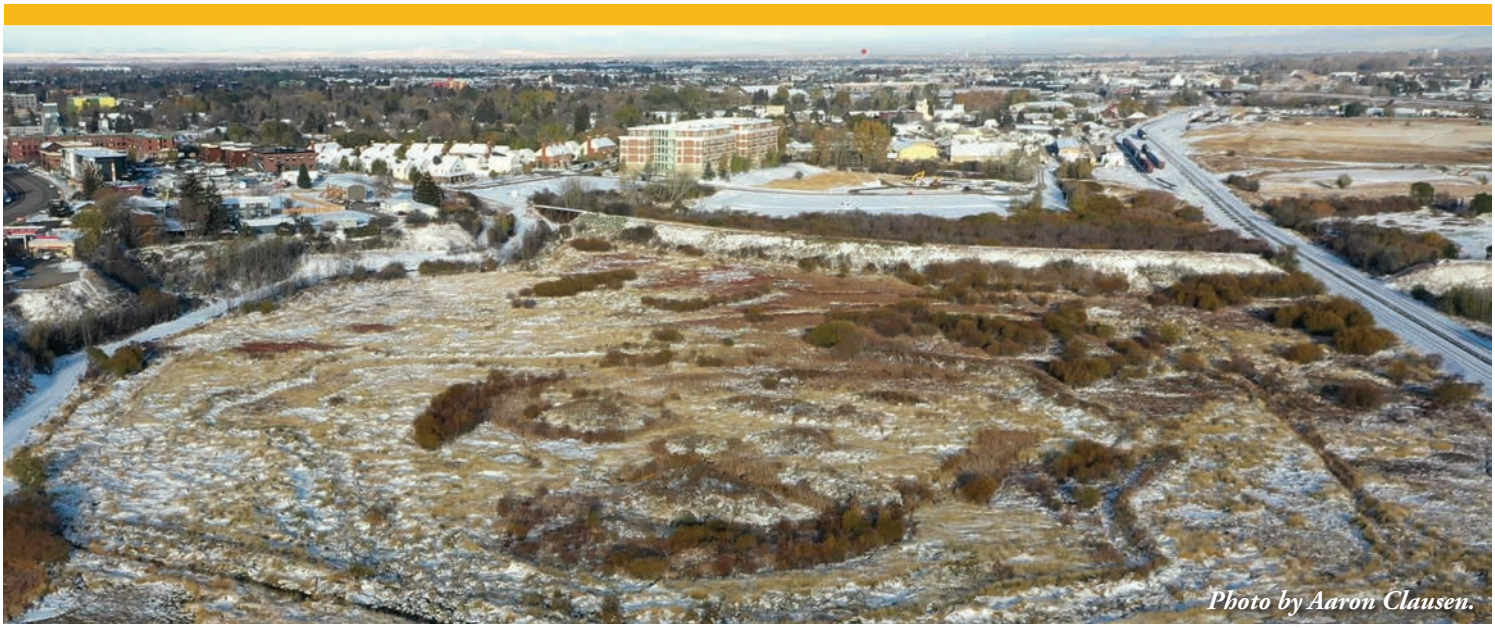

Photo by Aaron Clausen.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE

UPDATE: DEC. 2020

A Beatiful Wetland Oasis Within Reach

by the WPP Committee

IMAGINE being greeted at the east end of Bozeman by a beautiful wetland oasis teeming with birds and other wildlife—this Vision is becoming Reality.

In late 2018 and early 2019 SAS was gifted 32.4 acres of wetland property from Ileana Indreland, Michael Delaney, and John W. Murdoch. An additional approximately seven adjacent acres are in the process of being purchased. This ~40-acre site has been designated the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP).

Our goals are to acquire, restore/enhance, and permanently maintain the IAWP wetland for environmental and educational purposes. The IAWP will be celebrated as the largest restored urban wetland in Montana. The restoration of this historical wetland will leave a legacy for the future, while honoring its past as was recorded in the journals of Lewis & Clark.

Once restored, these wetlands will:

- provide sanctuary for birds and other wildlife
- serve as a living outdoor classroom
- enhance water quality through stormwater retention and filtration
- offer a place of refuge and tranquility for visitors

Project components are:

- property acquisition
- wetland restoration
- design and installation of visitor improvements, including a future nature center
- support stewardship for ongoing operations and maintenance of the IAWP by SAS

Thr Entire Scope of our Vision for the IAWP is Incredible!

