DECEMBER 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, December 13th, 2021 Special Holiday Program at The Ellen Theatre:
"Yellowstone Birds: How Behavior Shapes the Yellowstone Environment" *with Bob Landis and Doug Smith*

Trumpeter Swan photo by Kyle Moon.

By Kyle Moon

Yellowstone is one of the world's most unique places. For birds, there are unique relationships among species in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This program will be both entertaining and informative, and will focus primarily on four bird species and how their behavior impacts Yellowstone's environment: Trumpeter Swan, Clark's Nutcracker, Raven, and Golden Eagle. Recent research on these species' activity has been intense, and serves as an introduction to an upcoming book to be published by Princeton University Press: *Yellowstone Birds*—the first published book of its kind in Yellowstone's history! Join us virtually or at this special holiday event at the Ellen Theatre as Bob Landis narrates his captivating videos on bird behavior and Doug Smith shares research updates and conservation concerns on the birds, wolves, elk, and beavers of Yellowstone National Park.

Bob Landis has been a full-time professional wildlife filmmaker since 1993, when he co- produced and filmed *Realm of the Coyote* with *National Geographic Television*. Since then, he has co-produced and filmed nearly a dozen films with *National Geographic*, *Nature*, and *British Broadcasting Company* (*BBC)*. Although he has produced films about a wide range of animals, he is best known for his films about Yellowstone wolves. Landis is currently working on a video supplement to *Yellowstone Birds*. Part of the program will be selections from this supplement. Landis lives in Gardiner where he ventures daily into the Park to film whatever is of interest; this year it has been birds.

Douglas W. Smith, Ph.D. is a Senior Wildlife Biologist in Yellowstone National Park who supervises the wolf, bird, and elk research programs. He was the Project Leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, which reintroduced wolves to the Park. Doug received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Idaho, an M.S. in Biology from Michigan Technological University, and a Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno. He has published a wide variety of journal articles and book chapters on beavers, wolves, and birds and co-authored many more. He has participated in numerous documentaries about wolves and has been recognized by *National Geographic*, *BBC*, and *60 Minutes*, as well as other media sources. Doug has studied wolves for 42 years; he is interviewed widely and speaks often about wolves to audiences all over the world. He is a member of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team, the Re-Introduction Specialist Group, and the Canid Specialist Group for the IUCN. Doug is an avid canoeist, preferring to travel mostly in the remote regions of northern Canada with his wife, Christine, and their two sons, Sawyer and Hawken.

A black wolf eyes a raven. Photo by Bob Landis.

Join Sacajawea Audubon Society for this Special Holiday Program on Monday, December 13th, at The Ellen Theatre, 17 West Main, Bozeman. Doors open at 6:00 PM for a social; the program begins at 7:00 PM. This program is free and open to the public; a suggested donation of $5 is appreciated.

To attend the program virtually, register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1643165571202004751. You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar. Please share our program using the hashtags #sacaaudubon #sasbirds #yellowstonebirds #yellowstone

SAS monthly programs are free and open to the public. For more information contact Kyle Moon at programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

From SAS President, Chris Nixon

This newsletter is chock full of updates on a number of ongoing projects that Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) members and volunteers have envisioned, established, maintained, and funded for the benefit of birds and for all those who enjoy them. I am constantly amazed at the dedication demonstrated by those of you who participate in SAS projects and programs. You give of your weekends and evenings, but the benefits will last for years—decades, even—and hopefully generations to come. Thank you for contributing to and participating in the Bridger Raptor Study, Blue Bird Trails, Kestrel Box Program, Story Mill Park Feeding Station, Bird Friendly Gardens, Book Club, Youth and Adult Education Programs, and now the Bird Friendly Windows and the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve and IAWP Busy Beaver programs.

I can't express enough gratitude to Ileana Indreland, Mike Delaney, and to the KENDEDA FUND for their generosity in making the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve within reach through their generous gifts. And thanks to each of you who have given and continue to give to make this project more than a dream.

I am truly witnessing dreams come true. **SAS is very close to reaching the $1 Million challenge grant from the KENDEDA FUND in order to be able to break ground at the IAWP**—planned for the fall of 2022 (see bozemanwetlands.org). We appreciate your past contributions for this enormous undertaking and for ALL the other important programs that you have sustained throughout the years. We thank you in advance for continuing your support of SAS during this season of giving and receiving. But most of all, we thank you for being a part of SAS!

