MARCH 2023

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 13th, 2023, 6:30 PM, Hope Lutheran Church

"The Impact of Viruses on Honey Bee Health" *with*

Dr. Michelle Flenniken, Associate Professor, Montana State University

Dr. Michelle Flenniken

Honey bees are the primary insect pollinators of U.S. crops, valued at approximately $17 billion annually. Unfortunately, for the past ten years, annual honey bee colony losses have averaged 33%. Join Dr. Michelle Flenniken, Montana State University (MSU) microbiologist and co-director of MSU's Pollinator Health Center, for an exciting conversation on what is affecting honey bee colony health and the importance of basic and applied science to address this important global challenge. Dr. Flenniken will highlight research from her program at MSU and discuss the impact of viruses on honey bee health at the colony, individual bee, and cellular levels. Her presentation will include a description of the common honey bee infecting viruses and their associated systems and transmission routes and a description of the mechanisms bees have evolved to combat viral infections (i.e., antiviral responses), and include some details on honey bee genetics. Dr. Flenniken will also convey how "basic, fundamental scientific studies" relate to the long-term goals of reducing honey bee colony losses that are attributed to virus infection.

Photo by Kathy Garvey.

Dr. Flenniken is an Associate Professor in the Plant Sciences Department at Montana State University. She is a microbiologist investigating honey bee host–pathogen interactions. Michelle received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Iowa, then was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana before obtaining her Ph.D. in Microbiology from Montana State University. She did postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco prior to becoming a faculty member at MSU.

The in-person meeting will be held Monday, March 13th, at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf (off S. 19th). A social begins at 6:30 PM; the program begins at 7:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups.

For virtual attendance please register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3210457297372503 89. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Attendees—whether in person or virtual—are encouraged to share their bird sightings at this and every monthly program. Share the program on social media using the hashtags #sasbirds, #sacaaudubon, #conservation, and #bees.

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.

IAWP photo by Amy Kelley Hoitsma.

Message *from* SAS President Chris Nixon

The Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) Board of Directors just submitted our 2022 Annual Report to National Audubon. You can be proud of more than 18,000 hours of volunteer work that our members have contributed to all the important local projects this past year.

We highlighted the expansion of SAS's Bird Friendly Landscapes and Homes Program, the completion of the 31st year of the Bridger Raptor Count, and our continued progress with the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve.

One of the things we can celebrate is that half of our Board of Directors are under the age of 40. Most Audubon Chapter Boards are made up largely of individuals age 65 and older. As we Audubon members age, it is important to actively recruit those who will be tomorrow's leaders and who will build upon the successes of those who preceded. Luckily SAS is located in an area of outdoor enthusiasts of all ages who value nature.

With that being said, there are openings on SAS's Board of Directors. Please consider joining the Board of SAS—regardless of how young or old you may be. A sincere positive attitude and love of birds is what truly matters. You could be exactly the person we are missing from our Board! Contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Aaron Clausen, at aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org if you have interest in being on the board of SAS or if you know someone you think would be a great addition to the SAS Board.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR RECORDS:

Was your check lost in the Mail?

Like other organizations in Bozeman, Sacajawea Audubon Society has become aware of mail that did not reach us this past fall. If you mailed a check that has not been cashed or for which you did not receive acknowledgement, please reach out to us at: treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

President	Chris Nixon pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer (acting)	Loreene Reid treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Emma Narotzky sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Board Members

Billy Burton	billyburton@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Aaron Clausen	aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Travis Kidd	education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Frank Marchak	frankmarchak@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Kyle Moon	programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Loreene Reid	loreener@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vicki Saab	vickisaab@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Janet Winnie	janetwinnie@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Bobcat Board member Kam Dorrington	boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Activity Leaders

