JANUARY 2024

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.

SAS Monthly Program: Monday, January 8th, Hope Lutheran Church

"Yellowstone's Birds: An Overview and Four Key Issues"

with Douglas W. Smith

Doug Smith releasing a Golden Eagle. Photo by Al Harmata

January's lecture features Douglas W. Smith presenting the new book, *Yellowstone's Birds: Diversity and Abundance in the World's First National Park*, released in October 2023. This is only the third book in the history of Yellowstone to focus on birds, and the first book on the science and conservation of the Park's birds. Smith will discuss four key issues facing birds in and around Yellowstone National Park (YNP): 1) lead poisoning and hunting, 2) old-growth forests, their vulnerability, and the birds that live in them, 3) Trumpeter Swans, and 4) Common Loons and the isolated nature of the YNP population.

Senior Wildlife Biologist, Douglas W. Smith PhD retired in 2022 after 28 years of service in Yellowstone National Park. During his tenure, supervision of the wolf, bird, and elk programs were combined under Doug. He began as the Project Leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project involving the reintroduction and restoration of wolves to YNP.

Doug has studied wolves for 44 years and birds for 14. While earning a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology at University of Idaho (1985), and a M.S. degree in Biology from Michigan Technological University (1988), he worked on a long-term project studying wolves and moose on the Isle Royale with Rolf Peterson. He then went to University of Nevada, Reno, earning a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology in 1997 under Stephen H. Jenkins.

Smith has published many journal articles and book chapters on beavers, wolves, and birds. He has authored or co-authored five popular books on wolves and birds, including *The Wolves of Yellowstone* and *Decade of the Wolf,* which won the 2005 Montana Book Award for best book published in Montana.

He has participated in numerous documentaries about wolves and birds for National Geographic, British Broadcasting Company (BBC), CBS 60 Minutes, and other media outlets. He recently presented a TEDx talk about wolves and will be featured as a Nat Geo Live speaker in 2024. Doug has given over 2000 media interviews, frequently speaking about wolves and birds to audiences all over the world. He is a member of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team, the Re-Introduction Specialist Group, and the Canid Specialist Group for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Doug is an avid canoeist, preferring to travel mostly in the remote regions of northern Canada with his wife Christine, and their two sons Sawyer and Hawken.

The SAS January program will be held **Monday, January 8** at **Hope Lutheran Church,** 2152 West Graf (off S. 19th). A **social begins at 6:30 pm**; the **program begins at 7:00 pm**. Bring your own reusable cup.

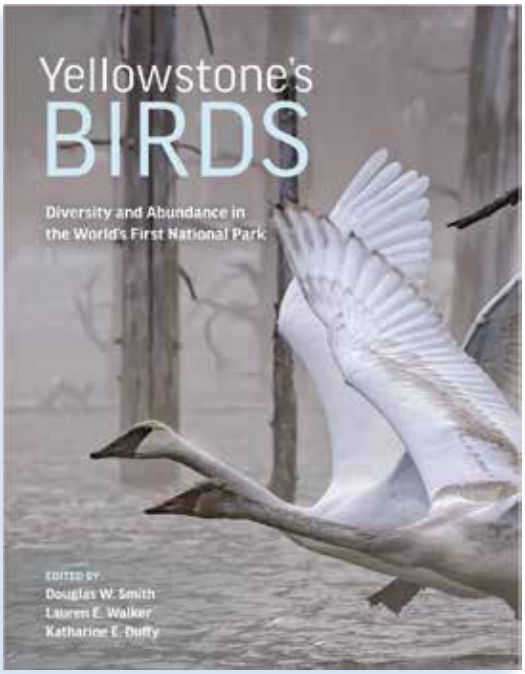
A book signing will follow with a limited number of copies available for a price of $35. Proceeds from book sales will go to SAS projects and the Yellowstone Bird Program.

For virtual attendance, please register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8010236213898580056

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.

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



Yellowstone's Birds: Diversity and Abundance in the World's First National Park

Everyone will want this book! You can support SAS by purchasing your own copy online at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/ycBsFcuSppoOyjR7vuBXmA while supplies last.

Books purchased online can be picked up at Wild Birds Unlimited and at the January 8 meeting. For more information, contact Ken Sinay at programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Our thanks to Princeton University Press for making this possible!

Meet our Boardroom Bobcat!

