APRIL 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, April 10th, 2023, 6:30 PM, Hope Lutheran Church

Youpa Stein out skiing near her home.

This presentation provides an overview of how every stage of plastic use causes harm to health and promotes environmental injustice; how it causes harm to humans, wildlife, and the ecosystems that sustain all of us; and how we can work together to reduce the toxic overproduction of single-use plastics.

The physical and chemical components of plastics contaminate our water, air, soil, and the bodies of life forms on earth. Plastics have been found in beer, salt, earthworms, apples, lettuces—as well as placentas and deep in the lungs of living humans. Plastics pollute and contribute to climate change at every stage, including when plastics are made, used, and disposed of. The so-called "life cycle" of plastics creates a long-lasting legacy of damage to the health of earth's biological systems. It is important to stop the toxic overproduction of single-use plastics and stop the greenwashing and false solutions. We can't recycle our way out of this problem. Incineration and methods such as waste-to-fuel and chemical recycling are not the answer. We need to support a regenerative circular economy and take action to stop the harm and injustice at every stage of plastic pollution.

Youpa Stein is an artist and concerned citizen who works to raise awareness about plastic pollution and the related health issues and environmental injustice caused by plastics through giving talks, writing, creating art, and working toward policy solutions. Her belief in the rights of nature fundamentally shapes her work. Youpa was born in Montana. She volunteers for the Beyond Plastics Speakers Bureau and is a volunteer Co-Chair of Families for a Livable Climate Plastics Working Group. Youpa agrees with writer, farmer, and activist, Wendell Berry in his belief that the care of the earth is our most ancient and worthiest responsibility.

The in-person meeting will be held Monday, April 10th 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/5316311772294317401. 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 #plasticpollution.

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.

Message *from* SAS President Chris Nixon

Spring is my favorite season of the year as it brings hope, renewal, and reawakening to the natural world and to my spirit. It feels like a time bursting with new energy.

With spring we look for that burst of new energy, new ideas, and new faces as we fill vacant positions on the Sacajawea Audubon Society Board of Directors.

Travis Kidd with Florida Scrub-Jay.

Travis Kidd, who has served on the SAS Board for six years (three terms) has decided to step down from the Board in order to meet other demands. He remains committed to SAS and helping out on specific SAS projects. Travis has served as chair of our SAS Education Committee for much of his time on the Board. It has been wonderful to get to know Travis and follow his interests for the past few years. I am glad he plans on remaining involved with SAS. Let's all give a HUGE shout out of thanks to Travis for his years of service to SAS!

The position of Education Committee is now in need of a new chairperson. It is not necessary to be on the Board in order to chair the Education Committee. We also have two other unfilled spaces on the SAS Board as we previously voted to allow for expansion of the Board.

If you have contemplated getting more involved with SAS, I encourage you to reach out to our Nominations Committee Chair, Aaron Clausen, for an SAS Board application (see box below). You may be the one to bring the next burst of hope, renewal, and reawakened energy to the SAS Board of Directors and/or our Education Committee!

SAVE THE DATE *for the* SAS ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 8th will be the **SAS annual meeting and potluck**. Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share. Plates and utensils will be provided—please bring your own mug. The potluck begins at 6:00 PM; a brief meeting and board elections begin at 7:00 PM, followed by keynote speaker Ed Harper. For more information on the potluck, contact Rebecca Himsl at hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

SAS is accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on the Board of Directors. To get an application or learn more, please contact Aaron Clausen at: aaronclausen@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	**Looking for Volunteer** 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: APRIL 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.

Beaver Conflict Resolution Program Expanding to SW Montana

by Leah Swartz

Beavers and the dams they create provide many benefits including natural water storage, flood attenuation, wildfire breaks, and high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife. However, they are often considered a nuisance animal, due to their tendency to dam culverts and irrigation systems, or cut trees. These conflicts are often resolved through lethal means (trapping/shooting) and/or dam removal. These management approaches are costly; they limit the ability to realize the environmental benefits of having beavers on the landscape and often don't permanently solve the problem, as beavers are quick to recolonize good habitat.

Montana Freshwater Partners is partnering with the National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, Sacajawea Audubon Society, and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks to launch a cost-share and technical assistance program for landowners and land managers experiencing beaver conflicts in southwest Montana. Our goals are to build greater tolerance for beavers on the landscape, reduce human/beaver conflicts, and provide education and outreach around beavers and restoration.

