DECEMBER 2022

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 12th, 2022, Special Holiday Program at The Ellen Theatre

"Adaptations in Owls" *with Denver Holt, founder and president of the Owl Research Institute*

Owls are arguably the most widely recognized and popular group of animals in the world. There are about 268 species worldwide. Native cultures around the world are rich with stories and myths surrounding them.

Despite their worldwide distribution and cultural popularity, most people will never see—or perhaps only see a few—wild owls in their lifetime. Everyone remembers their first encounters with an owl. Owls have evolved specialized adaptations to render them inconspicuous during much of their life, and to give them their best chance at survival. These range from nocturnal and low-light activity periods, to daytime roosting in inconspicuous locations, to cryptic coloration and plumage patterning, to unique camouflaging behaviors. When you put all these adaptations together, finding an owl feels akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

Furthermore, why do some hoot while others toot, trill, or scream? How well can they see at night? How well can they hear? Do they really fly silently? Can they really turn their heads all the way around? And why do people recognize and admire owls so much?

Join owl expert Denver Holt for an exciting lecture where he uncovers and explains many of these incredible adaptations.

Denver Holt is an award-winning wildlife researcher and graduate of the University of Montana. He is founder and president of the Owl Research Institute, a nonprofit organization located in Charlo, Montana. Since 1978, Holt's research focus has been owls and their ecology. He has published numerous papers, including species accounts for the *Birds of North America* project and *The Handbook of the Birds of the World.*

Denver's work has been widely recognized by organizations across the globe: *National Geographic Magazine*, *GEO Magazine* of Germany, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, *The Financial Times* of London, *NY Times, Smithsonian Magazine,* and *Hakai Magazine*, among others. His work has also been the subject of numerous television bites including: Audubon's *Up-Close* series, PBS's *Bird Watch*, David Attenborough's *Life of Birds*, *National Geographic Explorer*, BBC's *Frozen Planet I* and *II*, and PBS's documentary *The Magic of the Snowy Owl.*

Denver Holt with a Northern Hawk Owl. Owl Research Institute photo.

Denver's life-long dedication to owl conservation, education, and research is why he has been the beacon of light in the owl world, and why Holt was inducted into the *World Owl Hall of Fame* in 2012. When not researching owls, Holt is a natural history tour guide and co-owner of Wild Planet Nature Tours.

This special live program of the Sacajawea Audubon Society will be held at The Ellen Theater on December 12. Doors open at 6 PM; the program will begin at 7 PM. The program is free and open to the public. A $5 suggested donation is appreciated.

For virtual attendance, please register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1849419666570382603. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Share the program using the hashtags #sasbirds #sacaaudubon #owls and #conservation.

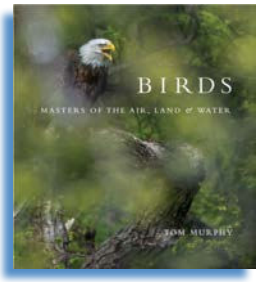
SAS monthly programs are free and open to the public, featuring a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. For more information, contact Kyle Moon at programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Mountain Chickadee photo by Kyle Moon.

A MESSAGE FROM SAS PRESIDENT CHRIS NIXON

The holiday season is upon us and we are grateful for each of you and the role you play in Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS). We hope you are able to take part in one or more of our area Christmas Bird Counts and that you visit our feathered friends at the SAS bird feeding station in Story Mill Community Park over this winter season. You can be a citizen scientist by taking part in FeederWatch, Climate Watch, and by providing your sightings through eBird. Our IAWP program has grown stronger over this second year of collaborations with Gallatin Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, and other local organizations. Steps continue to be made toward the restoration of the IAWP in 2023. Let's make the next year a great one for the birds! I encourage each of you to renew your membership with SAS and the National Audubon Society for 2023. The birds will thank you!

Book Sales Will Benefit SAS



Tom Murphy is offering SAS supporters a discounted price for his book, ***Birds: Masters of the Air, Land & Water***. SAS supporters can buy the book for $35, or up to the list price of $65. Choose a price within this range; **100% of the price paid will go to SAS!**

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. We will have copies of the book at the SAS meeting at the Ellen Theater on December 12th.