Jack Evans

Hello, fellow SAS members! My name is Jack Evans, and I am your current Montana State University Boardroom Bobcat. As an MSU Boardroom Bobcat, I serve as a non-voting member on your board of directors. I am a Senior at Montana State University studying Business Management with a Minor in Economics. Originally from Redmond, Washington, I moved out to Montana to experience all the fantastic snow and skiing opportunities. My favorite hobbies are skiing, hiking, paddle boarding, and many more. A fun fact about me is that I am a massive Christmas movie fan! I am new to the birding community but excited to learn as much as possible. I had the opportunity to volunteer at Raptor Fest this past semester and loved meeting some of our fantastic members!

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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Ken Sinay	kensinay@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Boardroom Bobcat member Jack Evans	boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Activity Leaders

Education Chair	**Looking for Volunteer** education@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Hospitality	Sean Peters hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Social Media/ Communications	Lou Ann Harris socialmedia@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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IAWP/Busy Beavers Stewardship Coordinator	Emma Narotzky wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Book Club	Elisabeth Swanson & Hilary Johnson bookclub@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Newsletter Design	Tamara Knappenberger tkknappenberger@gmail.com

MESSAGE *from* SAS
PRESIDENT, CHRIS NIXON

Welcoming in 2024!

First of all, Thank You for renewing your membership with Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS)! Your membership, continued support, and participation are why SAS is making positive changes in our area.

I am excited to welcome in 2024 and all the possibilities it holds!

We start off the first month of the year with programs/topics by two nationally known and respected local voices: Doug Smith presents our monthly membership program on Yellowstone's birds (see article) and Catherine Raven's book *Fox and I* will be discussed by our monthly SAS Book Club (see article). Since our SAS's member coverage area is so close to Yellowstone National Park, we are provided with some powerful voices for conservation in our midst. Doug and Catherine are among those voices. I encourage you to take part in both programs.

Our Conservation Committee (CC) is leading the way in educating and encouraging the use of native plants in our home and community landscapes, informing us on how to adapt our windows to prevent bird strikes and deaths, and providing better ways to protect our cats and birds by keeping them apart. Tweety and Sylvester are only cartoon characters--our real "Tweety Birds" don't stand a chance! The CC also celebrates increasing numbers of Mountain Bluebirds and American Kestrels utilizing our Bluebird and Kestrel boxes.

Our Wetland Preservation Project Committee is tackling the myriad challenges to finally starting restoration at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP). Stay abreast of IAWP news and prepare for some incredible announcements. Please continue your financial support for this 'ground-breaking' project. You will be glad you did. SAS is leading the way in making wetland preservation a priority in our city and beyond.

Your increased participation in the annual Christmas Bird Counts is making it more possible to document rarities and changes amongst our winter bird population.

Basically, every positive change, every step of advancement made through SAS in the local area is because of you! SAS is a 'Rare Bird' among environmental organizations in that we are still wholly a membership-based organization. Our membership has the ability to determine and direct what it wishes to see for SAS. Our Board of Directors is composed of volunteer local community members or those with deep ties and love for Bozeman, Gallatin County, and the neighboring counties that SAS serves.

As you know, Bozeman and the surrounding region is increasing in population. Please do your part to make newcomers aware of SAS and all our activities. You may be the key to identifying the next SAS super volunteer or board member. In fact, that new SAS board member could be YOU! Our board elections are just around the corner at the May membership meeting. Please contemplate how your skills and abilities could contribute to moving SAS through 2024 and beyond. I would love to speak with you!

Pie-billed Grebe. Photo by Ed Harper

Save the Date in 2024

Upcoming SAS Programs

January 16: Trivia Night – *Beavers!* at Lockhorn Cider House

January 17: SAS Book Club meeting at Hope Lutheran Church

February 2: World Wetlands Day Lecture *Beavers to the Rescue* with keynote speaker Ronan Donovan at Museum of the Rockies

February 3: World Wetlands Day Bonfire and Snow Shoe tour at the Indreland Audubon Preserve

February 12: SAS Program lecture with Matt Skoglund of North Bridger Bison, the first Audubon Certified Bison Ranch in MT

February 16 – 19: Great Backyard Bird Count

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: Jan. 2024

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.

Join us for World Wetlands Day 2024!

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971. The mission of the convention is to ensure "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world." Today, 172 nations have signed on to the convention and designated Wetlands of International Importance within their territories.

Wildlife biologist and conservation photographer, Ronan Donovan.

On World Wetlands Day you are invited to a special program, "Beavers to the Rescue", featuring Ronan Donovan as keynote speaker followed by a panel discussion on beavers, wetlands, and the relationship between wetlands and humans.

"Even acknowledging that beavers store water and sustain other creatures is insufficient. Because the truth is that beavers are nothing less than continent-scale forces of nature, in large part responsible for sculpting the land upon which we Americans built our towns and raised our food. Beavers shaped North America's ecosystems, its human history, its geology. They whittled our world, and they could again—if, that is, we learn to treat them as allies instead of adversaries."