Nick Hagan has been selected to lead this program in 2023 as the Southwest Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Specialist. Nick is a member of the Beaver Institute's BeaverCorps, which provides technical training on non-lethal beaver management techniques. He also has experience implementing beaver mimicry stream and wetland restoration projects. Nick will be working out of the Montana Freshwater Partners office in Livingston this summer and is available to help address beaver conflicts throughout the region. Nick can be reached at beavers@freshwaterpartners.org.

Nick Hagan shares a beaver skull at MAP Brewing Pint Night.

SPECIAL IAWP TOURS & ACTIVITIES for 2023

Curious about the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) that Sacajawea Audubon Society is restoring and enhancing? Eager to see some great birds without leaving the city? Join IAWP guides for **Friday morning bird walks**.

Time: 8:00 AM–10:00 AM. Meet at Café M (777 E. Main St.) for a brief talk about the IAWP and our vision for its future. We will then take a short walk to the preserve. Bring your binocs and your enthusiasm for birds and wetlands while we explore this special area. All birding abilities welcome. No registration needed. For more information, email wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org

2023 DATES:

Friday, May 5, 2023

Friday, May 12, 2023

Saturday, May 13, 2023
Celebrate World Bird Migration Day at the IAWP

Friday, May 19, 2023

Friday, May 26, 2023

Friday, June 2, 2023

Friday, June 9, 2023

Friday, June 16, 2023

Friday, June 23, 2023

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: APRIL 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.

Frank Marchak captured a majestic Bald Eagle at the IAWP.

IAWP Busy Beaver Volunteer Program

BUSY BEAVERS
Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve

by Loreene Reid

People taking action for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of wetlands and watersheds…An opportunity for people to understand the values of wetlands and the watersheds they support…Inspiring our members through "hands-on work" to become advocates for wetland conservation and participate in relevant policymaking, planning, and management… Volunteering as an Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve Busy Beaver can be a unique opportunity to get involved with your local urban wetlands and watershed!

We have many different volunteer positions ranging from one-time volunteer events to long-term volunteer positions for all different skill sets.

Our 2023 season is ramping up in April. So join us by going to https://bozemanwetlands.org/WP/become-a-busy-beaver for more information and to sign up for the IAWP Busy Beavers 2023 Volunteer Team.

Sacajawea Audubon Society and Gallatin Watershed Council are small, non-profit grassroots organizations. We are highly dependent on our incredible crew of dedicated volunteers. **Thank you for sharing your time and talents!**

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY VOTES TO RETAIN NAME

As you are likely aware, on March 15, 2023, the National Audubon Society's (NAS) Board of Directors announced that after a lengthy process to examine its name—in light of the personal history of its namesake, John James Audubon—it decided to retain the name of the organization. The decision was made after considering many factors, including the complexity of John James Audubon's legacy and how the decision would impact NAS's mission to protect birds and the places they need long into the future.

Without doubt, some NAS members will agree with the Board's decision and others will differ. But, we should keep at the forefront that WE ALL can coalesce around the mission and task of NAS—that of saving and protecting birds and the habitats they depend on.

Please see the **Open Letter from Dr. Elizabeth Gray**, CEO of NAS, on the NSA website, as well as the many other articles provided.

https://www.audubon.org/menu/press-room

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY 2023 EVENTS

More info at www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org

LECTURES

Monday, April 10, 7 PM: "Plastics in the Wild: The Impact of Plastic Pollution on Wildlife—and You!" with Youpa Stein of the Families for a Livable Climate Plastics Working Group. This is a partner event with Sacajawea Audubon Society at the Hope Lutheran Church. Register for virtual attendance at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5316311772294317401

Thursday, April 13, 7 PM: "Our Backyard—How Can We Support Wildlife & the Ecological Integrity of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem?" with George Wuerthner, at the Hope Lutheran Church's Fireside Room. Register at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6497365381409541977

WORKSHOPS

Friday, April 14, 5-7 PM: "Animal Communication–Part 1." Lecture with Cedar Mathers-Winn of Montana Outdoor Science School.