Education Chair	Travis Kidd education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Co-Chairs	Paulette Epple conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org Lou Ann Harris louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Field Trips, Bird Sightings	John Parker birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality	Rebecca Himsl hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Membership	Loreene Reid membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter	Terri Narotzky newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Programs	Kyle Moon programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Website	**Looking for Volunteer** webmaster@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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
Newsletter Design	Amy Kelley Hoitsma aok@mcn.net

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: MAR. 2023

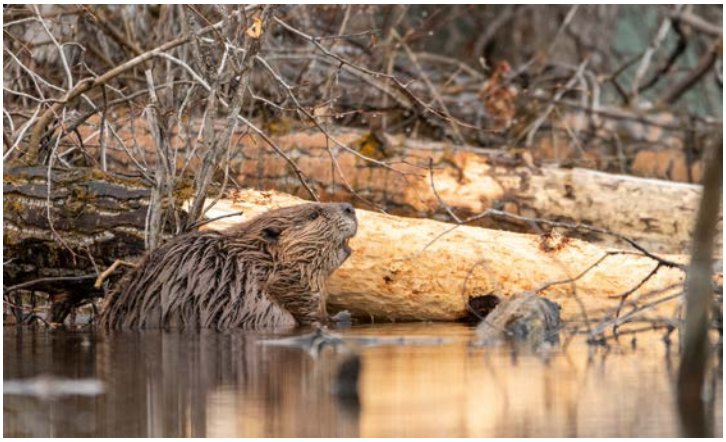
THE WETLAND PRESERVATION PROJECT (WPP) was initiated to accomplish Sacajawea Audubon Society's mission to protect and restore increasingly rare wetland and riparian habitats in our region, and to provide educational opportunities and enjoyment for generations to come. The IAWP is the first of our wetland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

VERY GOOD NEWS *for the* BEAVER *of the* IAWP *and* SW MONTANA!

By Chris Nixon

One of our top ten goals for the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) is to showcase beaver as a keystone species. Now the beaver at the IAWP and across SW Montana are going to get even more support.

Montana Freshwater Partners (MFP) is partnering with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Defenders of Wildlife (DOW), and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) to hire and host a Beaver Conflict Resolution Specialist in 2023. The Specialist will be based out of MFP's Livingston office and will have the potential to address beaver conflicts throughout southwest MT using nonlethal resolution methods. The goals of the program include building greater tolerance for beavers in southwest MT, reducing beaver conflicts, and providing education and outreach around beavers and restoration. This position will be modeled after the very successful pilot program launched in Missoula in 2019 with the Clark Fork Coalition, DOW, and NWF. More information can be found at: https://clarkfork.org/our-work/what-we-do/restore-the-best/beaver-conflict-resolution/



IAWP beaver. Photo by Kyle Moon.

MFP reached out to the SAS Wetland Preservation Project (WPP) Committee to partner on the project, as our organizations share so many common goals in protecting local wetland environments. Our WPP Committee decided and the SAS Board of Directors voted to contribute $5,000 to support this much-needed position for 2023. The NWF and DOW are providing the majority of funding for this position. Additional funds are still being solicited with hopes to extend the term of this seasonal position and ensure its sustainability into the future. As a funder, SAS will be recognized as a project partner on the MFP website and in their outreach materials.

For almost four years MFP has enthusiastically partnered with SAS to restore the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. Together, we are stepping up at a local level to address the loss and degradation of 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.

If you have beaver related issues or conflicts on your property or know of issues on other properties in the area, just be aware that you have a new resource for non-lethal action. Feel free to reach out to lswartz@freshwaterpartners.org with any questions or project ideas. There are many ways to make beaver welcome again along the waterways of the region. More information to come!

WORLD WETLAND DAY 2023

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold and joined us around the fire to celebrate World Wetlands Day, February 2nd, at the IAWP. Some of those attending were (left to right) Loreene Reid, Jean McInnes, Evette Allison, Yvonne Rudman, Frank Marchak, Chandler Dayton, Janette Winnie, Meredith Bartley and Benjamin Clos.