To reserve your copy, contact Elisabeth at (406) 570-8325 or elsswa@gmail.com. To make an alternative arrangement for pickup, contact Hilary Johnson at (406) 599-1446 or ralphhilary@gmail.com.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

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

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Membership	Loreene Reid membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	Terri Narotzky newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Programs	Kyle Moon programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Social Media	**Looking for Volunteer** socialmedia@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Wetlands Preservation	Loreene Reid wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Book Club	Elisabeth Swanson & Hilary Johnson elsswa@gmail.com | ralphhilary@gmail.com
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SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: DEC. 2022

THE WETLAND PRESERVATION PROJECT (WPP) was initiated to accomplish Sacajawea Audubon Society's mission to protect and restore increasingly rare wetland and riparian habitats in our region, and to provide educational opportunities and enjoyment for generations to come. The IAWP is the first of our wetland protection projects.

by Chris Nixon and Loreene Reid

The larger number of bird species have moved south for the winter and the wildlife may seem to be taking a long winter's nap. But, there are still things to be seen at the IAWP. You may catch glimpses of the beaver, muskrat, and even an occasional fox. Keep an eye out for a Northern Shrike as one usually takes up residence there for the colder season. Rough-legged Hawks can be expected and there are the typical winter avian residents that will be there to greet you.

The Wetland Preservation Committee is very busy moving the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) forward. Wonderful things have continued to happen since the donation of the property to Sacajawea Audubon Society by Ileana Indreland and Mike Delaney in December 2018. Highly skilled environmental engineers—beavers—are making the IAWP their home by creating dams and lodges around the wetland. Several duck species—including Wood Ducks—returned for the first time in many years this year to grace the wetland. Community members attending weekly bird walks witnessed memorable interactions such as muskrats and a mink together on the beaver dam at the end of the berm trail. Eleven Black-neck Stilts were foraging for aquatic invertebrates in the shallow water of the wetlands. A rattle of Belted Kingfishers cruised the wetland most of the summer and built their nests in the southern banks of the wetland.

With the help of our dedicated members and a grant from the Kendeda Fund, Sacajawea Audubon Society and our partners—Gallatin Watershed Council, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Montana Freshwater Partners, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance, Fall Creek Planning, and Confluence Consulting, Inc.—are excited to be moving forward with the IAWP 70% design plans and the final phase of the Sacajawea Wetland Mitigation Bank.

We hope to be able to make one or more exciting announcements after the new year. Look forward to good news coming in 2023! Visit www.Bozemanwetlands.org.

Did you know...

Donating appreciated securities to SAS—such as stock or mutual funds—is a simple way to help protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitat right here in your community. Please visit https://bozemanwetlands.org/WP/donate/ for instructions.

The IAWP partnered with Warriors & Quiet Waters (WQW) Foundation, a nonprofit organization that guides veterans and their loved ones to thrive and find peace, meaning, and purpose through fly fishing and other inspirational activities in nature. This summer, WQW hosted Gold Star kids with the Travis Manion Foundation. These Gold Star kids became IAWP Busy Beavers for the day, helping manage beaver dams and removing invasive vegetation at the IAWP in July 2022. Photo courtesy of Studio MacLeod.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: DEC. 2022

