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, March 14th, 2022 Monthly Program:

"Bringing Color to a Montana Winter" *with Steve Eshbaugh*

You're out birding in the spring in Montana, when suddenly a flash of yellow and orange zips by. You immediately identify the bird as a Western Tanager. The bird in your binoculars has no idea what winter is like in Montana. He likely is returning after enjoying a warm, wet tropical forest in Costa Rica where food is plentiful during the colder months here in Montana. The bird will breed here, joined sporadically by Scarlet and Summer Tanagers. The colors of each of these birds is a welcome sight to birders throughout the United States.

Imagine being that colorful, yet when you return south, you're not anywhere near as eye-catching as some of the other tanager species. Just under 40 species of tanagers provide eye-catching sights in tropical forests. The color palette of many tropical tanagers is almost unimaginable.

As with many bird species, the picture is not all colorful and upbeat. Deforestation of the Amazon in Brazil has landed a few tanagers on the endangered species list.

Join us for this interactive program that will explore this spectacular group of birds. Your eyes will pop at the colors!

Steve Eshbaugh

Steve Eshbaugh was the last-ever botany graduate from the University of Montana in 1985. He has worked as a naturalist in everything from small private nature centers to Yellowstone National Park. He also served as executive director for Montana Environmental Education Association and Montana Outdoor Science School. Steve has helped in fundraising efforts for the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve.

Steve has previously led nine trips to Costa Rica and is taking some local folks on a trip there in March. Through his nature touring company, Roaming Naturalists, LLC, Steve wants to share with fellow travelers some of the incredible sights this world has to offer. All his trips purchase carbon offsets to try to lessen the impacts of travel on climate change.

Paradise Tanager (Tangara chilensis)

The in-person meeting on March 14th will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf (off S. 19th). A social begins at 6:30 PM; the program begins at 7:00 PM. We are following Gallatin County Health Department Guidelines; **masks are required**. Watch for an email in the event we have to cancel the in-person meeting.

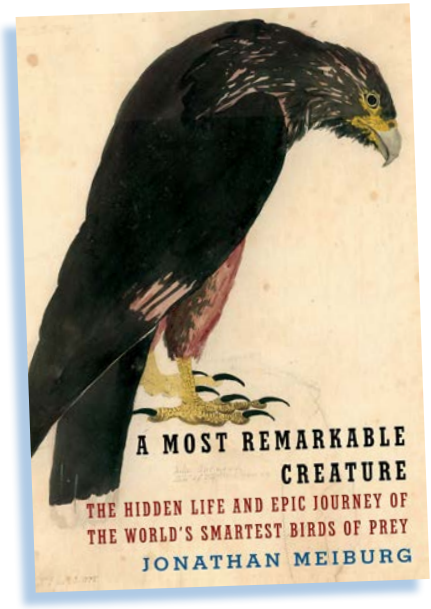
For virtual attendance, please register for the March 14th SAS Monthly Program Meeting at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4128853500405807371 After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

All attendees—whether in person or virtual—are encouraged to share their own bird sightings at this and every monthly program.

SAS programs are free and open to the public, featuring a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. For more information, contact Kyle Moon at programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

MARCH 2022 SAS BOOK CLUB

This month's book, *A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life and Epic Journey of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey* by Jonathan Meiburg, sounds intriguing. First of all, you are probably wondering, as I did: What bird is this?



Meiburg takes us on "An enthralling voyage of discovery in search of the caracaras—the clever, sociable birds of prey that astonished Darwin, fascinate modern-day falconers, and carry secrets of our planet's deep past in their family history" (from the book jacket notes). Anna Spydell from *Book Page* states: "Personable and wickedly clever, the caracara's greatest strengths are its adaptability, intelligence, and ability to forge connections, even with humans."

Please join us virtually as we discuss this book on March 16th from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM.

The book is available in hardback, Kindle, Nook, and Audiobook. The paperback should be issued February 22nd.

