NOVEMBER 2021

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.

Monday, November 8th, 2021 Monthly Program—IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL:

"The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the Search for the Blue-Bearded Helmetcrest" *with Ian van Coller*

By Kyle Moon

Ian van Coller is a photographic-based visual artist whose passion is the environment. His talk will be a brief discussion of his various collaborations with paleoclimatologists and his resulting large-scale artist books focused on climate change around the globe. This will lead into his most recent projects on birds and biodiversity in Colombia. In May of 2021, Ian travelled to the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta on the Caribbean coast of Colombia to search for the Blue-Bearded Helmetcrest, which was thought to be extinct until accidental rediscovery in 2015. The Helmetcrest is considered critically endangered and under continued threat from habitat destruction. The Santa Marta ecosystem is a hot spot of endemism, including 24 bird species. These include much sought-after species such as the Santa Marta Wren and Santa Marta Parakeet. Follow Ian on his journey up to the Paramo and the magical landscapes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Ian van Coller was raised in South Africa. He moved to the United States in 1992 and received a BFA from Arizona State University and his MFA from the University of New Mexico. Van Coller has been a Professor of Photography at MSU since 2006. His work has been widely exhibited in the United States and internationally, and is included in 50 public collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the The Getty Research Institute. Van Coller is a 2018 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow as well as a fellow of The Explorers Club.

SAS's monthly presentations have resumed in person. **We are following the Gallatin Co. Health Dept. COVID-19 Guidelines; masks are required.** Join us in person at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off of S. 19th) **OR** virtually by registering at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1409512752307960843.

Share our virtual program using the hashtags #sasbirds, #sacaaudubon, #conservation, #endangered, and #birds. SAS programs are free and open to the public. Social begins at 6:30 PM. Announcements and the program begin at 7:00 PM. For more information contact Kyle Moon at programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Above: Blue-Bearded Helmetcrest. Photo by Sebastian Ballesteros. Below: Ian van Coller.

A note from SAS Treasurer Mary Schlosser

Hello fellow members,

When I became your treasurer a year and a half ago, following in the capable footsteps of Janne Hayward, I was a relatively new Sacajawea Audubon Society member.

What has become clear to me during my tenure is the depth of care and support by so many of you in such a variety of ways. Whether it's a conservation or education project that sparks your interest, taking a class, or going on a birding tour or supporting our largest endeavor, the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve, you have helped our organization.

Many of you have been members for years. That fact is encouraging to me and our Board because of your dedication to SAS. If you happen to be a newer member like me, know that your membership and other projects you support help us fund our education and conservation programs and projects, led by capable chairs. Thank you. You all give me confidence in the future of birding and conservation in the Gallatin Valley area. You are helping us conduct our organization's mission: "to build on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education, and action." We are grateful to you all and the example you set.

Our organization has been expanding, especially as we delve further into our largest conservation venture so far—the wetlands preservation project. With the responsibilities of this significant task, in my view we also have a duty and need to continue enhancing our existing education and conservation programs. We are trying our best to honor the past, work diligently in the present, while looking toward the future. We are pleased and humbled you all are a part of these projects.

Thank you for your support in our endeavors.

~ Mary Schlosser
Treasurer, Sacajawea Audubon Society

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
Kyle Moon	programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Loreene Reid	loreener@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Forrest Rowland	forrestrowland@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Activity Leaders

Education Chair	Travis Kidd education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Co-Chairs	Paulette Epple conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org Adele Pittendrigh adelep@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Field Trips, Bird Sightings	John Parker birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality	**Looking for Volunteer** hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Membership	Loreene Reid membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	Terri Narotzky newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Programs	Kyle Moon programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website	Lou Ann Harris webmaster@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Social Media	**Looking for Volunteer**
Wetlands Preservation	Loreene Reid wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Book Club	Elisabeth Swanson & Hilary Johnson elsswa@gmail.com | ralphhilary@gmail.com
Newsletter Design	Amy Kelley Hoitsma aok@mcn.net