IAWP BUSY BEAVERS UPDATE

by Heather Priest

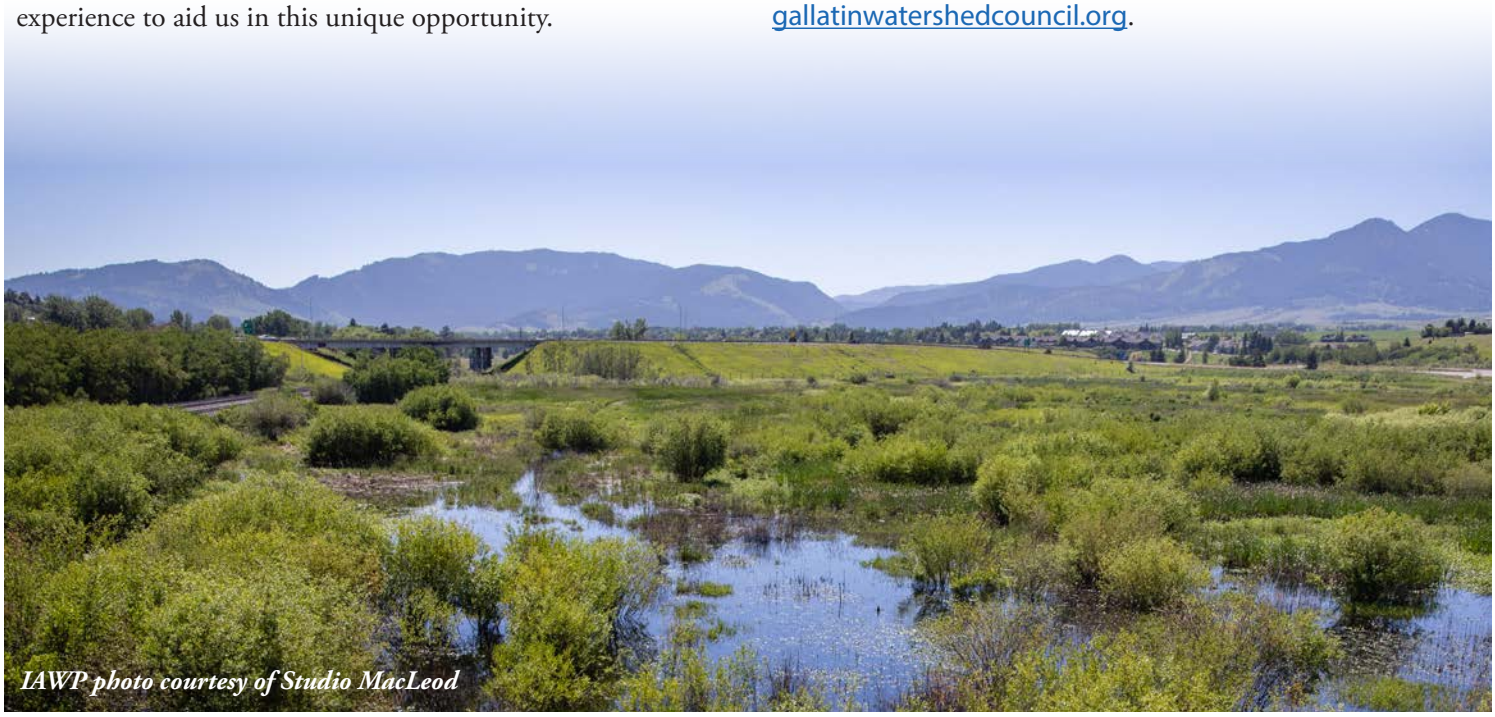
We rely on our volunteers for their varying levels of expertise. Sure, there is a never-ending call for on-the-ground work: water monitoring, weed pulls, trash cleanups, tree plantings, and a variety of other tasks that require physical labor. We recognize that this type of work may not be every volunteer's cup of tea, or everyone's strength. The IAWP Busy Beavers volunteer team hosts a variety of opportunities: providing wetland tours, leading educational lessons, taking photos to monitor change, or in this case, helping an organization create avian monitoring protocol.

The Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) is currently leading a wetland and floodplain restoration project on the Upper East Gallatin. To monitor the success of the project, we need to include avian counts; however, we are not experts in bird surveying. We decided to call upon someone who is: IAWP Busy Beaver Doug McSpadden.

On the last day of autumn, as cottonwood leaves cascaded to the ground in a flurry of yellow, we walked the project site with Doug to pick his brain on prime bird habitat, where to survey, what species to focus on, and a variety of other details that we needed to create a successful monitoring protocol. We've seen Doug wield heavy tools and get his feet wet in past events, and we were so grateful to benefit from his past experience to aid us in this unique opportunity.

IAWP Busy Beaver Doug McSpadden stands with Gallatin Watershed Council staff Lilly McLane and Heather Priest, mapping a path for bird counts. Photo by Holly Hill.

If you are interested in volunteering with the IAWP Busy Beavers, please do not hesitate to reach out! Wherever your experience lies or whatever your strength is, we'd love your help. Contact Heather Priest at heather@gallatinwatershedcouncil.org.



IAWP photo courtesy of Studio MacLeod

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2022

by John Parker

Come and join in the fun during one of our area's **Christmas Bird Counts**. This holiday tradition is an opportunity for beginning and expert birders alike to get together for the day. If you are unable to join a count for the entire day, you can participate as a feeder watcher. Please contact the compiler if you would like to be a feeder watcher for one of the counts. For more information, 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

Thursday, December 15th
Compiler: Robin Wolcott (406) 581-5418
pajaros@wewolcotts.com (email preferred). *For more details, please contact the compiler.*

BOZEMAN

Saturday, December 17th
Compiler: John Parker (406) 586-5863
conundrumjp@gmail.com. *For more details, please contact the compiler.*

LIVINGSTON

Sunday, December 18th
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 18th
Compiler: Woody Martyn (406) 224-1476
woodymartyn@hotmail.com. *The compiler will arrange the 7:00 AM meeting location with the participants.*

Stellar's Jay photo by Kyle Moon.

American Robin photo by Kyle Moon.

WEST YELLOWSTONE

Sunday, December 18th
Compiler: Tut Fuentevilla (406) 646-7001
education@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com.
For more details, please contact the compiler.