We need your help to create the largest restored urban wetland in Montana! We envision this project becoming an oasis in our urban setting where one can find tranquility that wetlands offer.

Please let us know the areas of interest to you:

- ❒ Meet with a committee member to learn more about the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve and share your thoughts
- ❒ IAWP Feasibility Plan and Master Plan development progress
- ❒ Sacajawea Audubon Society and our conservation and education programs
- ❒ Financial contribution opportunities
- ❒ List of birds observed at the IAWP
- ❒ I am interested in volunteering

Thank you for your support and comments for Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve! Our fundraising goal is to raise $6 million over two years. Your help is essential. You can mail this form to PO Box 1711, Bozeman MT 59771-1711 or you can also fill out this form and make a secure gift online at https://bozemanwetlands.org/WP/give/

Join us in creating this wetland oasis!

The Bridger Foothills Fire, Avian Winners and Losers

By Victoria Saab, Research Biologist and Sacajawea Audubon Board of Directors

This year's fire season in the western United States shattered records: over five million acres burned. Eerie orange skies and smoky days deprived of birdsong were widespread across the West, particularly California. Most of Montana was largely spared, excluding Bozeman's Bridger Foothills Fire.

The Bridger Foothills Fire was detected on September 4, 2020. The lightning-caused fire was the result of a storm several days prior, in late August. Strong winds, multiple days of warm temperatures, and dry conditions resulted in a burn of approximately 8000 acres. Fire fighters worked tirelessly to slow the spread of the fire and with the help of a cold front and precipitation, the fire ended in early October.

The loss of homes and structures was devastating. Forest fires of greater than 1,000 acres had not been recorded in the Bridger Mountains for more than 100 years. Consequently, fuels of woody vegetation were abundant. The Bridger forests are dominated by Douglas-fir, which historically averaged a fire return interval of 47 years and burned as mixed-severity (*Heyerdahl et al. 2006, Brown et al. 2020*). Burn severity is measured by the vegetation change from pre- to post-fire and is an estimate of a fire's long-term effects on plants. The fast-moving, extreme nature of the Bridger Foothills Fire resulted in destruction of homes and structures within a few hours. The subsequent burn severity based on vegetation change, fortunately, was within expectations of a mixed-severity fire regime that created a mosaic of conditions (*Figure 1, below*). Earlier studies of fire regimes in Douglas-fir forests of our region estimated that moderate- and high-severity fire effects ranged from 60%–80% of burned areas, with low-severity effects ranging from 20%–40% (*Murray et al. 1998*). Within the perimeter of the Bridger Foothills Fire, areas burned as 19% low/unburned, 63% moderate, and 18% high severity (*Figure 2*).