We use the GoToMeeting platform for our virtual meetings. In order to join on your computer or tablet, go to https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/604063133 (if you're a first-timer, please sign in early in order to download the app). You can also call in at **+1 (872) 240- 3212**. Use Meeting ID number **604-063-133**.

To get help with this before our meeting, please contact Elisabeth at (406) 570-8325 or elsswa@gmail.com.

Important Book Change for April: *The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life,* by David Quammen, has been substituted for *The Bird Friendly City* due to cost concerns. Let's consider *The Bird Friendly City* for next year if its price has lowered.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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NOTE FROM SAS PRESIDENT, CHRIS NIXON

This is your opportunity to build on 50+ years of saving bluebirds and wetlands!

Chris Nixon

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) has a history of taking on significant projects that inspire and generate hope. And when SAS members take on a project, they tend to do so in a big, big way with consistency and perseverance that really makes a difference. This spring season the window is open for you to become part of two of SAS's long-term projects that will build on the success of decades.

SAS's **Bluebird Trail Project** has been a labor of love for more than 50 years. Started by Louis Moos in 1969, monitoring and maintenance of the Bluebird Trail was taken over by Mary Geis in 1979. Mary gathered 30 years of data on the nesting of Mountain Bluebirds before handing over the reins to SAS Past President Lou Ann Harris, who has continued managing the Bluebird Trail to this day. Now with more than 50 years of data from their efforts and the help of SAS volunteers, that information has been incorporated into the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **Nest Watch** database and is the longest study of Mountain Bluebird nesting in the database. See the article on page 5 to find out how you can support the continuation of this project by sponsoring one or more bluebird boxes for the 2022 nesting season. You may have your own opportunity to get up close and personal with a Mountain Bluebird, so consider becoming a sponsor!

Cliff Davis installs a MOBL box circa 1970.

The new **Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve** (IAWP) may appear to be SAS's newest undertaking, but you could be surprised. Although the IAWP is without doubt our largest undertaking, the current success and progress of this project is built upon more than 50 years of efforts by SAS members and others. The 1971 **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** in Ramsar, Iran, and the passage of the 1972 **Clean Water Act** here in the United States, laid the foundation for wetland preservation, which led to the subsequent regulatory tools and methods we are utilizing to protect the IAWP. Locally there have been attempts to preserve the "East Main Wetlands" since those early years of the 1970s. Again, persistence has paid off. At the very end of 2021, SAS acquired the last seven acres of what has become the IAWP by meeting the challenge gift from the KENDEDA Fund for purchase of those last crucial acres. The larger part of the IAWP was donated to SAS at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 by Ileana Indreland, Mike Delaney, and John Murdoch.

Louis Moos-Ranie Fogelsong circa1980.

You can become an integral and active part of this huge project by joining the **IAWP Busy Beavers** (for more information visit Bozemanwetlands.org). This spring's training sessions for the IAWP Busy Beavers begin in March (see article on page 4). If you are unable to get wet and muddy with the IAWP Busy Beavers, we always welcome your financial support and enthusiasm in helping spread the word about the IAWP and the importance of keeping our wetland functions and water storage capacity here in the Gallatin Watershed.

There will be years of future opportunities for these and other long-term SAS projects. We don't quit. Will this be the year you join in as an active volunteer? And if you have already volunteered with SAS, we look forward to another spring season with **YOU**!

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: MARCH 2022

New Mitigation Bank Will Help Offset Wetland Impacts in Bozeman

The Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) is moving forward to establish a **Wetland Mitigation Bank** at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP). Our intent is to provide a local wetland mitigation option to help offset wetland impacts occurring specifically in the Bozeman and Gallatin Watershed area. **Montana Freshwater Partners** (formerly Montana Aquatic Resources Services) has been brought onto the project as a subcontractor to provide SAS with technical expertise and guidance on the cost-benefit-risk analysis of the proposed mitigation bank project, as well as technical guidance and regulatory expertise.

MONTANA FRESHWATER PARTNERS

With the help of Montana Freshwater Partners, SAS will restore the IAWP as we also address the loss and degradation of other local wetlands and streams due to development pressure in the Gallatin Valley over the last 20 years. We're working together on an innovative and creative approach to enhance, protect, and restore this valuable community asset while also providing a unique educational opportunity for the community to connect to wetlands and the critical habitat they provide for birds and wildlife.