THREE FORKS

Monday, December 26th
Compiler: John Parker (406) 586-5863
conundrumjp@gmail.com.
For more details, please contact the compiler.

RUBY VALLEY

Monday, January 2nd
Compiler: Tom Forwood (406) 570-6432
tjfishing75@gmail.com (email preferred).
For more details, please contact the compiler.

Pssst! Great Holiday Gift Ideas!

"Grandpa's Big Backyard Books" by John N. Mugaas. Order online at: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/4u71bAa8iaaRCRVwtghc1g

"Birds: Masters of the Air, Land & Water" by Tom Murphy. Order online at: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/AMrvg-yjRMWdIsdTvsImSQ

The 2022 Kestrel Season

by Paulette Epple

Steve Jorgenson Photography

This summer was a milestone for the American Kestrel Partnership (AKP) as they collected kestrel nesting data for their tenth year. Sacajawea Audubon Society has been a contributing partner right from the start! In that time period, our program has grown from no boxes used by kestrels the first two years to 18 boxes occupied this summer, with all data contributed to the AKP.

The ten years of data collected by the American Kestrel Partnership is being used in numerous studies. One finding has been that though kestrels are continuing to decline across most of their range, their population is declining much more rapidly in the east than in the west. Another observation has been that kestrels in the west have begun to migrate shorter distances and breed earlier to coincide with a shift in prey availability brought on by climate change. In the Treasure Valley of Idaho, where kestrel studies have been conducted for 30 years, kestrels are laying eggs almost three weeks earlier now than before. The genetically different eastern kestrel population is not exhibiting a similar timing shift. Unlike in other areas, the availability of prey peaks sharply in the northeast for only a short span of time. There, later nesting kestrels are missing the peak of prey and raising significantly fewer nestlings than those kestrels that nest early. For more information about these studies check out the AKP newsletters at https://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/newsletters

In our four-county SAS area, 2022 was a successful season for the kestrels. We fledged a nice round figure of 50 young kestrels from our boxes. We were able to band all 50 young plus one adult female that we caught on the nest. One shining success story of the season was that a box that Leo Freeman and Ron Farmer put up on Leo's land nine years ago was finally used! It had sat empty for eight seasons while Leo faithfully maintained and monitored it. This year two beautiful kestrels fledged from the box.

We are always disappointed to see that some kestrel pairs fail in their nesting attempts. This year five nests failed completely, either from predation or infertile eggs. With 74 eggs laid in our boxes and 50 nestlings surviving, we ended the season with a 68% success rate. Past year's success rates have varied between 43% and 81%. We will be responding to a recent call for productivity data for a new study being done by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a population modeling tool for kestrels.

Banding a 25-day-old male kestrel nestling. Photo by Holly Pippel.

Our chapter will continue to do what we can to benefit the kestrels: provide nest boxes, monitor nesting success, and band young, all in cooperation with the AKP. This project would not exist without the cooperation of private landowners who host our boxes. We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our landowner hosts, our volunteers who donate their time cleaning out and monitoring boxes, and our kestrel box sponsors who make this project possible. Special thanks to Alicia and Dennis Ochs, who built and donated four new boxes to replace those that were starting to fall apart.

CHECK IT OUT!

The conservation efforts by members of Sacajawea Audubon Society are recognized on pages 44 and 45 of the FALL 2022 issue of *Outside Bozeman* magazine.

UPDATE: Story Mill Community Park Feeding Station

by Lou Ann Harris

The feeders continue to be a popular stop at the bird blind in Story Mill Community Park! Sacajawea Audubon Society volunteers are keeping the feeders filled for hungry birds, whether they are migrating through or are year-round residents. Stop by and see the fun variety of birds that are visiting our feeding station. The latest notable guests in the nature preserve were a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Northern Saw-whet Owl! However, our bird seed fund is running low. On average, we spend $1,000 on bird feed each year.

We encourage and appreciate donations to keep the 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 (https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/donate). Or simply add a little extra amount earmarked for the feeding station as you renew your membership this month (https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas/). Regardless of how you donate, the Story Mill Park birds—and bird watchers—thank you for your support!

Thanks to all our volunteers who keep the feeders filled: Lucy Bikulcs, Brian Cassell, Paulette Epple, Andy Epple, John Harris, Lou Ann Harris, Beth Kaeding, Lynn Kaeding, Mark Lusch, Mary Maj, Adam Makhluf, Becky Ward, and Kevin Ward.