Sunday, April 16, 12-3 PM: "Animal Communication–Part 2." Field session with Cedar Mathers-Winn of Montana Outdoor Science School. Register at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/eZqG1y2pT1n1aemTU6oMUg

FILM

Thursday, April 20, 7 PM: "Path of the Panther" film with the Bozeman Doc Series at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture (partner event). https://pathofthepanther.com/

GALLATIN VALLEY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 22, 10 AM–3 PM at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- 10:00 AM: "Magic Monster Show" with Random Acts of Silliness in the Emerson's Crawford Theater

EXHIBITS at Grand Ave. & the Emerson Ballroom (1st floor)

FESTIVAL TALKS in the Emerson's Weaver Room (2nd floor)

- 11:00 AM: "Unintended Consequences of Trapping Wildlife—How to Free your Pet from a Trap" with Clare Beelman of Footloose MT
- 12:00 PM: "Living with Bears" with Sabrina Bradford of Montana Fish & Wildlife
- 1:00 PM: "Creating Backyard Habitats for Pollinators" with Abi Saeed of MSU Extension
- 2:00 PM: "Landscaping for the Birds—Plant a Bird Friendly Backyard" with Victoria Saab of Sacajawea Audubon Society

Join the Earth Day Fun Run!

You can be a runner, spectator, or volunteer on **Saturday morning, April 22nd** at **9 AM** for the **5 K Fun Run** at the **Gallatin County Regional Park**.

There will be human-powered blenders creating smoothies and treats for all. Runners will receive a t-shirt with the SAS IAWP logo.

For more information and to register, visit https://winddrinkers.org/trailhead/races/earth_day/

If you'd like to sign up to volunteers for the race day, visit https://winddrinkers.org/trailhead/fun_runs/volunteers/?sheet_id=60

Questions? Want to help? Please contact SAS Board Member Janet Winnie at janetwinnie@msn.com

SAS Board Member Aaron Clausen discussing plant species with Kale Hesford, Rochelle Hesford, Kessie Strausser, and Ronan Donovan.

Race proceeds will benefit Sacajawea Audubon Society, and will be used to help plan and implement a **BioBlitz** this summer at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP). The primary goal of a Bioblitz—also known as a biological inventory or biological census—is to get an overall count of the macroinvertebrates, plants, wildlife, and other organisms that live in the IAWP. Participates will become a biologist for the day, learning from local experts how to identify and collect wetland data. They will then go out into the IAWP to gather and record data to create an Ecological Snapshot of the wetland! **Participation is free and open to the public.**

2023 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BIRDING WORKSHOPS

Photo by Lou Ann Harris.

Birds inspire curiosity and a sense of wonder. Ever wonder who exactly is whistling "Hey Sweetie!" outside your window in the wee hours of the morning? Or how to identify a bird based on a flash of yellow feathers? Or what the little brown bird in the woodpile is called? Or why she's there in the first place? To help you answer all these questions and more, Sacajawea Audubon Society is offering a **Beginning Birding Workshop**, **Intermediate Birding Short Courses**, and a **Deep Nature Connection Series**.

NEW THIS YEAR, naturalists Ashley Martens and Cedar Mathers-Winn will be teaming up to offer **Art & Science of Bird Language** through the lenses of primitive survival skills and animal communication.

All courses (except Art & Science of Bird Language) will be taught by Ashley Martens, M.S. Ashley is an experienced birder, naturalist, and outdoor educator. Ashley's approach to teaching birding engages all of your senses to tune in to what you see, hear, and love about the wild beings around us. Contact Ashley at 208-883-4998 or truenatureed@gmail.com for more information.

Register for all classes at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/z6-Cv3H9dCAFcdyulrTijQ

BEGINNING BIRDING IN FOREST AND FIELD WORKSHOP

Participants will be introduced to the basics of birding through three evening classroom sessions and three field trips to a variety of habitats in the valley. We will cover bird families, common birds in our region, and what to look and listen for when seeking out the identity of a bird. There will be two sections of this course this year. Section A will have field trips on Friday mornings. Section B will have field trips on Saturday mornings. Sections A & B will meet together for classroom sessions.

Classroom Sessions

Sections A & B: Wednesday evenings (May 10, May 31, June 21), 6:00-7:30 PM at Wild Birds Unlimited store on 19th St.

Field Trips

Section A: Friday mornings (May 12, June 2, June 23), 7–10 AM at various locations.

Section B: Saturday mornings (May 13, June 3, June 24), 7–10 AM at various locations.

Cost: $100 for SAS members; $120 for non-members.

Maximum 9 students per section. Supply lists will be provided upon registration.