continued on page 4

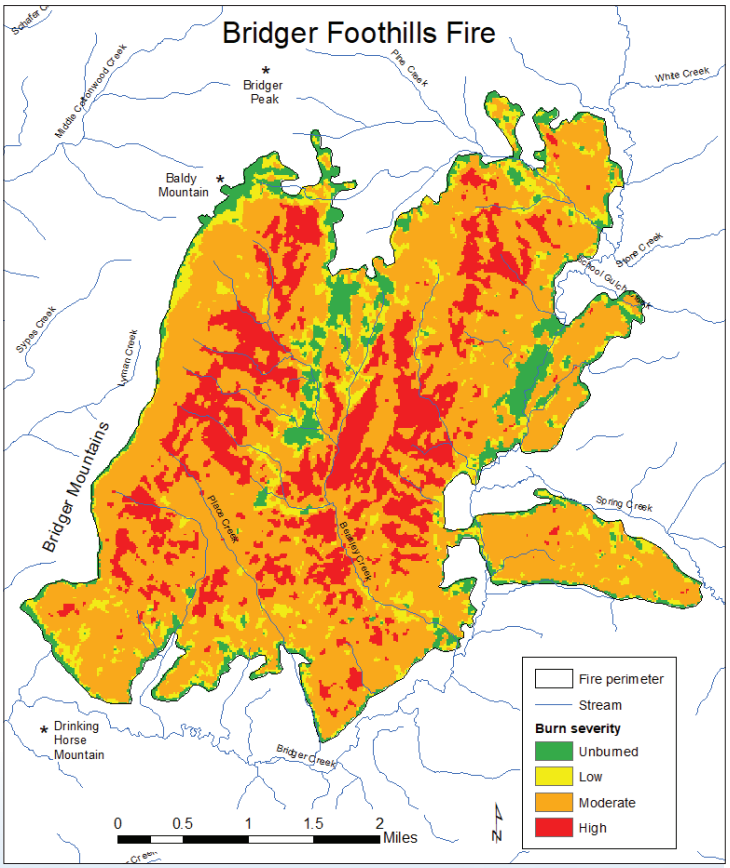

Figure 2. Burn severity map for the 2020 Bridger Foothills Fire. Derived from data provided by USDA, Forest Service, Remote Sensing Applications Center. GIS by Jonathan Dudley.

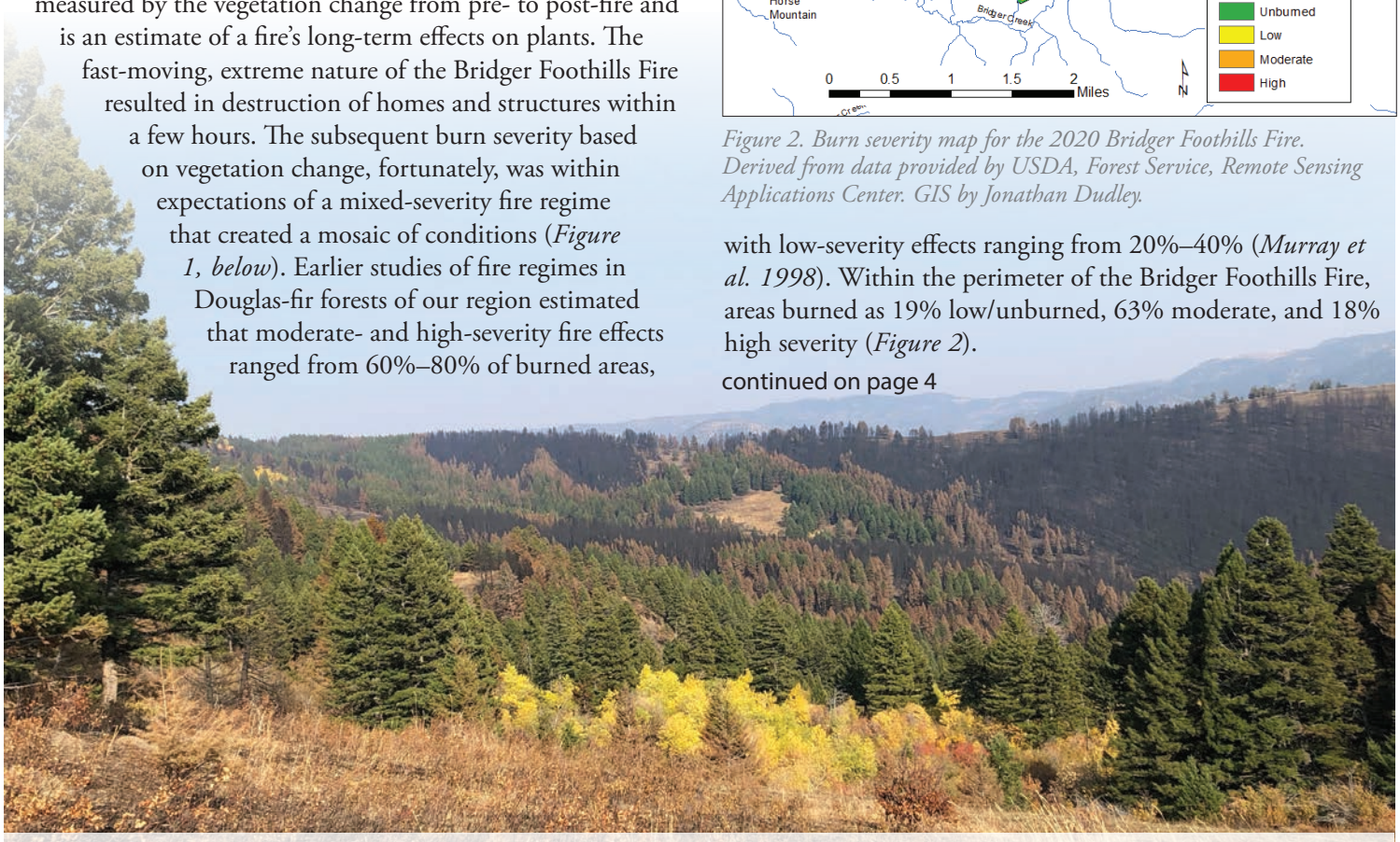

Figure 1: Landscape view demonstrating the mosaic of forest conditions within days of the fire ending at the Bridger Foothills Fire on 4 October 2020. Photo by V. Saab.