Bozeman's rapid growth over the past decade triggered a variety of costs and benefits to our community. Creation of this Wetland Mitigation Bank is one area where our growing community could potentially shift from negative to positive impacts on wetlands and waterways of the Gallatin Watershed.

IAWP Busy Beavers Upcoming Events

The Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) Busy Beavers are gearing up for an eventful 2022 season! We have some exciting opportunities coming up for the month of March:

The **Educational Workshop Series** will kick off on **Thursday, March 3rd** from **12:00–1:00 PM** with the first workshop of the season: **"What the Heck is a Mitigation Bank?"** with Wendy Weaver from Montana Freshwater Partners. If you're interested in signing up, please RSVP at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e4eaea823a7fa7-2022

The IAWP Busy Beavers will be teaming up with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust to host a training for those who want to become **Watershed Ambassadors** on **Wednesday, March 23rd** at the IAWP from **5:30–7:00 PM**. Bring your binoculars and learn about how you can help promote stewardship and host tours at the IAWP!

Volunteers will have another opportunity to monitor groundwater at the IAWP this season, starting in April. If you are interested in spending two hours a week collecting important data at the IAWP, please contact Heather at heather@gallatinwatershedcouncil.org.

The stewardship of our community is what allows our local wetlands and watershed to thrive! To learn more or to sign up to become an IAWP Busy Beaver, please visit gallatinwatershedcouncil.org/volunteer.

IAWP Busy Beavers get rid of Hoary Asylum at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve to make way for native species. Photo by Heather Priest.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks prepares to release Headwaters State Park master plan

Montana State Parks (MSP), a division of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is developing a master plan for the **Missouri Headwaters State Park**. MSP will be seeking public input on the master plan.

The goal of the master plan is to:

- Guide the development and use of park facilities;
- Provide recommendations for the protection and management of important natural, cultural, and scenic resources;
- Provide visitors with a wide range of experiences;
- Provide for public health and safety;
- Address short-term and long-term needs, while making the least impact on the landscape and cultural resources;
- Broaden visitor's knowledge and appreciation of the area; and
- Accommodate crowds while still allowing for areas of solitude.

Today Missouri Headwaters State Park is home to a wide variety of native plants and wildlife species including moose, beaver, prairie dogs, and a large variety of birds. The park has been designated as an **Important Birding Area** (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. Sacajawea Audubon Society volunteers have conducted bird survey at the IBA for a number of years.

FWP officials emphasized that the master plan is not the be-all-end-all script for the park. They will continue speaking with the public before implementing any significant projects.

Please make your voice heard before March 11 for the further protection of the cultural and natural resources of this state park. Mail your comments to:

Jeremy Fadness, P.E. AICP Project Manager
WWC Engineering
1275 Maple St., Helena, MT 59601

Betsey LaBroad, MPA, CPRP
Parks & Outdoor Recreation Planner II
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718

For more information, visit https://wwcengineering.com/portfolio/headwaters-state-park-master-plan/ where you can download the draft master plan.

Photo by Lou Ann Harris

Become A NestWatcher! NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. You can help by finding a bird nest (or monitoring a nest box), visiting it every 3 or 4 days, and recording what you see. Your data will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers and used by researchers to understand and study birds.

Learn all about Cornell's NestWatch and how you can participate on **Wednesday, March 23rd** at **6:00 PM** at **Wild Birds Unlimited** (2047 W. Oak, #105). The workshop will be taught by SAS Past-President Lou Ann Harris. Seating is limited to 25, so call **(406) 219-2066** to reserve a spot.

BIRD NOTES

by John Parker

March is here, that exciting time when each week of spring pulls new migrants to the north. For southwest Montana the iconic "first bird of spring" is the **Mountain Bluebird**. What can make you anticipate the warmer temperatures of spring more than the sight of a bluebird against a white snowscape? Occasionally a Mountain Bluebird will turn up in February, but the first bluebird spotted in this area usually occurs during the first week of March.