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY 2023 EVENTS

More info at www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org

Imvelo Safari Lodges photo

AFRICAN INSPIRATIONS: Conservation Successes in Hwange National Park

with Zimbabwean Pro Guide Mark Butcher

Friday, March 3rd, 7 PM, Hope Lutheran Church

Register for virtual attendance at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1797407271045757789

Join Zimbabwean Pro Guide Mark Butcher as he shares success stories from the front lines of conservation in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. Mark is visiting Bozeman from his home in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where he works as the managing director of Imvelo Safari Lodges in Hwange National Park.

MSU photo

SOLUTIONS FOR MONTANA'S TROUT FISHERIES FACING A CHANGING CLIMATE

with Connor Parrish, Trout Unlimited

Thurs., March 9th, 7 PM, Hope Lutheran Church

Register for virtual attendance at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4057468815025551964

As our climate warms and clean water supplies dwindle, what can we do to save our trout fisheries? Connor Parrish is a Project Manager for Trout Unlimited. He has a B.S. in Natural Resource Sciences and an M.S. in Biology with an emphasis in fisheries ecology. Currently, Connor focuses on habitat and water quality issues impacting the Gallatin Watershed's treasured trout fishery.

RISK AND RESILIENCE FOR MONTANA'S TROUT FISHERIES UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

with Tim Cline, Montana State University

Thurs., March 30th, 7 PM at the Hope Lutheran Church

Register for virtual attendance at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/963887297161578078

Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the University of Montana studied how climate change affected trout fisheries across 3,100 miles of rivers in Montana from 1983 to 2017. They found that over the past several decades, Montana's trout fishing economy was resilient in the face of climate extremes. However, they also found that 35% of Montana's cold-water habitats may no longer be suitable for trout by 2080, resulting in the loss of $192 million per year in state revenue. Join lead author of this study, Tim Cline, to find out how Montana fisheries can become more resilient in the face of a warming climate.

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY FUN RUN

to benefit the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve

Sat., April 22nd, 9 AM, Gallatin County Regional Park

For more information and to register for the race go to https://winddrinkers.org/trailhead/races/earth_day/

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Sat., April 22nd, 10 AM–3 PM, Emerson Cultural Center

Exhibits, talks, short films, live music, food, and children's activities including a 10 AM Puppet Show with Random Acts of Silliness. More info at gallatinvalleyearthday.org

SAVE THE DATE!

wings across the big sky — Montana Audubon

Wings Across the Big Sky

This annual Montana birding festival is being organized by Montana Audubon and this year's local host chapter, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon.

June 9-11, 2023, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana

https://mtaudubon.org/outreach/montana-bird-festival

Gallatin Valley Kestrel Found Near Veracruz, Mexico
Our First Kestrel Band Encounter!

By Paulette Epple

A question I'm often asked is: "Where do our kestrels go during the winter?" Well, now we know where at least one of them went. Band #1893-44052 was placed on a 20-day old male nestling on the Flying D Ranch in July of 2021. On February 8th of this year, the same bird was recaptured near Tlaxcala, Mexico, between Veracruz and Mexico City. This international bird had flown approximately 2,000 miles to spend the winter far south in Mexico.

During seven years of our kestrel nest box project, we have banded over 300 nestlings, plus a few adults. This is the very first band encounter that we have received, which makes it very noteworthy. The kestrel was captured live by a University of Veracruz grad student who is studying contamination in American kestrels. Blood and feather samples were taken before it was released in good condition back into the wild. We hope the kestrel finds its way back to Montana this April for the breeding season!

Our star international traveler! Photo by Lilian Crisanto Téllez of Universidad Veracruzana.

SPONSOR A KESTREL NESTING BOX IN 2023!

Watchful kestrel mom and growing family. Photo by Sara Schulwitz.