INTERMEDIATE BIRDING SHORT COURSES

These are the perfect classes for birders who want to boost their birding skills up a notch and start studying more details of plumage, bird behaviors, and more sight and sound identification tips for specific bird families or groups. Choose as many courses as you like!

CAVITY NESTERS

Together we'll explore the ecology of birds in our region who either excavate their own cavities (like woodpeckers and nuthatches) or nest in existing cavities (like bluebirds, chickadees, and some owls). We'll also focus on how to identify woodpeckers by calls, drums, and more. This is an early season class because most of these species breed early and there are fewer leaves out allowing us to spot the birds more easily!

Classroom Session: Wednesday, April 26th, 5:30–7 PM at Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trip: Saturday, April 29th, 7–10 AM (location TBA)

Cost: $50 for SAS members; $60 nonmembers

ART & SCIENCE OF BIRD LANGUAGE

Birds are the true messengers of the forests. They can tell us if there's a fox hiding in the brush, a person about to run down the trail, or an owl about to fly through the area. Bird language can also open a window into the lives of birds as individuals, from the intimacy of courtship to the drama of territorial duels. Come learn the ancient art of bird language paired with modern scientific studies in animal communication. In class we'll explore each of the five voices of the birds, and learn some alarm patterns. Then we'll practice identifying these voices and patterns in the field. Awareness of bird language also inevitably leads to a deeper awareness of self. Join naturalists Ashley Martens and Cedar Mathers-Winn for our first collaboration!

Classroom Session: Thursday, June 8th, 5:30–7:30 PM at Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trip: Sunday, June 11th, 7–11 AM (location TBA)

Cost: $60 SAS members; $70 nonmembers

WARBLERS

What is better than yellow feathers?! Well, maybe orange ones! We'll learn to identify differences between these wonderful little flashy, fidgety birds and sort them out by plumage, song/call, and habitat clues.

Classroom Session: Thursday, June 15th, 5:30–7 PM at Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trip: Sunday, June 18th, 7–10 AM (location TBA)

Cost: $50 for SAS members; $60 nonmembers

SPARROWS & ALLIES

Those little brown birds can be difficult to tease apart. We'll focus on plumage, habitat, songs, and calls for clues to the sparrows of our region so that we can begin to appreciate their subtle beauty and differences.

Classroom Session: Thursday, June 29th, 5:30–7 PM at Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trip: Sunday, July 2nd, 7–10 AM (location TBA)

Cost: $50 for SAS members; $60 nonmembers

THRUSHES & OTHER SONGSTERS: BIRDING BY EAR

The songs of the thrushes are some of the most magical sounds of summer. We'll learn to identify these birds as well as the many other lovely songsters in our region by sight and songs,. This class will focus more on birding by ear than by sight. But of course we will take some time to explore and enjoy visual identifications as well. Other birds/families we will be sure to include are: vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, and the Western Tanager.

Classroom Session: Wednesday, July 5th, 5:30–7 PM at Hope Lutheran Church

Field Trip: Friday, July 7th, 7–10 AM (location TBA)

Cost: $50 for SAS members; $60 nonmembers

DEEP NATURE CONNECTION SERIES

For four weeks, we will gather in community and practice methods to develop a deeper understanding and connection to wild nature and natural cycles. We will investigate nature through mindfulness practices, play, observation, and inspiration. We will learn about edible and medicinal plants (and even make some tea and/or tinctures), animal tracking, bird language, and the many ways that nature teaches us.

FIELD SESSION A: Wednesday mornings, 9–11 AM (May 24, May 31, June 7, June 14)

- **Week 1** – Observing & Sit Spot
- **Week 2** – Wandering & Edible/Medicinal Plants
- **Week 3** – Listening & Bird Language
- **Week 4** – Connecting with Natural Cycles

Course Materials: Blank journal and writing utensils for recording/sketching thoughts and observations, bag or backpack for collecting, field guides, and binoculars if you have them.

Cost: $90 for the series. Maximum 9 students. Near-town location TBA.