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: NOV. 2021

By Loreene Reid

We encourage folks to come to the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) to enjoy and learn the wonders that this urban wetland holds. Now, with the help of Eagle Scout candidate Justin Moss and his Troop 0636, you are able to sit and view the wetland wildlife along the berm trail. Three benches have been erected alongside the Milwaukee Railroad Berm Trail and two more will be installed after restoration and enhancement construction. Each bench will have an engraved sign representing one of the wetland birds seen at the IAWP (Wilson's Snipe, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Harrier, Sandhill Crane, and Wood Duck).

To earn the rank of Eagle, a Life Scout must complete a meaningful service project to benefit his community while learning leadership skills. Sacajawea Audubon Society is honored to have been selected by Justin to sponsor his project.

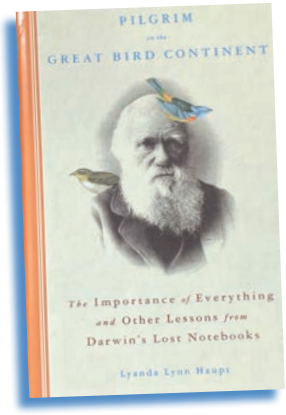
Justin would like to thank his Troop 0636 members: Justin M, Bailey K, Aidan B, Liam B, Amelia B, Jack N, Sam N, Dalton K, Eli C, Tessa C, Nick H, and the support of all the parents that made everything possible. He also thanks Kenyon Noble for donating all the supplies for this Eagle Scout project.

Eagle Scout Troop 0636 poses next to one of three benches they installed along the IAWP Milwaukee Railroad Berm Trail. Photo by Loreene Reid.

To keep up with happenings at the wetlands, check out Bozemanwetlands.org. If you would like a tour of the IAWP, email: wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org

November 2021 SAS Book Club

When did you first begin documenting the birds you observe? What did your record consist of—notes in the margins of your field book, journaling, drawings, photos, tallies, or checklists?



In our November book selection, *Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent* (2006), author Lyanda Lynn Haupt explores the Ornithological Notes written and illustrated by young Charles Darwin as the HMS Beagle circumnavigated South America for 42 months in the 1830s.

Haupt intentionally focused on Darwin's observations about birds because of the freshness in his approach in that domain. Darwin knew no ornithologists, had scarcely studied birds at Cambridge, and the whole discipline of ornithology was in its infancy when the Beagle set sail.

Darwin's informal Ornithological Notes—written for himself, not for publication—show his gradual growth as a confident naturalist and a scientist capable of building metatheories from his own increasingly accurate and discerning field notes. In the end, Haupt's book is a coming-of-age story for a naturalist and scientist. As you read about Charles Darwin's field observations, revisit your own field notes and appreciate your own progress as an observer of the natural world. If you are able to join the Book Club in November, please bring a sample to share of your own unique method of documenting birds around you.

WHEN: November 17, 2021 *(the 3rd Wednesday of the month)*

TIME: 6:30—7:45 PM

VIRTUAL ONLY: Please log on about 10 minutes early so we can start the meeting promptly at 6:30.

ACCESS: On a computer, tablet, or smartphone, go to https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/604063133. You can also phone in at (872) 240-3212 using Access Code: 604-063-133

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now at https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/604063133.

You are welcome to join, even if this is your first time. If you'd like to be on the email list for monthly reminders, contact Elisabeth Swanson (elsswa@gmail.com | 406-570-8325) or Hilary Johnson (ralphhilary@gmail.com | (406) 599-1446)

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2022 SAS MEMBERSHIP

For more than 54 years, Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) members have embraced the mission of protecting birds and the places they need right here in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana. Your membership and donations fund many programs focused on science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation in the place we call home. Your support lets us stand up for birds, defending the clean water, clean air, healthy habitat, and stable climate they—and we all—require.