Chris Nixon
President, Sacajawea Audubon Society

Photo by Chris Nixon

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: DEC. 2021

Beavers: Premier Wetland Engineers

By John Edwards, SAS Vice President

Vision

The Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) was set aside by Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) to conserve and enhance a wetland community in an urban setting. The site will serve as an environmental study area offering education, accessible to all ages, about wetland ecology. SAS aims to document the effect of human influence on wetland communities and inspire the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands. SAS strives to have positive impacts on wetland conservation that extend beyond the Gallatin watershed.

IAWP Goal #3 is to showcase the role of beavers as a keystone species in creating wetland habitat. This goal was inspired by Captain William Clark's journal entry of July 14, 1806. There has been much discussion on how Clark's journal entry implies the Gallatin Valley was thick with beaver dams and multiple threaded river channels, making it impassable by boat.

Importance of Beavers

Beavers are currently active on the IAWP and it is important to understand why they are a keystone species that is integral to future restoration plans at the site.

The North American Beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is recognized by ecologists as our premier wetland engineer. Beavers create the botanical habitat of their environment. Beavers mate for life and the lodge is the center of their family society. The presence of beavers and the wetlands they create increases species richness at the landscape scale. The wetlands and riparian areas created by beavers increase species diversity and production of birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, invertebrates, and plants.

Wetlands are important for temporary storage of stormwater, reducing the impacts of flooding in urban environments. Wetlands function as huge sponges, storing groundwater and surface water for slow release to streams, maintaining river levels, and mitigating high water temperatures caused by drought conditions. Wetlands treat and filter stormwater pollutants, helping to protect stream and lake quality. Wetland environments are resistant to burning and provide important refuges from wildfires.

Beavers are slowly returning to urban areas, beginning to recreate the important natural cycle that had been missing

IAWP Busy Beavers volunteers install a "beaver deceiver" (left to right: Kyle Moon, Frank Marchak, Chris Nixon, and John Edwards). Photo by Loreene Reid.

from our landscape. When beavers open the forest canopy by damming streams and cutting down trees, they create new ecological niches and transition zone habitats where various species thrive. Many of our threatened and endangered species require these vanishing habitats at some stages of their lives. Beaver activity creates "mosaic habitats" (a mix of habitats). While killing trees in and around a beaver pond appears destructive, these dead trees actually create critical habitats for honeybees, Wood Ducks, swallows, herons, and others; they also allow grasses, sedges, shrubs, and saplings to grow on the perimeter of the pond. These plants provide habitat variety, food, and cover for foraging animals. An entire food chain is created, which is why beaver ponds become magnets for wildlife. The biodiversity that exists due to beaver activity makes beavers our prototypical Keystone Species and nature's ecosystem engineers.

The presence of beavers on the IAWP is an important component of future plans for public education at the site. Because beavers are becoming increasingly common on the margins of urban areas, they are being incorporated as learning and teaching tools for both children and adults. As a charismatic species, beavers play a distinctive role in engaging the public with the natural environment and demonstrating species interdependence. Urban

continued on page 4

NOW *is a* Great Time *to* Make a Donation *to the* Wetland Preserve

Just off Main Street in Downtown Bozeman, something incredible is underway! It is the restoration of a wetland oasis for both the wildlife and people of our community—the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP).

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) is making great progress toward meeting a **challenge grant from The Kendeda Fund for the IAWP**—but we need your help. This is your chance to be a part-owner of Bozeman's future and help create the largest wetland oasis in an urban setting in Montana. **Double your impact with a matching donation today.**

Your SAS membership supports the IAWP. Imagine stealthily approaching the IAWP. Beavers slap their tails upon your discovery. Waterfowl take flight, filling the air with their calls. You can be part of this fantastic future. **Join or renew your membership today!**

Wetlands Update *(continued from page 3)*

beavers provide first-hand lessons about habitat, biodiversity, territory, and trophic cascades. Children can see with their own eyes how the population of birds, frogs, turtles, and other wildlife respond to the presence of beavers. Since urban beavers have been known to habituate to traffic, crowds, and city noises, they are often less difficult to directly observe, which further engages the public. Even when beavers are not visible, their dams, lodges, and characteristic chewing leave telltale clues about nocturnal activities—inviting greater curiosity. Teachers can easily incorporate these lessons into curricula for any age, teaching younger children about habitat and survival, and older children about overlapping biodiversity or ecosystem services.