Many of the earliest migrants spend the winter in the region just to our south, and some of the waterfowl will over-winter anywhere water remains open. Most of these early migrants are what are called "weather-dependent migrants," meaning they are somewhat flexible in the timing of their migration. So, if it was a harsh winter and the lakes and streams open later than normal, these birds can delay their northward movements without greatly affecting the mating and nesting season. The opposite is also true, so that during mild periods these early migrants might take advantage and get a jump on the breeding season. And in the case of late cold spells, some early migrants may reverse migrate. I've seen a couple of years when late

American Robin photo by Terri Narotzky.

Sandhill Crane photo by Terri Narotzky.

March cold spells have forced the **Snow Geese**, **Tundra Swans**, and ducks at Freezeout Lake to fly back south to the open water on the Missouri River. Discounting the vagaries of the weather, when is that first big push of spring migrants?

Beside bluebirds, the first week of March ushers in the first ducks including **Northern Pintails**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Hooded Mergansers**. The pintail migration can be quite dramatic, with the earliest arrivals beginning with first ice-off and the numbers building rapidly to peak numbers by the third week in March.

The variety of waterfowl continues to increase the second week of March, with the first waves of **Snow Geese**, **Gadwall**, and **American Wigeon**. This period also sees the arrival of a species not typically associated with the first signs of spring: **Ring-billed Gull**. I wasn't aware that gulls could be one of the first migrants to arrive, until the Gallatin County landfill was moved from Bozeman to Logan. Gulls love landfills. The relocated landfill, with its abundant food source located closer to their migration route along the Missouri and Jefferson River corridors, became much more attractive to the gulls. If you are driving along Interstate 90 in mid-March, watch for the gulls moving between the landfill and Gallatin River. It's possible that a few **California Gulls** might be in the mix, too.

Adding to the earlier arrivals are new waves of **Tundra Swans**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Lesser Scaups**, **Redheads**, **Canvasbacks**, and **American Coots**. During this same

period, after the midpoint in March, some other types of birds begin to arrive. **Sandhill Cranes** really begin to make their presence known with their bugling and dancing as they claim their breeding territories. **American White Pelicans** start to be seen soaring over the river courses as they make their way to their breeding colonies at Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Bowdoin. **Killdeer** are starting to insistently call along the shorelines, **Red-winged Blackbirds** are beginning to sing from any available cattail, and **American Robins** are suddenly everywhere.

By the fourth week of March the variety and numbers of waterfowl are nearing their peak, and the last of the ducks such as **Cinnamon Teal**, **Green-winged Teal**, and **Red-breasted Merganser** begin to increase in number. The end of March also sees the arrival of the first true insectivores. When they first arrive and the conditions are right, **Tree Swallows** can be found by the thousands as they forage low over the Madison River. If you are very lucky, you might spot a single **Say's Phoebe** in the dry benches above the river. And be sure to watch overhead for the first kettle of **Turkey Vultures**.

And then it's April, when longer-distant migrants like **Osprey**, **Common Loon**, and **Eared Grebe** begin to arrive from the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico. These birds are more "time-dependent migrants," meaning they are not as flexible about the conditions required for their survival. If the bodies of water these birds rely on for food and safety freeze, it could be catastrophic for them.

While it's hard to be patient during early spring, waiting for all your favorite birds to arrive, there's still a lot to be excited about during March.

SPONSOR A BLUEBIRD BOX IN 2022!

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) offers a fun way to support our chapter's conservation projects. We are giving members and friends the opportunity to sponsor one of the bluebird boxes that we monitor.

Sponsorship costs $20 per year per box, and you can sponsor as many boxes as you like. Once you have signed up, we will assign you a box number. As the bluebird nesting season begins, you will receive emailed updates and photos. At the end of the season we will send a complete list of all the boxes, including their sponsor's name and the nest results.