Register for all classes at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/z6-Cv3H9dCAFcdyulrTijQ

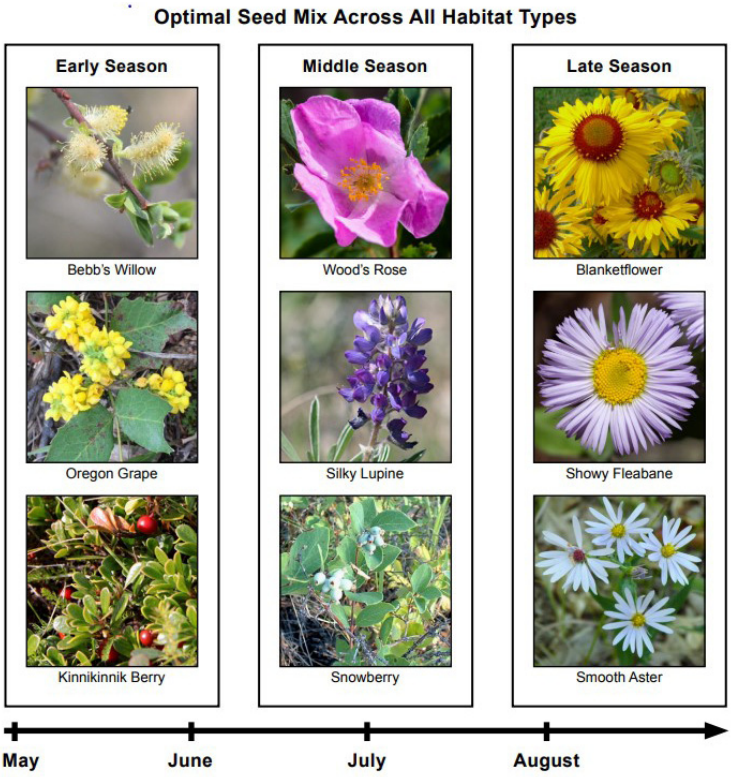
A Scorecard to Select Pollinator-Friendly Plants for Montana Landscaping

By Victoria Saab, USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station Scientist Emeritus and Sacajawea Audubon Society Board Member; and Justin Runyon, USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Entomologist

Pollinating insects are threatened by pesticides, disease, climate change, and habitat loss. Bees, in particular, are declining in the United States and with them the pollination services needed for people and wildlife. Habitat restoration for bees on public lands is being considered on several national forests in the Northern Rockies. Land managers (and homeowners) often lack specific information and guidance that could help them implement practical solutions to support bees and their ecosystem services (for example, pollination of food crops).

Justin Runyon, a research entomologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station based in Bozeman, Montana, is helping to fill this gap. He collaborated with Ph.D. student Will Glenny and Dr. Laura Burkle, scientists in the Ecology Department at Montana State University, to identify the most pollinator-friendly plants to include in seed mixes for use in restoration projects in western Montana. The scientists collected information on the timing and bloom duration of 24 focal plant species and recorded the number of bees and the bee species that visited the plants. They ranked the plants across each of these measurements and developed a scorecard that land managers (and homeowners) can use to select pollinator-friendly plant mixes for restoration/landscaping based on local factors such as budget, habitat, or plant availability. The native plants in this study are also beneficial to birds and other wildlife, and are appropriate for landscaping residential yards with these naturally drought-tolerant plants.

The findings were published in 2022 by the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station, General Technical Report 429, "Assessing Pollinator Friendliness of Plants and Designing Mixes to Restore Habitat for Bees," (https://doi.org/10.2737/RMRS-GTR-429) and also synthesized in USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station, Science You Can Use Bulletin, "Of Bees and Blooms: A New Scorecard For Selecting Pollinator-Friendly Plants in Restoration," JAN/FEB 2023, Issue 58, (https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU-Bulletin-OfBeesAndBlooms-February2023.pdf). Importantly, the scientists ranked early, middle, and late season flowering plants to derive a composite score. The resulting scorecard can be used to select and customize pollinator-friendly plant mixes for restoration or



home landscaping. The overall best mix of pollinator-friendly plants that span the growing season in western Montana includes these nine species:

Early season: Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*) • Oregon grape (*Berberis repens*) • Kinnikinnik berry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Middle season: Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*) • Silky lupine (*Lupinus sericeus*) • Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Late season: Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*) • Showy fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*) • Smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum foliaceum*)

These nine species together were visited by 80% of the 246 bee species observed in the study across the most common habitats in western Montana. However, Runyon cautions against using the same nine plant species everywhere. "Any nine species, three for each season, chosen from the higher scoring species were almost as good as this best mix and supported most bee species; even mixes of six plant species, two from each season, that ranked highly on the scorecard should support around half of the bee species observed in the study," Runyon says.