Here is your chance to sponsor a kestrel nest box and learn more about our smallest falcon. Sponsorship costs $50 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 kestrel nesting season begins, you will periodically receive emailed updates, photos, and stories from the field. At the end of the season, we will send out a complete list of all the boxes with information on nesting activity, hatching, and nestling success.

A kestrel box sponsorship makes a great gift! Or you can sponsor a box in memory of a loved one. Proceeds will fund the expenses of maintaining the 70+ nest boxes in the kestrel program, as well as continuing Sacajawea Audubon Society's other conservation projects.

You can sign up for a kestrel box sponsorship by donating online at: https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/sponsor-a-kestrel-nest-box.

Or you can fill out the form below and send a check to: **Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771.** Please write "Kestrel Box Program" on the check. Be sure to include your email so we can send you reports!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

OF SPONSORED BOXES _____ x $50/BOX = $_____ ENCLOSED

IS THIS SPONSORSHIP A MEMORIAL? ____ IN WHOSE NAME? _____

Update on the 2020 Trumpeter Swan Illegal Killing

By Chris Nixon

Trumpeter Swans photo by Lou Ann Harris.

Many of you may recall that in March of 2020, Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) provided a $1,000 donation to the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) TipMont program to help with the investigation into the illegal killing of several Trumpeter Swans that were shot around February 19, 2020, at Central Park Pond near Manhattan, MT.

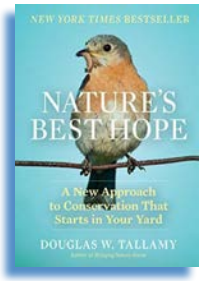
These TipMont donations are held by Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation until the FWP Law Enforcement (LE) determines a need to provide a reward associated with the particular case.

Unfortunately, the investigation never led to any information or arrest in this incident and the case has been closed due to lack of evidence. Normally when this happens, the contributed funds (less the Foundation's administrative fee) are either:

- transferred to the "general" TipMont account where they can be used to support any LE investigation deemed appropriate by FWP LE;
- made available to FWP LE (either statewide or to a specific Region) to be used to support LE efforts (i.e., equipment purchases); or,
- returned to the donor.

The SAS Board discussed the matter and chose the second option by making SAS's prior $1,000 donation available to FWP LE within Region 3, thus supporting any future similar LE efforts here locally. So, your support of this TipMont program will go to good use. Let's all hope this will have been the last wanton slaughter of Trumpeter Swans at Central Park Pond.

Now Available *in a* Library Near You!



Thanks to a generous donation from Dana and Bjorn Sauerwein, Sacajawea Audubon Society was able to purchase two cases of conservationist Douglas Tallamy's best-selling book *Nature's Best Hope*. We have proudly donated copies of the book to the following area libraries:

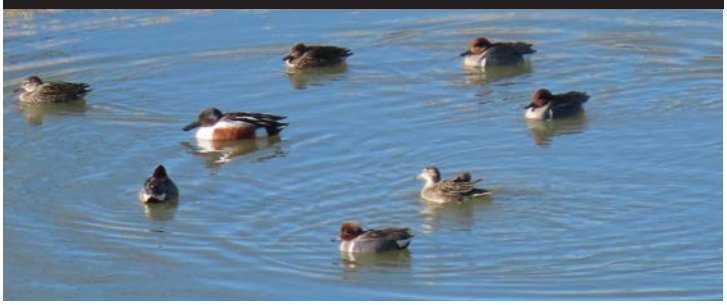
- Big Sky Community Library
- Big Timber Carnegie Public Library
- Dillon Public Library
- Gardiner Community Library
- Madison Valley Public Library
- Manhattan Community Library
- Three Forks Community Library
- West Yellowstone Public Library
- Meagher County City Library

To the Bozeman Public Library we donated a "book club kit" of ten books, which will be made available for use by book clubs in the area.

We want to make this book available to everyone who wants to do something good for the environment. With Tallamy's message of "A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard," we can each participate in one of the great conservation movements of our time.