- Ben Goldfarb, author of *Eager - The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*

National Geographic Explorer Ronan Donovan, who lives in Bozeman, is a wildlife biologist turned conservation photographer. He uses visual storytelling to illuminate stories related to our fellow social mammals to remind us that we are all connected and to promote the preservation of our shared landscapes. Ronan has been working on a story for *National Geographic* magazine with author Ben Goldfarb about the benefits of beavers to arid lands of the western United States.

Join us **Friday, February 2nd** at the **Museum of the Rockies**. **Doors open at 6:00pm** for a meet and greet in the lobby to connect with representatives from our wetland partners and learn more about their work. The **program will begin** at **7pm**.

The following day, **Saturday, February 3rd**, you are invited to the **Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve** at **1pm** for a bonfire gathering and snowshoe tour at Bozeman's own urban wetland.

Come roast marshmallows with us and enjoy the IAWP with special access to ski along the base of the bluff or take a snowshoe tour out onto the frozen wetland. Gather to share in appreciation of your local wetlands contribute to biodiversity, climate resilience, and human wellbeing in our watershed.

Dress warm, bring a mug for hot chocolate and a chair for sitting around the fire, and bring snowshoes or cross country skis if you have them. Frank Marchak will lead a snowshoe tour to normally inaccessible areas of the wetland (weather permitting).

Park at Bozeman Public Library. Email wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org for more information.

A trail through the ice from the beaver lodge shows the beaver are still active at IAWP in December 2023. Photo by Emma Narotzky.

Avian Point Count Summary for the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve 2023

by Victoria Saab

This is an excerpt from the Second Annual Progress Report 2023 by Victoria Ann Saab, Sacajawea Audubon Society Board Member & Scientist Emeritus USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station. See https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/2023-iawp-avian-point-count-report/ *for the full report.*

These avian point count surveys provide baseline information on avian species richness, species abundance, and species diversity at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP)managed/owned by Sacajawea Audubon Society in Bozeman, Montana.

The IAWP is being considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the establishment of the Sacajawea Wetland Bank. Bird point count monitoring for at least a 5-year period is one requirement by the USACE for the designation of the wetland mitigation bank.

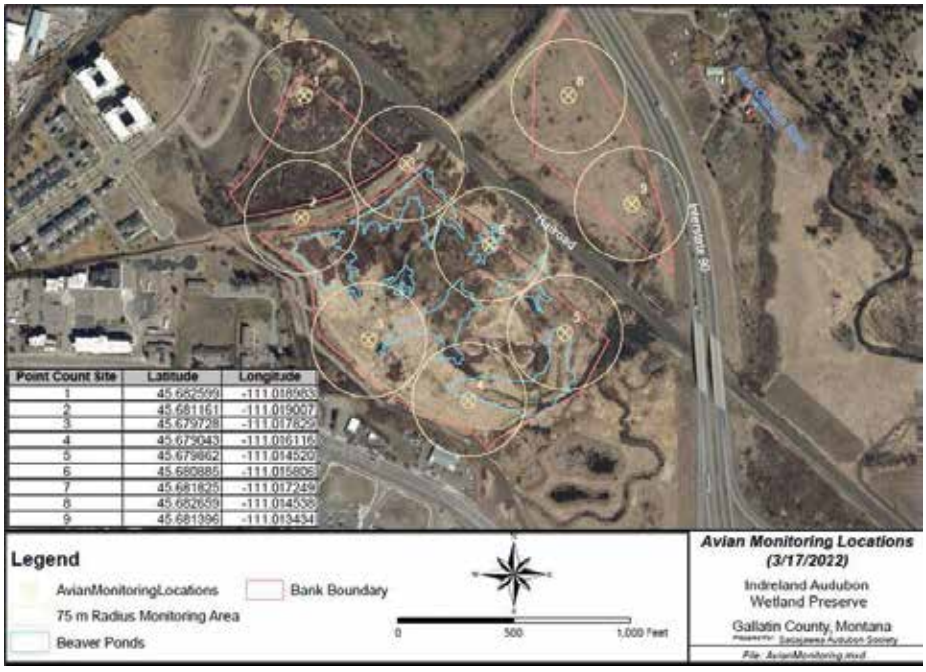
Thank you to the observers who conducted point count surveys and entered data into eBird, which allowed for more efficient data entry and data management: Kristen Bontadelli, Paulette Epple, Josiah Kiehl, Angela Kociolek, Sam Koenen, Doug McSpadden, and Victoria Saab.