A bluebird box sponsorship makes a great eco-friendly gift—or you can sponsor a box in memory of a loved one. The money raised will fund the expenses of maintaining the bluebird trail, as well as SAS's other conservation projects, such as the Kestrel Nest Box project and the Burdock Eradication Project.

To sign up for a bluebird box sponsorship, you can donate online at https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/bluebirdboxsponsorform or fill out the form below and send with a check to: **Sacajawea Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771**

Mountain Bluebirds photo by Lou Ann Harris.

BLUEBIRD BOX SPONSORSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

EMAIL: _____

OF BOXES SPONSORED: _____

IS THIS SPONSORSHIP A MEMORIAL? yes | no

IF YES, IN WHOSE NAME?

SCIENCE INQUIRY SERIES

Sponsored by the **Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences**, and co-sponsored by the non-profit community service organization **Hopa Mountain** and the **Museum of the Rockies**, the talks for the 2022 winter/spring series will be presented virtually via the Zoom video conferencing platform on the scheduled date at 7 PM, followed by a brief question-and-answer period using the Zoom chat function.

Bonnie Lawrence-Smith with Golden Eagle. Photo courtesy Destin Harrell.

Go to https://www.gallatinscience.org/future-presentations/ to learn about the informative and free **Science Inquiry Series**. Use the link provided on the website to join. In particular, Sacajawea Audubon Society members will be interested in the bird-related topics in March and in May:

Mar 23, 2022

Cry to Heaven: Golden Eagles and Rock Art in the Bighorn Basin

Did indigenous peoples of the Bighorn Basin use the Golden Eagle as their model in Thunderbird rock art? Plains archeologist Bonnie Lawrence-Smith will share her research into relationships between eagles, the indigenous peoples, and the rock art they crafted as a manifestation of their connection with the natural world.

May 18, 2022

Raven Rendezvous: Exploring Connections Among the Trickster, Wolves and People

How do Yellowstone's ravens make a living from the work of wolves and humans? Dr. John Marzluff, Ridgeway Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, will describe how his tagging and tracking of these smart, opportunistic birds is helping to refine understanding of the interactions of ravens with both wolves and people in the Greater Yellowstone region.

Learn About Mountain Bluebirds!

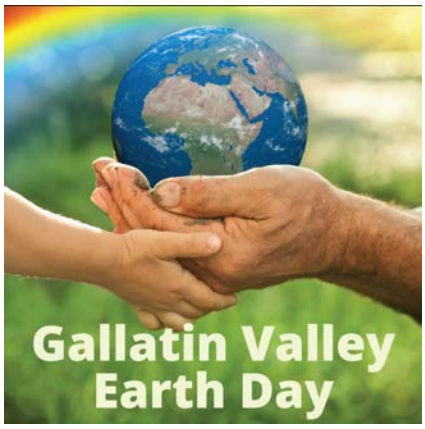
Mountain Bluebirds are arguably one of the most beautiful songbirds that call Montana home. Learn about their fascinating lives through the work of the **Sacajawea Audubon Society Bluebird Trail Project**, including migration, foraging, nesting, raising young, and more.

Join Sacajawea Audubon Society Past-President Lou Ann Harris for an informative talk about Mountain Bluebirds and the Bluebird Trail Project on **Sunday, March 13th, 4:00 PM** at **Wild Birds Unlimited**.

Lou Ann has been monitoring and banding bluebirds in the Gallatin Valley since 2007. She has been the coordinator of the bluebird trail project since 2010.

Wild Birds Unlimited is located at 2047 West Oak, #105. Seating is limited to 25, so call WBU at **(406) 219-2066** to reserve a spot.

Mountain Bluebirds photo by Lou Ann Harris.



GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY 2022:

"Celebrating Water Stewardship: Past, Present, and Future"

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) will be a key part of **Gallatin Valley Earth Day** again this year. According to www.audubon.org: "Climate change is by far the biggest threat to the birds that we love." What will our climate look like in the future and what options do we have to address this challenge for our birds and our earth? Join us in March and find out. SAS will partner with Gallatin Valley Earth Day to present these **FREE** online talks.