A big shout-out of thanks to the Sauerwein family!

Plan to visit the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve for WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, Saturday, May 13, 2023. This year's theme is WATER.



Among the featured birds for WMBD 2023, the Northern Shoveler (shown surrounded by Green-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal) is a species that need wetlands and open water for migration, wintering, and breeding. Photo by Terri Narotzky.

WOW! Wonders of Winter: Bird/Plant Relationships *with Ashley Martens*

Explore the ecology and whimsey of two of our fascinating winter birds and their relationships to native plants.

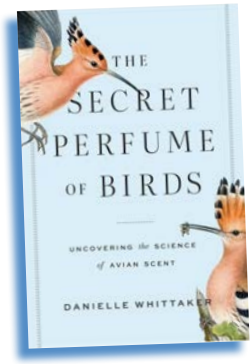
Bohemian Waxwing & Mountain Ash:
Fri., March 3rd, at Gardner Park.

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

Cost: $30 each for SAS members; $40 for non-members. Register at: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/hwNcDJQ3f163a9BHGg0maQ

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY BOOK CLUB NEWS

Come join us on March 15th from 6:30–7:45 PM for our next book club meeting, either virtually or in person at Hope Lutheran Church. We will be discussing *The Secret Perfume of Birds: Uncovering the Science of Avian Scent* by Danielle J. Whittaker. Please bring your own hot drink to go with our refreshments.



The puzzling lack of evidence for the peculiar but widespread belief that birds have no sense of smell irked evolutionary biologist Danielle Whittaker. Exploring the science behind the myth led her on an unexpected quest investigating mysteries from how juncos win a fight to why cowbirds smell like cookies. In *The Secret Perfume of Birds*—part science, part intellectual history, and part memoir—Whittaker blends humor, clear writing, and a compelling narrative to describe how scent is important not just for birds but for all animals, including humans.

Whittaker engagingly describes how emerging research has uncovered birds' ability to produce complex chemical signals that influence their behavior, including where they build nests, when they pick a fight, and why they fly away. Mate choice appears to be particularly influenced by smell. Whittaker's pioneering studies suggest that birds' signals are produced by symbiotic bacteria that manufacture scents in the oil that birds stroke on their feathers when preening. In addition to a range of birds, Whittaker examines the smelly chemicals of all kinds of creatures, from iguanas and bees to monkeys and humans.

If you would like to be included in monthly email reminders or attend the meeting virtually, please email Elisabeth Swanson at elsswa@gmail.com or call her at (406) 570-8325. For other information, email Hilary Johnson at ralphhilary@gmail.com or call her at (406) 599-1446.

Contact John Winnie at jwinniejr@msn.com or Holbrook Travel at holbrooktravel.com for more information.

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's 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!

MAR'23 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 10th 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

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION

By Chris Nixon

There are often bad eggs in the clutch. This seems to be abundantly clear in Helena, with numerous state legislators putting forth bills that would severely set back or undo years of protections of grizzly bears, wolves, other wildlife, and Montana's treasured natural environment. We encourage you to do your best to follow what is going on during this legislative session. One good way to do that is to sign up for Montana Audubon's *Action Alerts* at mtaudubon.org/conservation-policy/legislative-participation.

We lovers of Montana's natural environment can easily find ourselves feeling depressed during Montana's legislative sessions—and it is not for the lack of sun and Vitamin D at our latitude. But, remember, the beautiful landscapes and abundant wildlife are there because others took part in past legislative sessions to speak up for Montana's natural environment.

Use your voice, your skills, and your passion to support birds, wildlife, clean air, clean water, renewable energy, and our right to a clean and healthful environment. Montanan's right to a clean and healthful environment is part of Montana's Constitution. Many of our legislators would do well to re-read it. Contact your legislator with your concerns and then get out and enjoy this wild Montana we all cherish!