SAS Volunteer John Harris lowers a feeder for refilling. Photo by Lou Ann Harris.

YOU CAN BE A CLIMATE WATCH VOLUNTEER!

Since 2016, Climate Watch volunteers have collected data that National Audubon scientists are able to use in peer-reviewed research to document that birds are responding to climate change and shifting their ranges. You can join us in this effort by observing birds in your area—using our specific protocol—and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate.

Surveys take place January 15–February 15 and May 15–June 15 each year. Survey participation is open to the public, including all interested Audubon chapters and centers, in addition to organized groups and individuals with an interest in birds.

Participants are free to conduct their surveys on any one day during these time windows. Volunteers generally can complete one survey square in two to four hours in one morning (12 five-minute point counts per square).

Climate Watch focuses on these target species: Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch,

Red-breasted Nuthatch photo by Terri Narotzky.

Painted Bunting, Eastern Towhee, and Spotted Towhee.

Learn more and sign up at: https://www.audubon.org/news/how-join-climate-watch-community-science-program-audubon

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY WINTER BIRDING CLASSES

Bohemian Waxwing photo by Jerry Taylor

NEW Introduction to Birding Classes

Curious about birding but not sure if you're ready to commit to our three-week Beginning Birding Session in springtime? Want to learn some common birds without the overwhelm of spring migrants? This class is for you! We'll focus on identifying common—but never boring!—birds who live in Bozeman fall and winter and their fascinating lifestyles. *Chickadees, nuthatches, and waxwings, oh my!* We begin with a classroom session to learn some basics, and then venture out for a field trip.

Classroom: Thurs., Feb. 23rd, at Wild Birds Unlimited.

Field Trip: Sat., Feb. 25th, or Sat., March 4th (we'll choose based on weather), at Story Mill and Cherry River Parks.

Cost: $45 for Sacajawea Audubon Society members; $55 for non-members. **Maximum 8 students.** Supply lists will be provided upon registration. Binoculars available to borrow.

Contact Ashley Martens at ashmartens@yahoo.com to register and for more information.

WOW! Wonders of Winter: Bird/Plant Relationships

Explore the ecology and whimsey of three of our fascinating winter birds and their relationships to native plants. Learn how to identify each species, discover its unique lifestyle, and engage in mindful activities for deeper connection.

Townsend's Solitaire & Juniper: Fri., Feb. 3rd, 2–4 PM at the "M."

Bohemian Waxwing & Mountain Ash: Fri., March 3rd, at Gardner Park.

Canada Jay & Engelmann Spruce: Fri., March 31st, 2–4PM, in the Bridgers on snowshoes.

Cost: $30 each for SAS members; $40 for non-members.

Contact Ashley Martens at ashmartens@yahoo.com to register and for more information.

Good Company : Trees

Explore the ecology and wonder of three of our native trees. Learn how to identify each species, discover its unique lifestyle, and engage in mindful activities for deeper connection.

Douglas-Fir: Fri., Jan. 27th, 2–4 PM, at Triple Tree.

Limber Pine: Fri., Feb. 24th, 2–4 PM, at Drinking Horse.

Englemann Spruce: Fri., March 24th, 2–4 PM, in the Bridgers on snowshoes.

Cost: $30 each for SAS members; $40 for non-members.

Contact Ashley Martens at ashmartens@yahoo.com to register and for more information.

BAM
BOZEMAN ART MUSEUM

Thanks to SAS volunteers for bringing **The Great Migration Challenge Game** to the BAM home-school group in November.

SAS will collaborate with BAM and the **Bozeman Public Library** in the children's section of the library on **Saturday afternoon, December 3rd**.

The **BIRDS IN ART** exhibit will continue at BAM through December 15th. The museum is located at 2612 W. Main St., Suite B. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM. **Admission is free.**

LAST CHANCE TO GET BRIDGER RAPTOR PROJECT RAFFLE TICKETS!

There is nothing quite like observing fall raptor migration in the Bridger Mountains of Montana! For the past 31 years one of the most important localities to monitor migrating Golden Eagles in the western United States has been the Bridger Mountains, northeast of Bozeman, Montana. The Bridger monitoring site is located at the top of the ridge adjacent to the Bridger Bowl Ski area.

The elevation at the monitoring site is approximately 9,000 feet and is reached after a 2-mile hike that gains about 2,000 feet of elevation from the Bridger Bowl parking area. Two raptor identification experts count passing raptors from 17 species every day, weather permitting, from late August to early November. The raptor monitoring program data is used to prepare an annual report covering raptor population trends and is submitted to the Custer/Gallatin National Forest and Hawkwatch International. The report is available to Sacajawea Audubon Society members.