Renew or join today: together we can build on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education, and action.

Sacajawea Audubon Society encourages everyone to enjoy our field trips and monthly programs, and to support our conservation work. When you join or renew your SAS local chapter membership at a basic or supporting level, 100% of your membership and any additional donations go ***directly*** to support local SAS education and conservation programs.

SAS Members Are ...

- Protecting wetlands for birds and other wildlife.
- Preserving and protecting bird species and their habitats.
- Supporting bird-friendly communities in Montana with our bird-friendly landscape program.
- Contributing to environmental education programs for all ages and abilities on birds, wildlife, and habitat.

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GET YOUR 2022 SAS CALENDAR TODAY!

Be reminded of important SAS dates and events, enjoy the Bird of the Month ID and cool facts, and decorate your home or office with 12 months of stunning images of birds of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem by SAS's own Kyle Moon. You can order the calendar for $25 either online at sacajaweaaudubon.org or when joining or renewing your SAC membership (*see form below*). Online orders can be picked up at **Wild Birds Unlimited** here in Bozeman. It saves SAS considerable postage expenses. **Get—or gift—yours today!**

Sacajawea Audubon Society Membership 2022

Individual or Family
January -December 2022

☐ ***YES!*** I have included $25 for my **2022 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON CALENDAR**

☐ Basic Membership $25

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____
(Street or PO Box)

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

Phone ( ) _____

Email _____

❖ Sacajawea Audubon Newsletter is sent by email. ☐ *I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me.*

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

11/21 Newsletter

Why I Am A Member of Sacajawea Audubon Society

Steve Eshbaugh, SAS Wetland Preservation Project Campaign Committee

A branch smacked me in the face. My ankle twisted slightly as I slipped on an algae-covered rock. Suddenly, all the pain disappeared. Before me was a bird unlike any I'd ever seen before in my eight years of life. It had a long bill, with gorgeous, mottled feathers. I slowly backed away, keeping an eye on this bird that was clearly sitting on a nest. I veered far to the right, not wanting to spook the bird away. When I was at a safe distance, my legs churned as fast as I could make them, up the hill I scampered. I burst into my family's home and called for my mother. I'm sure the tone in my voice made her fear for the worst, and into the kitchen she quickly appeared, asking what was wrong. In oxygen challenged words I blurted out that I had discovered a bird on a nest, just down the hill from our house in the juniper forest.

My mom asked if I could find the bird again, and I assured her I knew exactly where the bird was nesting. Back down the trail we went, making sure to give the nest a wide berth. Then my mom saw it too. She knew immediately that the bird was an American Woodcock. She'd seen woodcocks many times before, but I never knew that from her reaction. She excitedly told me everything she knew about that mysterious bird. In the coming months, we sat on the flat roof of our house and watched woodcocks winnow in the night air. I marveled at the sound and wondered if one of those birds was the egg I spotted not long ago.

From that day on, I was hooked on birding. I went on every Christmas bird count with my father and started my life list. And to this day, I marvel at how we as birders can hold the excitement for birds we've seen many dozens of times before. I grant you; I don't hold much excitement over a House Sparrow or Starling or even a House Finch appearing at our feeders. Conversely, no matter how many times I see a Sandhill Crane working our acreage I call to my wife "Sandhill!" Like all of us, I can raise binoculars to my eyes and wonder at the beauty of the bird upon which I gaze.

Steve Eshbaugh

Sometimes I almost feel sad that others can dismiss our feathered friends as "just another bird." Then I realize how much richer my life is for taking wonder at the many lifeforms that surround us. Thank all of you for taking part in this strange, comforting hobby. You can ensure these memories for future generations by supporting Sacajawea Audubon Society. ***I encourage you to become a member today!***

- Partnering with other environmental groups, citizens, and local government to protect community health.
- Advocating for environmental issues locally and regionally.

SAS Members Enjoy ...