More than a hundred years ago, Enos Mills (1913) described the learning opportunities for children, noting: "Beaver work may do for children what schools, sermons, companions, and even home sometimes fail to do—develop the power to think. No boy or girl can become intimately acquainted with the ways and works of these primitive folk without having the eyes of observation opened, and acquiring a permanent interest in the wide world in which we live." (Enos Mills, 1913, *In Beaver World*)

Beaver Deceiver

Beaver lodges are present on the IAWP—some active and some inactive. The most visible lodge is located just east of the north end of the former railroad berm near the end of the gravel footpath. The beavers that are active at this lodge plugged the 30-inch diameter drainage culvert in early fall 2021. Because the culvert was plugged, the water level rose on the east side of the former railroad berm, flooding several acres. The high-water level was beginning to encroach on the active railroad right-of-way that bisects the IAWP.

Sacajawea Audubon Society wants beavers to continue living on the IAWP, but we need to be careful that their activities don't negatively impact adjacent property owners. The 70% IAWP wetland restoration design incorporates features that will allow us to integrate beavers into the ecology of the site. The construction of the wetland restoration won't occur for at least a year while SAS continues fundraising, completes the design, and acquires the necessary local, state, and federal permits. In the meantime, we have installed a temporary measure to control the water flow through the culvert. The temporary measure is termed a "beaver deceiver." The beaver deceiver is constructed to maintain a water level that accommodates beaver activities, but keeps the level low enough that the water will hopefully not encroach on neighboring properties.

American Beaver photo by Ronan Donovan.

The beaver deceiver was designed and installed by IAWP Busy Beaver volunteers. It is essentially a wire box with drainpipes that were installed adjacent to the culvert. The device blocks the beavers from fully plugging the culvert yet maintains an elevated water level at the beaver lodge. SAS will continue to monitor the performance of the beaver deceiver; we may have to make further adjustments depending upon future beaver activities and weather conditions.

If there are questions about the beaver deceiver or other activities at the IAWP, please feel free to contact SAS.

BIRD NOTES

by John Parker

This past fall's migration was fairly uneventful in terms of local birders finding unusual passerines. The big exception was southwest Montana's first **Golden-crowned Sparrow** that Dalton Spencer found foraging with some **White-crowned Sparrows** in Gardiner on October 1st.

Golden-crowned Sparrow photo by Ed Harper.

Not quite so rare—but still exciting for this area—was the **Blackburnian Warbler** first seen by Kevin Ellison on October 3rd in his Bozeman yard near Sunset Hills Cemetery. Kevin and several other birders were able to locate this normally elusive warbler again the next day.

Several birds made late-season appearances locally. **Broad-winged Hawks** are always notable in western Montana, though in recent years the Hawk Watchers at Bridger Bowl have documented one to three dozen annually during the fall migration. Broad-winged Hawks typically are one of the earlier raptors to migrate along the Bridgers, with most having passed the site by the end of September. This year's sighting of a Broad-winged Hawk on October 15th was a new late date for this area.

Other unusually late sightings included a **Black-headed Grosbeak** that Andrew Guttenberg saw along the Sourdough Nature Trail in Bozeman on October 13th. The **Spotted Towhee** that Sam Koenen and John Kingeter discovered in Logan on November 6th was about a month later than expected. Finally—and most surprising—was the **Swainson's Thrush** that Mary Keck saw in north Bozeman on November 5th.

While at the family cabin on the east side of the Bridger Mountains, Jo Newell heard a **Western Screech Owl** on October 2nd.

The stars of the late autumn migration are the ducks and other waterfowl. Two different **Greater White-fronted Geese** made appearances in the area this year. On October 16th, Don Profota spotted a single Greater White-fronted Goose among the throngs of **Canada Geese** at Three Forks Ponds. This goose lingered for a week at the ponds, giving many people an opportunity to see it. More fleeting was the Greater White-fronted Goose that Don saw flying with a flock of 25 **Snow Geese** south of Bozeman on October 23rd.