The Bridger Mountains Raptor Survey is funded and managed by Sacajawea Audubon Society and we are committed to continuing this management role for the foreseeable future.

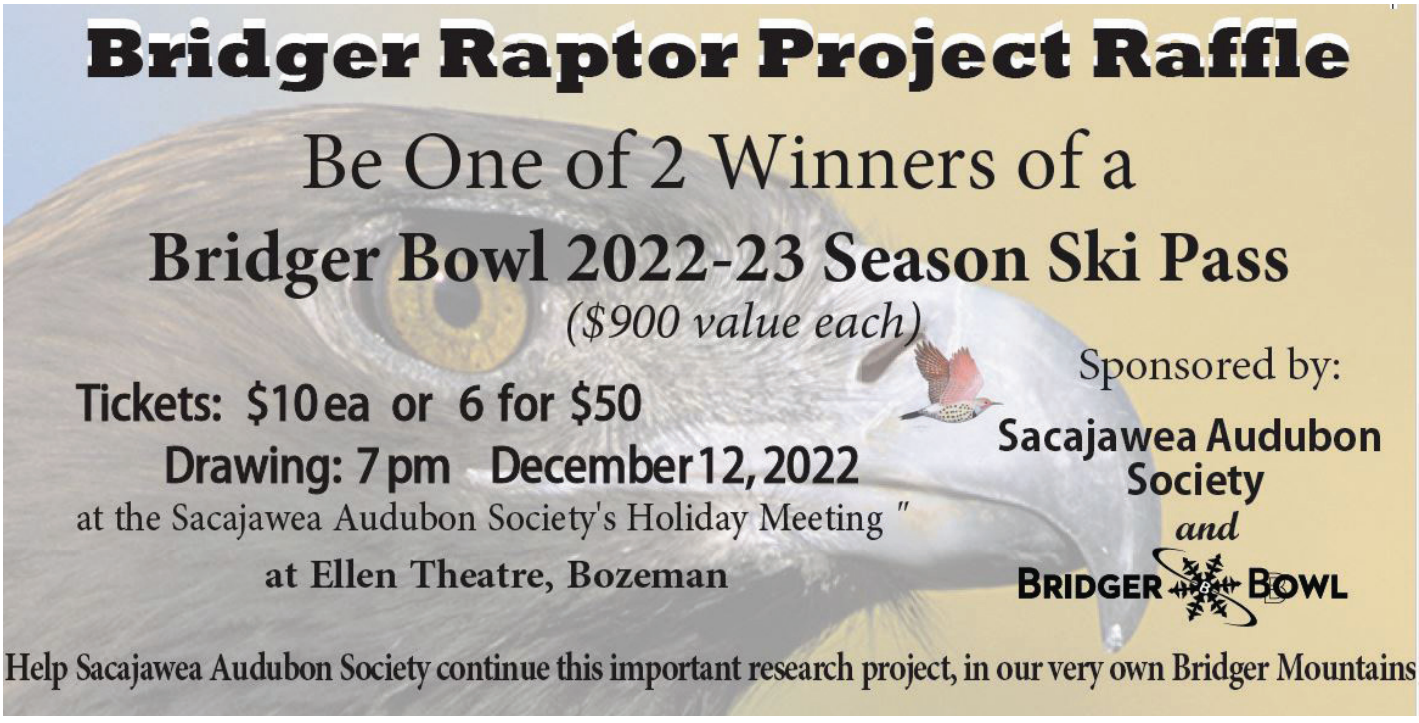
Continuation of this monitoring program is critical to provide the data needed to assess population trends in Golden Eagles and other raptors. **To help pay for the continuation of this program, for the past several years Bridger Bowl Ski Area has generously donated two Season Passes, valued at $900 each. We are extremely grateful for their contribution to this important project!**