For the complete "Pollinator Friendliness Scorecard" see page 5 in https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/sites/default/files/documents/SYCU-Bulletin-OfBeesAndBlooms-February2023.pdf.

April birding events in partnership with Lockhorn Cider House

Lockhorn Cider House (21 S. Wallace Ave.) and owner Anna Deal are partnering with Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) to host two events in April to bring people together and celebrate birds! Enjoy a cider at either of these events, which will be hosted by Lockhorn and SAS board members, and 50 cents/cider will be donated to SAS.

The work of local artist Brooke Welch will be featured at Lockhorn in April. Thanks to the generosity of Brooke and Lockhorn Cider, 40% of the proceeds from artwork sold during these events will benefit SAS.

- **Tuesday, April 4, 5–8 PM:** Join SAS at Lockhorn for **Bird Trivia**, a hosted trivia event to test your bird knowledge while contributing to bird conservation efforts in the Gallatin Valley!
- **Sunday April 16, 3–8 PM :** SAS will host a **Pint Night** and deliver a short presentation about the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve and the conservation efforts taking place on Bozeman's largest protected wetland.

About the artist, Brooke Welch:

I have always had an intense connection to color and whimsy. This passion has grown from childhood, when I started drawing and painting every chance I could, to capture the fun and creativity from my imagination.

At a young age, my gramma Elaine got me hooked on birds. In fact, I reference her old birding books for almost every bird painting I have created. Her favorite birds were the Flicker and the Blue Jay, and I have a Blue Jay tattoo on my foot in honor of her and our shared love for the winged beauties. Bird Nerd over here!

I draw inspiration for my work from photography, bright and colorful flowers, modern art, and birds from all over the world. And let me tell you, living in Bozeman was an inspiration on its own! Being able to enjoy the mass amounts of Flickers and Sandhill Cranes in the area is something I will never take for granted. . . and don't get me started on the migratory birds!

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2023

This year, World Migratory Bird Day emphasizes the importance of **WATER** for migratory birds. Which migrating birds will be benefiting from the waters of the IAWP?

To join one of our **guided bird walks** in the IAWP, meet at **8:00 AM** at the **Café M** (777 East Main) on **Friday, May 12th** or **Saturday, May 13th**.

Among the featured birds for WMBD 2023, the Osprey serves as a conservation success story, reminding us that bird population declines can be reversed when we work together to conserve and protect our planet.

Osprey photo by Lou Ann Harris.

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

FIELD TRIP: Early Spring Migration | Saturday, April 8, 2023

A sure cure for spring fever is lots of early spring birds. The primary focus of this trip will be the migrating waterfowl. At this time of year, the ducks will be at their dazzling best in full breeding plumage, and usually in great abundance. Along with the waterfowl, this trip will provide a good opportunity for finding other early migrants such as Sandhill Cranes, Tree Swallows, and Mountain Bluebirds. It is spring in Montana, so be sure to be prepared for the weather, with plenty of warm layers of clothing for a day out in the elements. We will return to the museum mid to late afternoon, so bring a lunch and snacks. If you have a spotting scope to bring, that would be helpful. This trip will meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot at **8 AM, Saturday April 8th**. After arranging for carpooling, we will head for either Harrison Reservoir and/or Ennis Lake at 8:15. There is a 12-person or 4-car limit for the trip, so sign up early. Contact John Parker at (406)586-5863 or email birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org to reserve a spot.

Sandhill Crane photo by Terri Narotzky.

THANK YOUS ARE IN ORDER!

by Lou Ann Harris

Sacajawea Audubon Society would like to thank a few people for their recent generosity. The new owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Bozeman, Kathy and John Haigh, have made a store donation to the Story Mill Community Park Bird-Feeding Station for seed and suet. The store is also offering their seed club members the option of donating their "Bird Bucks" to the seed fund. We thank them for their support and partnership.