Figure 3: Adult Male Black-backed Woodpecker. Photo by Tom Kogut.

The extreme nature of the fire behavior was common throughout the West during 2020, while the range of post-fire alterations in the vegetation were more unique to the Bridger Foothills Fire. Most fires in the western U.S. were of higher burn severity and greater size than had been recorded historically. The primary factor influencing these fires is a warming climate with hot, dry weather that creates volatile conditions once fires ignite. While wildfires are part of natural disturbance cycles in western North America, climate change produces fires that are likely to more rapidly spread and gain severity. Ecologists fear that incinerated ecosystems and avian species with small or restricted ranges will fail to recover in a warming climate.

Bird communities of Rocky Mountain forests co-evolved with wildfire under less severe conditions than exist with recent climate change. Cavity nesters and aerial insectivores (*Winners*) are expected to occupy more severely burned sites following recent wildfire, corresponding with predicted increases in nesting substrate and foraging opportunities for these species (*Saab et al. 2005*). In contrast, canopy-nesting foliage gleaners and pine seed consumers (*Losers*) are expected to have negative relationships with burn severity (*Latif et al. 2016*). Importantly, mixed severity fire creates a mosaic (Figure 1) of forest conditions that is needed to maintain the entire suite of avian species. Fire creates dead trees (i.e. snags) that are more easily excavated than live trees for nest cavities. Dead and dying trees provide substrate for bark and wood-boring beetles, whose larvae are valuable food resources for beetle-foraging species such as Black-backed Woodpecker (*Figure 3*). Forest openings created by fire often result in shrub regrowth and associated flying insects, providing foraging opportunities for aerial insectivores such as Mountain Bluebirds. In addition to Black-backed Woodpecker and Mountain Bluebird, we expect increases in abundance within 4–5 years after the Bridger Foothills Fire by several species including Hairy and Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, House Wren, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Foliage- and bark-gleaning species and pine seed consumers that rely on live trees are expected to decline in severely burned areas, including Yellow-rumped Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, and Clark's Nutcracker. As the length of time following fire increases, avian responses will change with forest succession.

Burned forests begin the process of regrowth almost immediately. On a late October field trip to the Bridger Foothills Fire, Audubon board members (*Kidd and Clausen*), private landowner Jo Newhall, and I saw aspen sprouts (*Figure 4*)! That regrowth is a preview of next spring. We expect aspen and chokecherries to spread and lodgepole pine seedlings to establish. Fireweed, bunchgrasses, and numerous wildflowers are expected to burst from the forest floor, beginning the process of forest succession. We look forward to following the ecological and bird community changes of the Bridger Foothills Fire in the coming years.

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Figure 4. Sprouting aspen seedling next to a charred aspen tree in the bottom center of the photo taken within three weeks of the fire ending at the Bridger Foothills Fire on 29 October 2020 (photo by Victoria Saab).

BIRD NOTES

by John Parker

During this reporting period from mid-October to mid-November the weather in our area was quite a wild ride, with record low temperatures late in October, then an extended period of record high temperatures in early November. Add in a couple of major snow storms and it was an interesting late fall migration.

Preceding the wild fluctuations in the weather on October 16th, Ed Harper and John Parker had a fantastic day of shorebirding at Harrison Reservoir. Scanning the mudflats speckled with 204 **American Avocets**, they spotted a single **Dunlin** and Montana's twenty-second recorded **Red Phalarope**. That same day Audrey and Joel Evers found 162 **Sandhill Cranes** staging in a field along Baxter Lane west of Bozeman. Five days later at Cottonwood Reservoir, north of Wilsall, Audrey and Joel had an exceptionally high number of 40 **Long-billed Dowitchers** for such a late date.