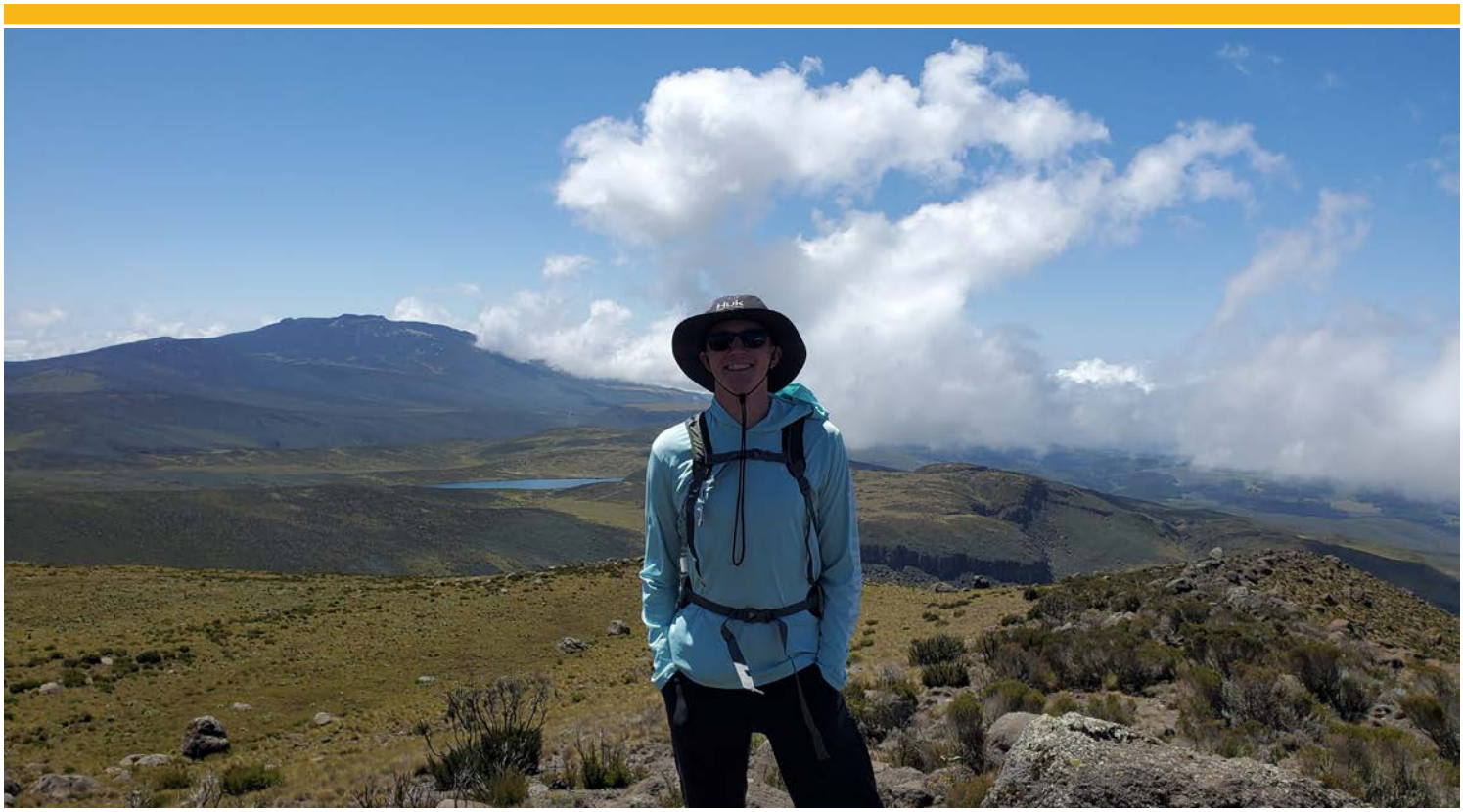
You, too, can support the continuation of this project by purchasing a **Bridger Raptor Project Raffle Ticket**. Tickets are **$10 each or 6 for $50**.

You can get raffle tickets several ways:

1. Enter online using only a debit card by scanning this QR code:
2. Email membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org;
3. Call or text (406) 600-6666 for tickets; or
4. **The LAST CHANCE to buy raffle tickets will be at the special meeting at The Ellen on December 12th. The drawing will be held that evening.**

BE ONE OF TWO WINNERS OF A 2022/23 ADULT SEASON SKI PASS TO BRIDGER BOWL! Note: if you have already purchased your season pass, Bridger Bowl will reimburse you if you win!





MEET KAM DORRINGTON, OUR NEWEST BOARDROOM BOBCAT!

Sacajawea Audubon Society's Board of Directors is pleased to welcome **Kameron (Kam) Dorrington** as our Boardroom Bobcat for 2022/2023.

Kam has a keen interest in our Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve as he is currently working towards his Bachelors of Science in Fish and Wildlife Biology at Montana State University with anticipated completion in May 2023.

Kam enjoys the outdoors and over the past several years has been employed in jobs that provided him with a connection to the outdoors, having worked for both outdoor water rental equipment and landscaping companies.