Seventy-five bird species (species richness) and 2,343 individuals (species abundance) were recorded during 15 point-count surveys in 2023 at 8 stations from April through October.

Eared Grebe. Photo by Ed Harper

Species richness and abundance were higher this year than for the baseline year (2022), when we recorded richness at 67 species and abundance at 1,908, whereas species diversity was essentially equivalent for both years.

The most notable changes in 2023 compared to 2022 were the additions of two grebe species (Pied- billed and Eared), and three swallow species (Bank, Barn, and Cliff). More open water was created by beavers (*Castor canadensis*) in 2023 and this likely had an influence on attracting both the grebes and swallows.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE!

We need your help to create the largest restored urban wetland in Montana! We envision this project becoming an oasis in our urban setting where one can find the tranquility that wetlands offer.

Donate using the QR code, or online at www.bozemanwetlands.org/WP/donate/

WOW! Wonders of Winter

Naturalist Classes

Townsend's Solitaire . Photo by Lou Ann Harris

Explore the ecology and whimsey of some of our winter birds and the habitats they live in. Learn how to identify each species, discover its unique lifestyle, and engage in mindful activities for deeper connection.

Townsend's Solitaire & Juniper:

Friday, Feb 2nd 2-4pm or Sunday, Feb 4th 2-4pm

M trailhead on foot

Cost: $30 members; $40 nonmembers

Canada Jays & Climate Change:

Select Fridays and Sundays in late March 1-4pm (exact dates TBA)

Crosscut Mountain Sports Center on snowshoes

Cost $40-50, depending on snowshoe rentals

Registration opens soon at our new Course Catalogue Website!

Contact Ashley Martens at truenatureed@gmail.com to be notified as soon as registration opens.

STORY MILL COMMUNITY PARK FEEDING STATION

by Lou Ann Harris

The feeders continue to be a popular stop at the bird blind at Story Mill Community Park! Sacajawea Audubon Society volunteers are keeping the feeders filled for hungry birds, whether they are migrating through or year-round residents. Stop by and see the fun variety of birds that are visiting our feeding station. Recent visitors include American Goldfinch and Downy Woodpeckers.

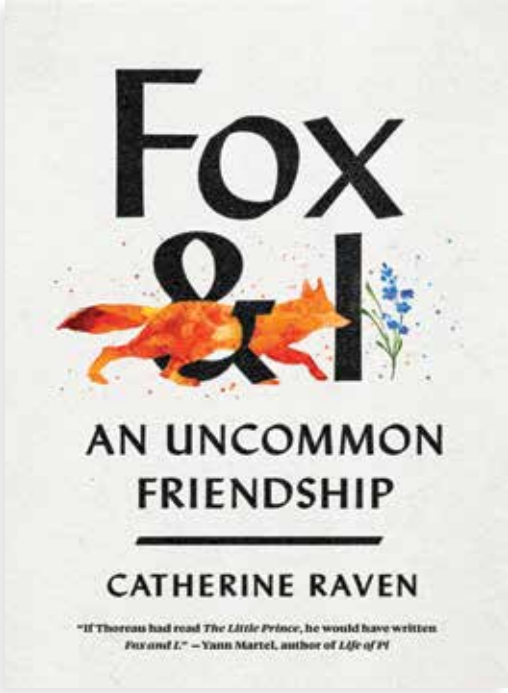
However, our bird seed fund is running low. On average, we spend $1,000 on bird feed each year. We encourage and appreciate donations to keep the feeders filled, and the birds and park visitors happy! **You can donate online at** https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/donate/ where the "Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station" is listed as one of our special campaigns. Or simply add a little extra amount earmarked for the feeding station as you renew your membership this month at https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/join-sas/ Regardless of how you donate, the Story Mill Park birds -and birdwatchers- thank you for your support!

Thanks to all our volunteers who keep the feeders filled: Brian Cassell, Paulette Epple, Andy Epple, John Harris, Lou Ann Harris, Beth Kaeding, Lynn Kaeding, Adam Makhluf, Becky Ward & Kevin Ward. If you'd like to help out, please contact Paulette at 580-6186.

Black-capped Chickadee . Photo by Lou Ann Harris

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY BOOK CLUB

This month the **SAS Book Club meeting will be held on January 17th** at **Hope Lutheran Church, Room 129** from **6:30 to 7:45 pm.** We hope you can join us in person or virtually for a discussion of ***Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship*** by Catherine Raven (2021). Dessert will be provided. Please bring your own hot drink.