"Climate Change in Greater Yellowstone's Watersheds" with Dr. Cathy Whitlock

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at **7:00 PM**

TO REGISTER: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8511245164620188173

"What Can Be Done About Climate Change, and How Much Will it Cost?" with Dr. Richard Ready

Tuesday, March 22 at **7:00 PM**

TO REGISTER: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4804758482046075408

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY EVENTS:

Friday, April 22, 2022

"Water for the Earth" celebration at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture

Social hour: 6:00 PM; Program: 7:00 PM

In 1969, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio was so polluted that it caught fire. Public outcry over polluted waterways resulted in the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Since then, we have made significant progress, yet much more needs to be done to protect the waterways that support our drinking water, public health, recreation, and wildlife.

Join us to celebrate Earth Day with music, special guest speakers, and more. A 6:00 PM social hour in the lobby will include a silent auction benefiting the Bozeman High School Solar Schools Club efforts to put solar panels on our schools.

SAS will have a table and present a talk about wetlands at the Gallatin Valley Earth Day festival on Saturday, April 23. More is planned, so stay tuned.

Saturday, April 23, 2022

"Earth Day Fun Run"
9:00 AM at the Gallatin County Regional Park

Saturday, April 23

"Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival"
10:00 AM–3:00 PM at the Emerson Center

Includes Bozeman Clean Up Day! Celebrate Earth Day and join the fun with:

- Exhibits
- Talks
- Short Films
- Children's Activities
- Food
- Music

Additional events online! Check out the GVED calendar of events. For more information, visit: www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org

Calling all Catios!

What is a Catio? It is an outdoor **"Cat Patio"** enclosure to keep cats safe and stimulated while also keeping birds and wildlife safe. Catios can be as small as a window box or as large as a whole yard.

Predation by free roaming domestic cats is the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds in the United States. Sacajawea Audubon Society would like to celebrate the use of catios as a way to provide safe and healthy spaces for cats to exercise and to enjoy the outdoors while still keeping our birds safe. Do you have a catio? Or do you know of someone who does? We would like to hear about your catios! We can highlight catios in our newsletter and develop tours of the catios in our community to promote enthusiasm for this great win-win resource for cats and wildlife.

Email Paulette Epple at conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org or call her at 406-580-6186 to share your catio with Sacajawea Audubon Society.

THANK YOU SIMKINS HALLIN!

A big shout out of **THANKS** to Simkins Hallin for generously donating the building supplies we need to create chickadee bird box kits! These kits will be used in educational activities providing great pleasure to kids and families involved in building the nest boxes and will provide nesting opportunities for Black-capped Chickadees and House Wrens.

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!

3/22 Newsletter

New to Sacajawea Audubon Society? Join now—we've been waiting for you!

Thank you to all of the Sacajawea Audubon Society members who renewed their membership for 2022, and a special thanks to those of you who joined for the first time. We are thrilled and grateful for your support, and can't wait to get out bird watching with you! If you haven't had the chance to renew your membership yet, you can fill out the form above and mail it to **PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711** OR visit us online at https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas. **Thank you!**

Mountain Bluebird photo by Lou Ann Harris.

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

Wild Wings in Choteau

The annual SNOW GEESE MIGRATION through Montana will be celebrated from MARCH 25-27, 2022. Activities will include guided tours of the FREEZOUT LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, events at the STAGE STOP INN with presentations, raffles, a wild game feed, and the Choteau Arts Spring Migrations Show.

For more information and optional pre-registration go to:
https://visitchoteau.com/wings-registration and www.facebook.com/wildwingschoteau

Freezeout Lake is Montana's most important spring migration staging area for Snow Geese and Tundra Swans, with up to 300,000 geese and 10,000 swans stopping to rest and refuel before flying farther north. Spectacular flights of these majestic birds can be witnessed each morning and evening as the birds depart to forage in the nearby agricultural fields, and then return to the safety of the lake to rest. Once these birds leave Freezeout, they fly to the north in a series of shorter flights, eventually arriving on their tundra nesting grounds in northern Canada. Photo by Bob Martinka.