On October 19th Byron Butler had a **Yellow Warbler** visit a water feature in his yard south of Bozeman. This sighting represents Montana's second latest fall record. While birding at Davis Lane Pond in west Bozeman on October 22nd, Lou Ann Harris found a **Palm Warbler**, southwestern Montana's third record. This Palm Warbler, discovered as a snow storm was moving out of the region, continued on at the same location for three more days of frigid weather, establishing a new late record for the species in Montana.

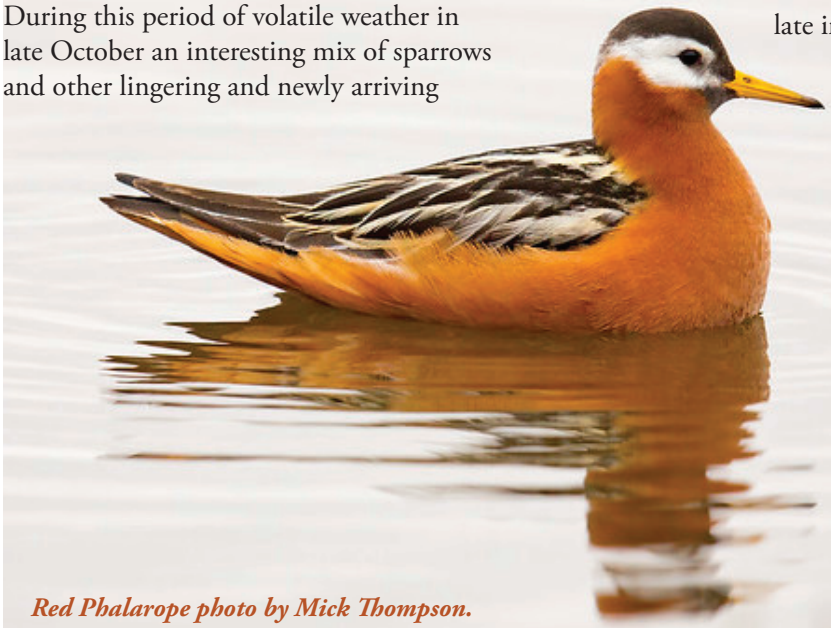
During this period of volatile weather in late October an interesting mix of sparrows and other lingering and newly arriving passerines from the north were seen across this area. One of the more notable sightings were the 12 **Rusty Blackbirds** seen along the Yellowstone River north of Livingston October 27–28 by Anne Buckley. Previously, the highest number of Rusty Blackbirds seen together in the southwestern part of the state had been five birds.

Long-billed Dowitchers photo by Mick Thompson.

A single immature **Harlequin Duck,** spotted at Hyalite Reservoir on October 22nd by John Parker, was both a first for the Hyalite Creek drainage and a first fall record for this area.

Once again, this year **Blue Jays** started to arrive in this area late in September and continue to be seen at many locations, though this year's invasion doesn't seem to be as massive as last year. Interestingly, an apparent **Blue Jay/ Steller's Jay hybrid** was seen November 8th by Jan Mack in the area of Springhill and Airport Roads. The wings and tail on this bird are those of a Blue Jay, but it has the dark crest and head of a Steller's Jay.

The first **Bohemian Waxwings** of the winter were spotted from the Bridger Ridge Hawkwatch site on October 29th and were starting to turn up at numerous locations locally by the second week of November. **Common Redpoll** sightings have been increasing in recent days, perhaps foreshadowing an irruption year for the region.



Red Phalarope photo by Mick Thompson.

Fall 2020 Bridger Raptor Migration Project Summary

by Steven Hoffman

Golden Eagle photo by Will Britton.

Sacajawea Audubon Society, under the supervision of Project Founder Steve Hoffman, recently completed the 29th consecutive autumn season of scientific raptor migration counts atop Bridger Bowl Ski Area. These counts were conducted primarily by expert observers Will Britton and Joanna Morelli from 27 August through 31 October for eight hours each day (weather and wildfires permitting).

Merlin photo by Kyle Dudgeon.

The purpose of this project is to measure long-term raptor population health and trends, and to use these wide-ranging, apex predators as useful indicators of overall ecological health across much of western North America. Many of these raptor migrants breed over vast portions of the western United States and Canada. These migrants pass over the crest of the Bridger Mountains en route to southern wintering grounds that extend from southwestern Montana to the American Southwest, Mexico, and—for a few species—even Central and South America!