Before graduating with honors from Capital High School (Helena, MT) in May 2019, Kam had joined the U.S. Army National Guard in October 2018 and completed Army Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in the summer of 2019. Since Fall 2019, he has been a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadet at Montana State University and an Army National Guardsman. He has successfully completed on-going training to become a Second Lieutenant.

Kam has long been dedicated to serving others and has been active with LIFE Covenant Church (Helena), serving on two missions: one in 2016 in El Paso, Texas, helping renovate and serve the church there; and more recently in 2019 leading a four-person mission team teaching English in Guatemala.

Kam has been a pleasure to meet and proves to be thoughtful and dedicated. We look forward to Kam providing a stronger connection between SAS and MSU!

What is a Boardroom Bobcat?

from the MSU Boardroom Bobcat website

"The Boardroom Bobcat Program is an experiential program that places MSU upper-level undergraduate and graduate students as non-voting members of nonprofit boards.

"What if MSU could offer more productive partnerships with nonprofits, which meet the greatest needs in our community while further engaging students in learning and engagement through service? That's exactly the question that Leadership Institute director, Carmen McSpadden, asked when devising this program . . . which places upper level undergraduate and graduate students on nonprofit boards to serve as non-voting members for the academic year, launched in August 2016.

"The mission of Boardroom Bobcats is to develop students to become catalysts for change who seek life-long commitments to community involvement and board service, creating value and lasting impact for nonprofit organizations and the greater community. As a reciprocal partnership, nonprofits gain insights and a fresh perspective from MSU students while training future board leaders. Students gain practical boardroom experience, familiarity with the nonprofit sector, mentee opportunities, and lifelong leadership skills.

"The program consists of regular attendance of students at board meetings and complementary leadership trainings in nonprofit board work coordinated by the Leadership Institute."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2023!

RENEW YOUR SAS ANNUAL LOCAL MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) encourages all of you who enjoy our field trips and monthly programs or support our conservation work to join/renew your local chapter membership. 100% of your local membership dues will ***directly*** support SAS educational and conservation programs.

Even if you belong to the National Audubon Society (NAS), we need your support through a local SAS membership. As an SAS member, you'll enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that your annual dues are used locally for conservation right here in your own neighborhood. Please help us ensure a secure future for what remains of the wildlife and wildlands in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana by joining our flock as we fly high together.

SAS Members Are ...

- Protecting working lands 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 governments 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 programs with 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!

Join or renew online: https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/give

Thank You!

Sacajawea Audubon Society's Board of Directors

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2023

Individual or Family | January–December 2023

❒ **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 is Needed

Name _____

Address _____
(Street or PO Box)

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

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Sacajawea Audubon Society Newsletter is sent by email. ❒ I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me.

We do not share your information except with National Audubon Society, 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!

DEC 22 newsletter

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.

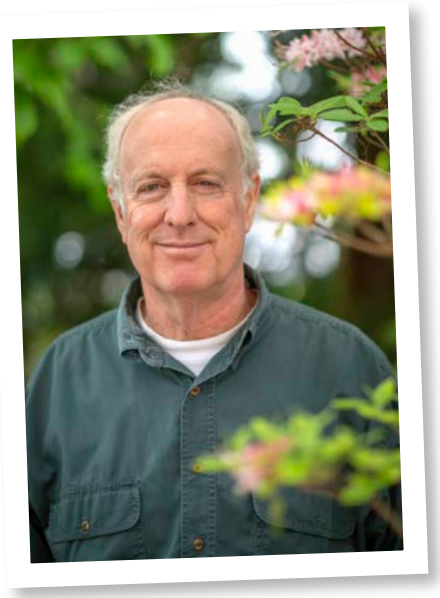
Change of Address: If you have a change of address or are away, please notify membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

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

Friday, January 6th, *at* **7 PM (doors open 6 PM)** *at the* **Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture**



Gallatin Valley Earth Day, in partnership with Sacajawea Audubon Society and the Valley of Flowers chapter of Montana Native Plant Society, is pleased to present a talk by best-selling author and native landscaping advocate, Doug Tallamy. Doug will discuss findings from his books and share simple steps that each of us can take to reverse declining biodiversity in our world.

Throughout the U.S., we have fragmented the habitats that support biodiversity by the way we have landscaped our cities, suburbs, and agricultural lands. Mr. Tallamy brings a new approach to conservation that starts in our own yards. By landscaping with native plant communities that sustain food webs and biodiversity, we can enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them. If we do this in half of the land in America that is currently mowed lawns, we can create a Home-grown National Park—a 20-million-acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain.

Doug Tallamy photo by Rob Cardillo