For the first time in twenty years, **Long-tailed Ducks** made an appearance in Gallatin County, and it wasn't a single misplaced bird, but a group of three females traveling together. On November 1st, John Parker found the three Long-tailed Ducks on Hyalite Reservoir. A week earlier John spotted three **Surf Scoters** on Hyalite Reservoir, which remained at the lake for at least the next two weeks. Two **White-winged Scoters** were seen by Vic Fesolowitz at Harrison Reservoir on November 1st. Completing the triad of scoters seen in our area this fall was the female **Black Scoter** found on Dailey Lake November 7th by Katherine Ochsman and Forrest Rowland.

That same day Katherine and Forrest saw a **Pacific Loon**, also at Dailey Lake. On two separate trips (October 27th and November 6th) to Ennis Lake, Vic Fesolowitz spotted a Pacific Loon off the east shore of the lake. On the second trip to the lake, Vic was able to share the sighting with Kim Obbink.

Long-tailed Ducks at Hyalite Reservoir. Photo by John Parker.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2022 SAS MEMBERSHIP

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) does not send renewal notices; this is your reminder. Renew your membership 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.

When you join or renew your SAS local chapter membership at a basic or supporting level, 100% of your local membership and additional donations go ***directly*** to support local SAS education and conservation programs.

For more than 54 years, SAS members have embraced the mission of protecting birds and the places they need right here in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana.

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.
- 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,* a 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 an NAS chapter and fully value and support their work and advocacy.

Why not become a member of both, and join today! Visit https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas/. Membership Questions? Contact membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org

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 SAS membership. Online orders can be picked up at **Wild Birds Unlimited** in Bozeman. It saves SAS considerable postage expenses. **Get—or gift—yours today!**

Make a Difference in the Future of Montana's Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

By Steve Eshbaugh

Do you want to create a legacy?

You can leave a gift to Sacajawea Audubon Society that will help ensure a brighter future for conservation efforts in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana. Simply leave a gift in your will that designates a percent or amount of your desired gift to Sacajawea Audubon Society. One Valley Community Foundation handles your bequest and disperses monies to us on a yearly basis. Such bequests are not binding; you can change your mind at any time.

Thank you!

Why I Am A Member of Sacajawea Audubon Society

Terri Narotzky, SAS Newsletter Coordinator

Terri Narotzky

At this year's *Raptorfest* I overheard part of a conversation between a visitor and SAS president Chris Nixon. The visitor didn't think he knew much about birds, sounding as though he did not feel qualified to be a birder. I reflected on my own approach over the years to watching and learning about birds. It is not necessary—or helpful—to require ourselves to become experts in order to enjoy.

I believe there is great value in: Connection with the "Real World." No-pressure enjoyment and observation of what is happening outside. Seeing and hearing things that make me wonder, and learning as much as I care to in any moment. Having birding goals that would be a thrill to meet—if it happens. Having a sense of care-taking for the natural world. Always having things to learn.

"As long as you're green you're growing, as soon as you're ripe you start to rot." ~ attributed to Ray Kroc

In the several years I have lived in the area, benefitting from the educational opportunities with SAS, I have seen that the dedication and diverse talents in this organization over the years have clearly made it a strong one, with impressive hands-on WORK for multiple conservation projects, continual sharing of knowledge and experience, and sincere welcoming of new people. I see SAS providing something of great value as it welcomes all ages into the outdoors to wonder & learn.

For me, membership in SAS supports sharing things of great value. I invite anyone who cares—but thinks they don't know much about being a birder—to become a member.

"You don't know everything, but you know enough!"
~ Neil L. Andersen

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!

12/21 Newsletter

(Left) Wood Duck and (right) Horned Lark. Photos taken at previous years' Christmas Bird Counts by Lou Ann Harris.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2021

By John Parker

Come and join in the fun during one of our area's Christmas Bird Counts. The Christmas Bird Counts are an opportunity for beginning and expert birders to get together for the day and share this holiday tradition. If you are unable to join a count for the entire day, another option for participation is to be a feeder watcher. Please contact the compiler if you would like to be a feeder watcher for one of the counts.