Unfortunately, this fall the Bridger Foothill Wildfire prevented ANY raptor counting for 15 consecutive days (from 5–19 September). In addition, severe winter storms atop the Bridgers greatly limited counting during the peak period for fall Golden Eagle migration (13–25 October).

In fall 2020 a total of 1,500 raptors of 16 species were tallied in 328 hours of observation, yielding a passage rate of 4.6 raptors per hour (3rd lowest in the 29-year history of the count). The 1,500 total represents the second lowest count in the 29-year history of these season-long counts.

As is typical, Golden Eagles were the most abundant raptorial migrant, with 775 individuals recorded (2nd lowest total at this site). The next most common species tallied were Sharp-shinned Hawks (211), Cooper's Hawks (178) and Red-tailed Hawks (107). Other species counted in especially poor numbers were: Osprey (zero—lowest count ever), Merlin (four—3rd lowest), Northern Goshawk (seven—2nd lowest), Rough-legged Hawk (seven—lowest ever), Bald Eagle (35—2nd lowest), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (211—2nd lowest). Only one species was tallied in record high numbers: Turkey Vulture (32 individuals, exceeding the previous high of 29).

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted with this season's count efforts. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to Joanna Morelli and Will Britton for their unwavering dedication to conduct the daily count whenever the weather and fire conditions allowed. We also wish to thank those who eagerly volunteered to assist with full-day coverage to allow Will and Joanna to each take one day off per week. These were: Bret Davis, Paulette Epple, Judy Tsiang, and Beth Madden.

We also wish to thank Bridger Bowl Ski Area for their essential logistic support (facilitated by Jason Prasek). Essential project funding was provided by Sacajawea Audubon Society, Custer Gallatin National Forest and individual donors Jean Setter, Bill Simkins & Erna Smeets, and Nick Bolgiano. Thanks to all for these critically important contributions!! (Donations to Sacajawea Audubon Society in support of this project's annual budget of $14,000 are always welcome—THANK YOU!!). The rallying of the Bozeman community each fall in support of the Bridger Project is truly a gift, and is essential for sustaining it long-term.

The Bridger Raptor Migration Project's annual technical report will be completed in the next 2-3 months. For anyone wishing to receive an electronic copy, please email Steve Hoffman at swhoffman032@gmail.com.

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

American Goldfinch in Erna's garden.

When I moved into our house in Bozeman, it took me awhile to notice I never heard any birds! After my children grew up, I started transforming the play yard into an attraction for hummingbirds and butterflies. I hadn't thought the plantings would also attract songbirds! Then I realized I didn't know what kind of birds I was seeing and hearing, and was very excited to find Sacajawea Audubon Society. I've taken many field trips, classes, and learned a lot from the monthly meetings. What a resource for Bozeman!

Erna Smeets
Long-time Resident of Bozeman

There are many reasons why I joined Sacajawea Audubon Society, but only a poignant few that motivated me to accept a position on the board of our organization. The first of those was the idea of Community. SAS embodies and constantly forwards the notion of an engaged and active community of bird lovers and nature enthusiasts. Programs, field trips, classes of all sorts, activities for the youth, as well as the impressive network of local businesses and organizations that we develop and expand our activities with are all symptomatic of this organization's devotion to its community.

Forrest Rowland
SAS Board Member, Wetland Preservation Committee

I am in the Sacajawea Audubon Society because I enjoy nature. I find birds and conservation very interesting. The SAS community is very friendly and supporting.

Lars Sauerwein
Bozeman High School Student

Upon moving to Bozeman in 1996 I became heavily involved with the Northeast Neighborhood Association. After meeting people in "the 'hood," I became aware of what everyone called the East Main Wetlands. I was amazed at the abundance and variety of waterfowl and various bird species one could witness within this wetland oasis inside the city limits only a 1/2 mile walk from my home. I later learned that Sacajawea Audubon Society Society (SAS) was involved in an effort to preserve this incredible wetland complex as a City Park. That let me know I wanted to be a part of SAS.

There were two substantial collaborative efforts between SAS and other local organizations to try and save the East Main Wetlands. Those efforts seemed to have failed for various reasons. The community watched as the wetlands were drained and the bird life diminished in both number and species diversity.