- Opportunities to meet new people and become part of a friendly group with shared interests.
- Free monthly keynote speakers.
- Free "Birding Hotspots of Gallatin Valley" guide to birding around the Gallatin Valley & beyond.
- Free monthly member e-newsletter (9 per year).
- Member-only discounts on educational courses, programs, and special events.
- Savings on purchases and access to member-only sales.
- Participation in many citizen science projects.
- Free guided birding field trips.

Sacajawea Audubon Society is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with its own board of directors, membership, budget, and programs. SAS membership does not include membership in the National Audubon Society, although we are a NAS chapter and fully value and support their work and advocacy. Why not become a member of both!

Visit sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas.
Membership questions? Contact membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Garden Buzz

By Adele Pittendrigh

When Lou Ann Harris started to create a bird-friendly environment in her Bozeman yard, there wasn't much landscaping to work with. The yard was composed of grass and rocks. There were some arborvitae (evergreens in the Cyprus family) that didn't do much for the birds and were under attack by voles. The first steps in transforming the yard were removing the arborvitae, removing some sod, and planting wildlife-attracting trees and shrubs such as Red-twig Dogwood, Canada Red Cherry, Colorado Blue Spruce, and Quaking Aspen.

A small biohedge dresses up a driveway. Photo by Lou Ann Harris.

Sacajawea Audubon Society started a program called Bird-friendly Landscaping and produced a brochure in 2018 about how to create a bird-friendly landscape that would attract birds and pollinators and be beautiful as well. Harris used the four-page brochure for ideas and inspiration as she planned her yard. The brochure gives plans for a small garden, a large island bed, and a biohedge to attract birds and provide privacy. It also gives pointers for attracting birds to your yard and provides lists of perennials, deciduous trees, evergreens, shrubs, and vines native to our area and/or attractive to the birds.

Harris created two biohedges: a large one with trees and shrubs on one side of the yard and a smaller one along her driveway. She used a local nursery to remove sod and plant the big trees and shrubs. After planting, she used drip irrigation and lots of mulch to help conserve water. She didn't use weed mat under the mulch as she thought the birds should have access to the garden soil. She added perennials such as bee balm, penstemon, fleabane, coneflower, rudbeckia, and her favorite, milkweed. Her biohedge thrived. She ordered a sign that said "Plants for Birds" and put it where people could see it and perhaps be inspired to remove sod and plant native plants.

Large biohedge provides screening as well as habitat. Photo by Lou Ann Harris.

This fall she had three new species in her yard: a Red-eyed Vireo gleaning insects from the aspen leaves, an American Redstart using the bird bath and gleaning, and a Least Flycatcher in the Canada Red Cherry tree. Wilson's Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Western Tanagers visited for berries and insects and hummingbirds visited her flowers for nectar. So far, her yard has attracted close to 70 species.

She has good advice for all of us starting to create a bird-friendly planting: "Don't try to take on too much. Start small and expand from there."

The brochure, "Landscaping for Birds in Southwest Montana," is available on the SAS website: sacajaweaaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SAC-AUDUBON-BACKYARD-FLYER-WEB9060.pdf. Paper copies are available at Wild Birds Unlimited, 2047 W. Oak St., Bozeman MT.

A bumblebee gathers pollen from a penstemon blossom. Photo by Lou Ann Harris.

Raptorfest 2021

By Travis Wade Kidd

Sunshine and warm days contributed to a fantastically successful Bridger Raptor Festival this year with close to 5,000 attendees. Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) was able to continue our usual children's activities with some minor adjustments for COVID safety. Kids built chickadee nest boxes, sketched birds, learned to use binoculars, and played a migration game where they learned about the perils in the life of raptors during their migratory flights.

The ideal weather all weekend allowed us to provide all activities completely outdoors. Paulette Epple debuted our new bird-safe windows display, continuing her campaign to make Bozeman homes and gardens more bird friendly. We were also able to roll out our brand new booth materials! Special thanks to Glenniss Indreland for designing and researching our new tabling displays and to John Edwards for helping push it over the finish line.