COVID-19 restrictions may apply on certain counts. Any restrictions will be at the discretion of the local compiler. For more information, contact the area count compilers. Please contact the area compiler *before* the count, as this will give them the opportunity to plan and organize the count before the count day. Participation in all counts is free.

Ennis	**Wednesday, December 15th** Compiler: Robin Wolcott (406) 581-5418 | pajaros@wewolcotts.com *(email preferred)* For more details, please contact the compiler.
Bozeman	**Saturday, December 18th** Compiler: John Parker (406) 586-5863 | conundrumjp@gmail.com For more details, please contact the compiler.
Livingston	**Sunday, December 19th** Compiler: George Kelly (406) 220-0282 | gjkingfisher@gmail.com The compiler will arrange the 7:00 AM meeting location with the participants.
Yellowstone	**Sunday, December 19th** Compiler: Woody Martyn (406) 224-1476 | woodymartyn@hotmail.com The compiler will arrange the 7:00 AM meeting location with the participants.
Three Forks	**Sunday, December 26th** Compiler: Tom Forwood (406) 570-6432 | tjfishing75@gmail.com *(email preferred)* For more details, please contact the compiler.
West Yellowstone	**Sunday, December 26th** Compiler: Tut Fuentevilla (406) 646-7001 | education@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com There will be a meeting during the week leading up to the count at The Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center. The compiler will arrange a meeting time with attending participants. There will be an evening meeting at the end of the day of the count to wrap up.
Ruby Valley	**Tuesday, January 4th** Compiler: Tom Forwood (406) 570-6432 | tjfishing75@gmail.com *(email preferred)* For more details, please contact the compiler.