But, SAS did not give up when it seemed hopeless to most. By working with the former land owners Ileana Indreland, Mike Delaney, and John W. Murdoch, SAS was ultimately able to renew hope for the East Main Wetlands. The process taught me that what may appear to be a loss today is not necessarily a loss for the future—it may simply be a delay for a future victory. Ultimately the majority of the degraded wetlands were donated to SAS. SAS will be purchasing yet more wetland acreage and will work with other landowners to protect and restore even more wetland.

The Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) is now a reality and primed for restoration. I believe the IAWP will be bigger and better than it might have been, had earlier efforts succeeded. I have come to believe that the continued efforts of SAS are indeed "Nature's Best Hope" for wetlands and other critical habitat within the Bozeman area. SAS members are boots on the ground when it comes to removing invasive noxious weeds, maintaining bird boxes, promoting landscaping for birds and wildlife, and just sticking up for the natural environment. I think Doug Tallamy is going to fit right in with SAS during our December special meeting. We seem to be "birds of a feather."

Christphor Nixon
SAS Board President
Wetland Preservation Committee

History of the Christmas Bird Count

The First North American Christmas Bird Count

- December 25, 1900
- About 18,500 individual birds
- 27 total participants
- Cumulative bird species list: 89 species total

The First Montana Christmas Bird Count in Bozeman, MT

- December 25, 1908
- About 270 individual birds
- 1 participant
- 16 species total

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, the longest-running citizen science survey in the world, will be held between **December 14 and January 5** throughout North America.

Scientists rely on the trend data of Audubon's Christmas Bird Count to better understand how birds are faring in North America and beyond U.S. borders.

How the count started, and how the data is used today.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.

Count areas are 15-mile circles which, once established, are observed every year. Birders record the total number of each species observed. A good count in Montana may produce 60–70 different species. Count leaders verify the information gathered to ensure quality data. The results are then sent to a statewide officiant that reviews the data before submitting it to the Audubon Society.

By Christmas the majority of migrating birds have moved through Montana. Most of the species observed during the Christmas Bird Count are birds that are overwintering in Montana.

The counts also function as a social get-together for birders in the Sacajawea Audubon Society area of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana. This year it will be conducted using a new model: social distancing.

Participation in the Christmas Bird Count is free and open to the public. To sign up for counts in the SAS area visit https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/2020-christmas-bird-count-schedule

Kildeer photo by Lou Ann Harris.

Plants for Birds

Woods' Rose (Western Wild Rose)

- **Scientific Name:** *Rosa woodsii* (Rosacea family)
- **Height:** 2ft to 6ft
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3
- **Wildlife Value:** Rose hips provide food for birds and mammals and pollen attracts bees.

A favorite of many native plant lovers, Woods' Rose is found throughout the western United States and Rocky Mountains. It produces highly fragrant pale to deep rose-colored flowers, red prickled stems and orange-red fruits called hips which persist on the plant into late winter. When snow covers the ground, the dry fruits provide sustaining energy and protein to many birds and mammals including grouse, thrushes, grosbeaks, waxwings, chipmunks, rabbits, and deer. The foliage is essential cover for a variety of birds and the lovely flowers are thick with pollen attracting beneficial pollinators, especially bumblebees.

Woods' Rose is adapted to a wide range of moisture, however it's mainly considered an upland plant and is a pioneer on disturbed sites such as roadsides, land-cuts, fills and fence rows. It is found on grassy slopes, meadows, clearings, prairie sandhills and riverbanks and also grows as an understory species in cottonwood, fir, and ponderosa pine forests.

Rosa woodsii flowers from June to August, producing fruits in August with the reddish hips remaining on the plant into the winter. It grows more vigorously and makes more fruit when grown in full sun but tolerates shade very well. If given enough shade it remains a smallish understory plant. In full sun it can grow to six feet and sometimes forms dense thickets, but it can be held at any size with pruning. Woods' Rose grows best in a well-drained clay loam or sandy soil. Its extensive rhizomes and hardiness make it excellent for erosion control and use as a revegetation species.

When deciding where to plant Woods' Rose, be sure to take into consideration the plant's tendency to spread via rhizomes. Woods' Rose is usually best in wilder gardens along the edges of properties. It makes a dense hedge or serves as a great understory plant in a native border garden where it is free to spread under a canopy of trees and large shrubs.