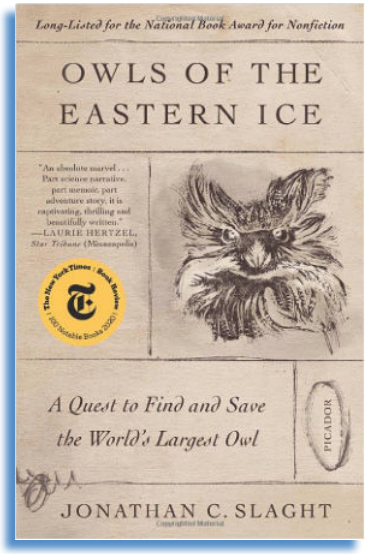
Another thank you is owed to Skyler, Dennis, and Alicia Ochs. Since last year, when the bluebird trail lost its primary nest box constructor, Rodger McCormick, the Ochs have built 15 high-quality nest boxes for the upcoming nesting season. They also have constructed new kestrel boxes for our kestrel nest box project. Thank you to the Ochs family for helping us out!

Above: Skyler Ochs poses with bluebird boxes that she and her parents constructed. Photo courtesy Alicia Ochs.

Left: The Story Mill Park bird-feeding station is visited by a Black-capped Chickadee and a Hairy Woodpecker. Photo courtesy Lou Ann Harris.

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our next SAS Book Club meeting will be held on April 19th at Hope Lutheran Church from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. We hope you can join us in person or virtually for a discussion of *Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl* by Jonathan C. Slaght (2020). Dessert will be provided. Please bring your own hot drink.



This engrossing book describes the author's efforts to photograph and decipher the life history of Blakiston's Fish Owl, a large, reclusive raptor that resides in small numbers in the forests and mountains of the Primorye in far east Russia. This story begins when Slaght,19 years old, arrives in the remote and intriguing Primorye as a student intern in wildlife biology and begins to study the region's abundant wildlife, birdlife, the culture of its people, and the Russian language.

The book focuses on Slaght's pioneering work on Blakiston's Fish Owl and his endeavors to develop a conservation plan for this uncommon species, and by extension preserving this species' natural environment including virgin timber, mineral deposits, and rivers still teeming with salmon. *Owls of the Eastern Ice* is first and foremost an account of the natural history of Blakiston's Fish Owl, but equally a coming-of-age story of Slaght as a young man and budding wildlife biologist, and the survival challenges he and his Russian companions faced in the beautiful, unforgiving Primorye wilderness. One of the book's strengths is the author's now 22-year familiarity with the Primorye, a region he returns to every winter to continue his research and feed his soul.

Awards:

2021 PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award; A Best Book of the Year: NPR, *Wall St. Journal*, *Smithsonian*; Best Nature Book of the Year: *The Times* (London); Notable Book of 2020, *NY Times*

Cost: $6–$16

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

Do you have a favorite title to share with SAS Book Club members?

Please send your suggestions to Elisabeth (elsswa@gmail.com) and Hilary (ralphhilary@gmail.com) to add to the list of nominated books for the fall. April 21st is the deadline for submittals.

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!

APR'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.

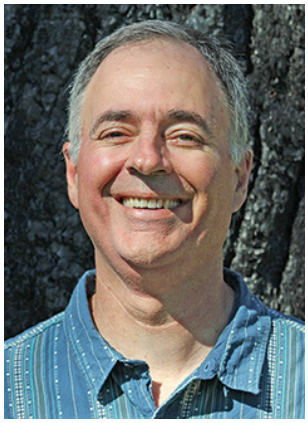
Change of Address: If you have a change of address or are away, please notify membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

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

SNEED COLLARD III TO PRESENT AT WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY

June 9-11, 2023

Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana



Sneed B. Collard III

Wings Across the Big Sky, Montana's premier birding festival, is organized by Montana Audubon and this year's local host chapter, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon.

Our keynote speaker for the festival is acclaimed author Sneed B. Collard III, who has written more than 90 books for young people. Sneed is a popular, award-winning speaker and has spoken at numerous birding festivals and events.

During the presentation, Sneed will recount the entertaining adventures behind his humorous, award-winning memoir *Warblers and Woodpeckers: A Father-Son Big Year of Birding* (Mountaineers, 2018) and other bird books and articles. Along the way, participants will travel to some of America's best birding hotspots as well as South America, the Galápagos, and the Middle East. Sneed will share highlights of his son's and his "accidental Big Years" of 2022 starring Pinky, America's most famous flamingo.

wings across the big sky — MONTANA AUDUBON

To learn more about Sneed, visit his websites: www.sneedbcollardiii.com and www.FatherSonBirding.com.

Registration for the festival opens in mid-April. Stay tuned for more information, or visit www.mtaudubon.org