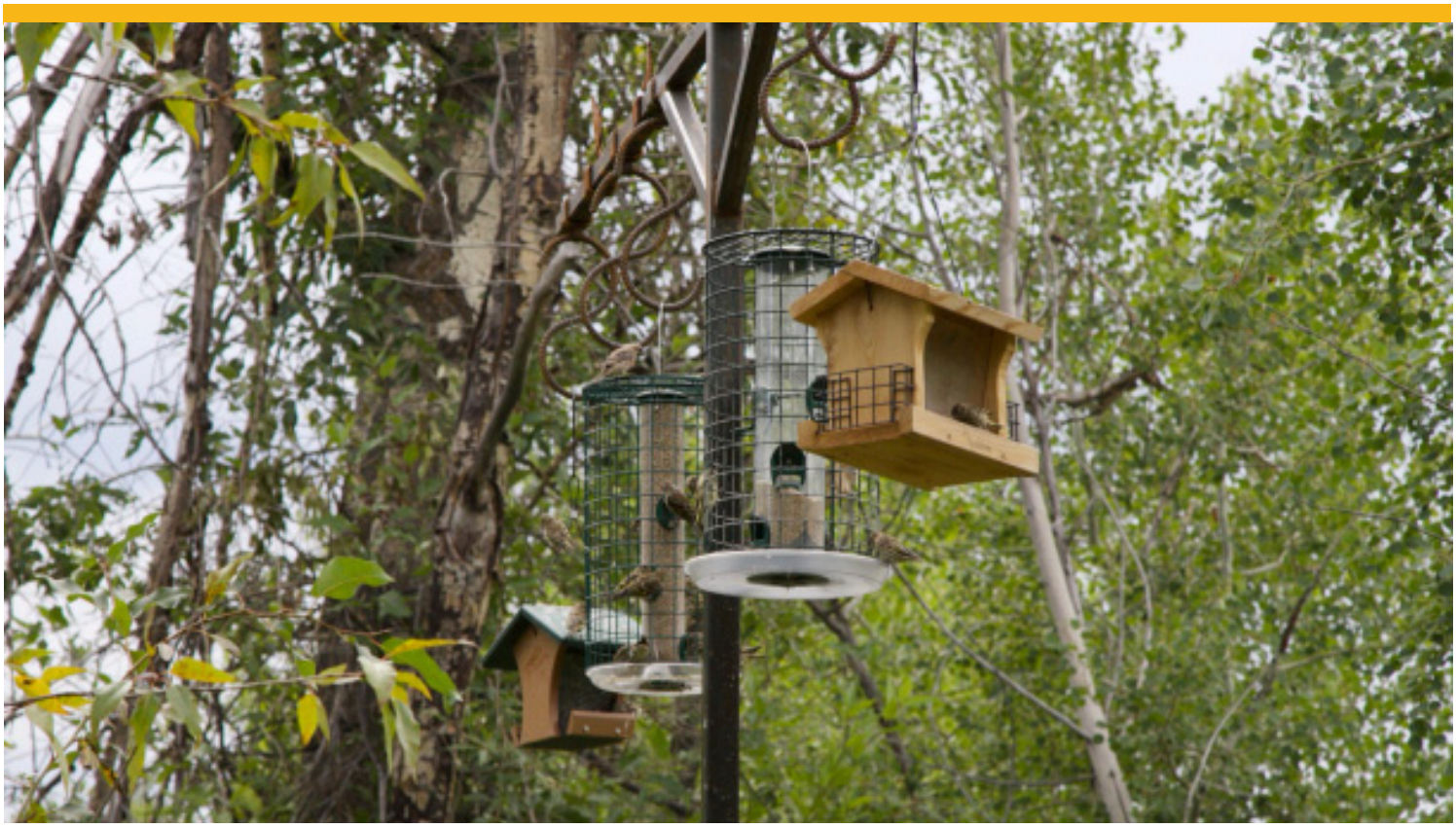


Photo by Paulette Epple.

Story Mill Park Update:
The birds are hungry and need your support!

By Paulette Epple

The feeders are back up at the bird blind in Story Mill Community Park! Our Sacajawea Audubon Society volunteers are once again keeping the feeders filled for the hungry birds after a short hiatus this fall when feeders were removed due to bears frequenting the park. Stop by and see the fun variety of birds that are visiting our feeders. Our latest notable guest was a Harris Sparrow.

Unfortunately, our bird seed fund is running low. We encourage and appreciate donations to keep our feeders filled and the birds and park visitors happy! You can donate online where the **"Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station"** is listed as one of our special campaigns. Or simply add a little extra amount earmarked for the feeding station as you renew your membership this month. Regardless of how you donate, **the Story Mill Park birds thank you for your support!**

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH HAS STARTED!

The 2021–22 FeederWatch season runs from November 13 through April 30. FeederWatch is a November–April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. The schedule is completely flexible. Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance. Learn more and sign up at: https://feederwatch.org/

Let's Meet at the 2021 Bozeman Christmas Stroll!

Pierogies *for* Sacajawea Audubon Society

By Vickie Backus

Vickie's Pierogies is excited to once again partner with Sacajawea Audubon Society at the **2021 Bozeman Christmas Stroll** on **December 4th** from **4:30–7:30 PM**. We will be located in front of Cello Gallery on the corner of Tracy and Main Street. On the menu will be Vickie's most popular Potato-Cheese pierogi or the utterly delectable Three-Mushroom Cabbage pierogi, both served fried with a dollop of sour cream and an optional side of organic Polish Sausage.

Also available will be **raffle tickets** for a chance to win a **season pass at Bridger Bowl Ski Resort** and ***The Alphabet Birds*** book set *(see page 11)*. Proceeds from the raffle go to support the Bridger Raptor Festival and 10% of Christmas Stroll Profits will go to support the Bozeman Wetlands. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Chris Nixon (pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org) or Vickie Backus (vickie@vickiespierogies.com) to help with raffle tickets or food tent, respectively.

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 critical to provide data needed to assess population trends in Golden Eagles and other raptors.

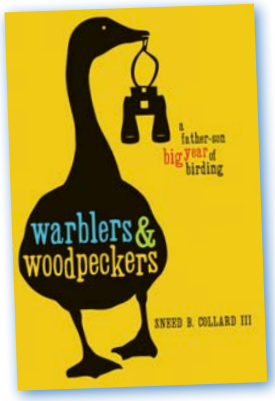
Raffle tickets are $10 each or 6 for $50 available at the 2021 Christmas Stroll

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

BOOK CLUB REMINDERS:

There will be no SAS Book Club meeting in December. The book that was slated for December will be our first book of the 2022 schedule. Our next virtual meeting will be **January 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM**. The book we will be discussing is ***Warblers and Woodpeckers: A Father-Son Big Year of Birding*** by Sneed B. Collard III. Please email Hilary Johnson: ralphhilary@gmail.com or Elisabeth Swanson: elssa@gmail.com if you have questions or suggestions. We welcome feedback.