The Raptor Counters saw a surprisingly high turnout of human visitors to the helipad, along with a total of 125 Golden Eagles, and 199 total raptors for the weekend.

It all started with the Friday evening kick-off event. There were about 200 in attendance, distanced throughout The Ellen Theatre. Biologist Wes Larson generously shared his film, *Scouting 13 Million Sky Raptors*, and spent extra time—along with Steve Hoffman and hawk watchers Evan Farese and Mia Cignoni—conversing with the audience.

SAS's new booth made its debut at the festival. Photo by Paulette Epple.

Thanks to Steve Hoffman, whose contributions included an inspiring presentation Friday evening, raptor ID presentations Saturday and Sunday, and helping to man the Raptor Count Board. Thank you to Glenda Singer and John Ludin with the Ellen Theatre and to Bridger Bowl's Erin O'Connor and Katie Lynch.

A special thank you to our dedicated volunteers for all their time and hard work. This festival would not happen without you all! Mary Schlosser, Dillon Potter, Leo Freeman, Hannah Allen, Hilmar Sauerweine, Peggy Osbourne, David Cole, Alicia Ochs, Nora Miller, Loreene Reid, Emma Narotzky, Chris Nixon, Travis Kidd, Paulette Epple, Lou Ann Harris, Beth Madden, Vicki Saab, Anne Ready, Aaron & Sonja Clausen, and Terri Narotzky. We appreciate you and hope to see you all again next fall!

Zera, Danielle, and Harlan Vitoff take part in the Binocular Blitz. Photo by Loreene Reid.

Win one of two Bridger Bowl Season Passes for 2021/2022

(value $900 each) . . . or a chance to win many more prizes!

All proceeds support the Bridger Mountains Raptor Project, one of the most important localities to monitor migrating Golden Eagles in the western United States for the past 30 years. Your support is needed to continue this project is critical to provide the data needed to assess population trends in Golden Eagles and other raptors.

Raffle tickets are $10 each or 6 for $50

Note: if you have already purchased your season pass, Bridger Bowl will reimburse you if you win!

The drawing will be held **Dec. 13, 2021** at the Sacajawea Audubon Society Holiday Program Event at the Ellen Theatre in downtown Bozeman. To request your raffle tickets, email membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org or text (406) 600-6666

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's 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

Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve Busy Beavers Update

By Heather Priest, Big Sky Watershed AmeriCorps Member, Gallatin Watershed Council

The Sacajawea Audubon Society and the Gallatin Watershed Council partnered up to launch a new volunteer team this summer named The Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) Busy Beavers. The IAWP Busy Beavers volunteer team provides an opportunity for community members of all ages and physical capabilities to come together to engage in restoration projects and maintenance, and to also act as educators and ambassadors for the IAWP and the watershed. Joining the IAWP Busy Beavers is a great way to meet other community members, take care of your local wetlands and rivers, receive education, and get outside!

The IAWP Busy Beavers ended the season with 41 active members and engaged in multiple restoration efforts. At the Preserve, groundwater was monitored weekly throughout the season, multiple cleanups were held, and invasive weeds were eradicated to encourage native plant growth. The IAWP Busy Beavers extended their efforts to the rest of the Lower Gallatin Watershed, as trees were planted along Matthew Bird Creek, various tributaries and trails were combed for trash, and reaches of Kelly Creek were prepared for an upcoming beaver mimicry project. In return, three educational workshops were held to provide volunteers with knowledge on our Valley's vital resources and biodiversity.

Heather Priest holds a bundle of hoary asylum at an invasive weed pull at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve.

Free educational workshops and trainings will resume again in 2022—keep an eye out for upcoming event dates!

To join and to stay up to date on all upcoming events, visit gallatinwatershed.com/volunteer. Questions? Contact Loreene at loreener5@gmail.com or Heather at bswc@gallatinwatershedcouncil.org.