Woods' Rose is easy to grow, has low water requirements, and attracts birds, pollinators and mammals making it a wonderful addition to a bird-friendly garden. You can also treat yourself to a vitamin-C filled tea from the hips or dress up your salad with some edible rose petals.

~ Paulette Epple & Leslie Eddington

NEED A GREAT IDEA FOR A HOLIAY GIFT?

Give an Annual SAS Local Membership and/or 2021 Calendar!

For more than 50 years, Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) has embraced the mission of protecting birds and the places they need right here in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana. Your gift funds many programs focused on science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation, right here in the place we call home. Your support enables us to stand up for birds, to defend clean water, clean air, healthy habitats, and a stable climate that we and other species require.

The success of SAS is built upon the shoulders of our exceptionally dedicated volunteers who donate more than 15,000 hours of their time each year. Because of the commitment and passion of our membership, SAS is proud of our many accomplishments. A partial list of these accomplishments is presented below.

50+ YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS & COLLABORATION

- Annual World Migratory Bird Day Festival
- Annual Bridger Raptor Festival, educational activities and 29-year Raptor Survey
- Missouri Headwaters State Park Peregrine Trail
- Bird-Friendly Landscaping and Invasive Weed Control
- 70+ American Kestrel nest boxes
- 300+ Mountain Bluebird nest boxes
- 20 field trips and 15 Bird Walks offered free to the public every year
- Collaborated with other organizations to create the East Gallatin Recreation Area, the Kirk Hill Nature Area, and the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area
- Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP)

Over its many years, SAS has also forged strong and successful relationships with local and regional public, private and non-profit entities. These relationships are invaluable and are a key to our success.

Join us! SAS welcomes your commitment, passion and involvement. Become a member, or give the gift of a membership to your friends and family! Visit https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas/

Sacajawea Audubon Society Membership 2021

Individual or Family

☐ *YES!* I have included $25 for my **2021 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON CALENDAR**

☐ Basic Membership $25

☐ Supporting Membership $50
(Supporting local conservation & education project)

☐ Thank You for Considering an Additional Donation .....$_____

- ☐ *Bridger Raptor Study*
- ☐ *Education*
- ☐ *Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station*
- ☐ *Wetland Campaign*
- ☐ *Wherever is Needed*

Name _____

Address _____
(Street or PO Box)

_____ _____ _____
(City) *(State)* *(Zip)*

Phone ( )

Email _____

❖ Sacajawea Audubon News is sent by email. There is a $10 annual fee for a paper copy mailed to you.
☐ *I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me and have included an additional $10 to cover the annual cost.*

❖ We do not share your information except with National Audubon, so your contact information is safe with us. Please check the boxes is you do not want your information shared with.... ☐ National Audubon Society

☐ *YES!* I have included another $20 to join National Audubon Society

Mail this form and your check to:
Sacajawea Audubon Society Attn: Membership
PO Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

Thank you for your membership and donation. We look forward to birding with you!

newsletter 12/20

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.

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

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

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society website** at sacajaweaaudubon.org

2020 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This year the **Christmas Bird Counts** will be conducted differently than in the past, unfortunately with less social interaction and less of a group focus. All of the pre- and post-count gatherings will **not** be held due to social distancing requirements. Carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups. Social distancing and/or masks will be required at all times in the field. Some or all of the counts may have limits on the number of people who can participate. Please contact the count compiler for more information.

Steller's Jay photo by Kyle Moon.

ENNIS Wednesday, December 16
Compiler: Robin Wolcott | 406-581-5418 | pajaros@wewocotts.com
email preferred

BOZEMAN Saturday, December 19
Compiler: John Parker | 406-586-5869
birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org

GARDINER Sunday, December 20
Compiler: Woody Martyn | 406-224-1476 | woodymartyn@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON Sunday, December 20
Compiler: George Kelly | 406-220-0282 | gjkingfisher@gmail.com

WEST YELLOWSTONE
Sunday, December 27
Compiler: Tut Fuentevilla
406-646-7001 | education@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com

THREE FORKS
Tuesday, December 29
Compiler: Tom Forwood | 406-570-6432 | tjfishing75@gmail.com
email preferred

RUBY VALLEY Saturday, January 2
Compiler: Tom Forwood | 406-570-6432 | tjfishing75@gmail.com
email preferred