IN MEMORIA

By SAS Board of Directors

These supporters and friends of Sacajawea Audubon Society left our family in the past year. Each of these individuals made a lasting impression with their time and donations. We thank their families for their contributions.

Sharyn Anhalt
Jim Belli
Charles T. Hash
Gary Hertzberg
Richard Krawiec
Jeff Safford
Jeff Shryer

A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA:
Purchase of 2-Book set benefits Sacajawea Audubon Society

GRANDPA'S BIG BACKYARD FEATURING THE ALPHABET BIRDS

By John N. Mugaas, author and artist

While they walk through the big backyard, Hayes asks Grandpa to name a North American bird for each letter of the alphabet. Grandpa answers, and Hayes learns how to pronounce its name, and each bird tells him one of its characteristics. They locate the bird in the big backyard, and Grandpa tells Hayes what it eats. By the time they finish their walk, the big backyard is full of Alphabet Birds, and Grandpa asks Hayes to match each bird's name with its image.

SEARCHING FOR THE ALPHABET BIRDS IN GRANDPA'S BIG BACKYARD COLORING BOOK

By John N. Mugaas, author and artist

In this companion book to *Grandpa's Big Backyard Featuring the Alphabet Birds*, Hayes leads Grandpa through the big backyard to find and identify the Alphabet Birds. There are bird portraits, letters of the alphabet, bird names, and pictures of Hayes and Grandpa to color, and two matching games to play. The author's bird portraits serve as a color guide.

Author/Artist Biography: John N. Mugaas, a native of Dillon, Montana, is Professor Emeritus of Physiology, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He and his wife now reside in Bozeman, Montana, where they are close to their

grandchildren and active in the local Sacajawea Audubon Society. Each spring, the first rattling bugle call of a returning Sandhill Crane always brings joy to his heart, and the sight of a nuthatch walking straight down a tree trunk reminds him that all things are possible, and hope is alive.

The two-book set is $35.00. ***All proceeds go to Sacajawea Audubon Society.*** *Order online at* sacajaweaaudubon.org *or send your check with "THE ALPHABET BIRDS" in the memo to:* **Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771.**

Holiday Hiking at the Trident-Peregrine Trail

Looking for something to do outdoors with friends and family over the holidays? We recommend a winter/holiday hike at the **Trident-Peregrine Trail** at **Missouri Headwaters State Park**.

The Trident-Peregrine trail is a short, easy hike with benches that provide inspiring views of the white limestone cliffs across the Missouri. The cliffs are one of Montana's most viewable and successful nesting sites for Peregrine Falcons.

This serene birding trail is the result of a collaborative effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; the Trident Cement Plant; Sacajawea Audubon Society; and Montana State University Landscape.

Participants of Starlite Kids Camps visit the Trident-Peregrine Trail. Photo by Loreene Reid.

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

ANNOUNCING A NEW SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY VIDEO!

"Stop Bird Hits with Pinstriping"

Talented Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) members* have produced an informative new "how-to" video detailing the technique of making your windows safe for birds with pinstriping.

Up to a billion birds die every year in the United States alone from collisions with glass. Half of those collisions occur on residential homes, making homeowners an important part of the solution.

Pinstriping is an easy "do-it-yourself" window treatment that is inexpensive, attractive, and—most importantly—highly effective! Using little more than a straightedge and a white paint pen, thin white vertical lines are drawn 4 inches apart on the outside of the windows.

The birds see the lines as solid deterrents and avoid flying through them. Check out this cool new SAS-produced video: **Stop Bird Hits with Pinstriping**: https://youtu.be/4nOjJa1tHL0

The link to this video will be on our website permanently along with other information on our **Bird Safe Windows** webpage. As weather permits—especially in spring as the migrants are returning—consider treating some of your windows to protect bird's lives.

** Bill Klenn, Sandy Pittendrigh, John Harris, Lou Ann Harris, Beth Madden, and Judy Tsiang!*

Bill Klenn pinstripes a window. Photo by Beth Madden.