After completing a PHD in biology at MSU, the author puts a pause on pursuing a traditional academic job, buys three acres in a remote mountain valley in Montana, making a living by occasionally teaching field courses in Yellowstone National Park and wildlife biology courses online. She settles into being an active steward to the juniper trees, thistles, voles, magpies, ravens, and a diversity of other "unboxed" wild creatures. Solitude comes easily to Raven who, at age 15, chose early college admission in order to leave a father who wanted her "to disappear" and who could be violent. The sense of belonging and rewarding relationships with others eludes her among humans, yet comes easily as she interacts with birds and wildlife in the mountains.

Early in her residency in the mountain valley, a small red fox starts appearing close to her doorstep every afternoon at 4:15 pm, and settling at a comfortable distance while she reads *The Little Prince* aloud to him. Eventually their friendship expands as trust builds on both sides. Raven is a perceptive observer of not only Fox and his family, but also the omnipresent birdlife and other living creatures on the land. Her powers of observation, both scientific and intuitive, are remarkable. Her grit as she does the physically exhausting work needed to return the ecosystem on her parcel of land closer to normalcy, shows that Raven is no slouch when it comes to honoring commitments to her nonhuman community. Ultimately, the lessons learned with Fox and on the land nudge her toward giving life among humans a second chance.

Rarely does a naturalist and writer arrive on the national scene with a voice as original and compelling as Catherine Raven's. Perhaps these qualities were recognized when the author received two national writing awards for *Fox and I*.

By the end of "Fox & I," I found myself deeply lonely for the kind of belonging Raven found on the land. How did we end up so distant from our animal friends? As she writes: "Maybe we like pretending that they are not very human. Or that we are not very wild." – Katherine E. Standefer, author of "Lightning Flowers."

AWARDS: Winner PEN/E.O. Wilson award; Winner Nautilus GOLD award; Best Books of 2021, *Christian Science Monitor*; Short-list John Burroughs Medal

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 contact 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.

CHRISTMAS STROLL 2023 A SUCCESS!

Thank you to our volunteers and all who joined us for S'mores during the Christmas Stroll.

We raised awareness of our activities as our visitors went through over 400 marshmallows !

SAS BOARD ENCOURAGES FURTHER PROTECTIONS FOR THE MISSOURI HEADWATERS

Chris Nixon, SAS President

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) has a long history of supporting protections of the Missouri Headwaters State Park Area including the associated MHSP Important Bird Area (IBA), and the Trident-Peregrine Trail.

During the last couple of months of 2023, the SAS Board wrote and submitted two letters of comment to the responsible regulatory agencies.

Headwaters State Park. Photo by Lou Ann Harris

We supported the Missouri Headwaters State Park Proposed Land Acquisition writing in favor of the acquisition and incorporation of 30 acres of land adjoining the Missouri Headwaters State Park (MHSP). This site supports a diversity of imperiled riparian habitats, particularly in the lower Gallatin River watershed which are vitally important to birds and other wildlife in the Gallatin Valley. The proposed acquisition would provide permanent protection of important natural and cultural resources of MHSP and continue to allow public enjoyment of these resources as well as other recreational opportunities for generations to come. Acquisition by alternative entities puts the fundamental purpose and resources of MHSP at risk.

We also supported the Proposed Missouri Headwaters Conservation Area (PMHCA).

We strongly supported the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Proposed Missouri Headwaters Conservation Area (PMHCA). This proposal can significantly contribute to connectivity between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, and the wilderness of central Idaho.

The PMHCA includes functional seasonal and year-round habitat for charismatic and valuable species such as Grizzly bear, pronghorn, elk, Mule deer, and Bighorn sheep. It also includes high-priority connectivity and migration corridors for these and other wide-ranging species.

Conservation easements have proven to be a significant and valuable tool to meet the needs of both landowners and wildlife.

The fact that the USFWS currently has four functioning "Conservation Areas" in Montana attests to the reliability and acceptance of this technique to conserve agriculture and wildlife.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this proposal is that it can be an asset to private landowners and would be totally voluntary. It essentially provides a financial tool to help maintain economic vitality. Since participating in this program would be voluntary, it is not a "taking" of property rights, as some have falsely claimed.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds derived from oil and gas lease payments to the the federal government, not taxpayer dollars, will be used to acquire the easements. This will ensure that these funds will be put to the use intended.

For more in-depth details and understanding, we will post the full letters of support on our website.

Huge thanks to our newest board members Ken Sinay and Ben Goodheart for their leadership on this efforts.

BUSY BEAVERS

Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve

SUPPORT CONSERVATION BY VOLUNTEERING WITH SAS

Sign up to be a Busy Beaver: (scan the QR code) and pledge just 10 hours of your time in 2024 to contribute to your local urban wetland restoration project. When you become a Busy Beaver you join a community of people who share a dedication to wetland conservation and outreach, and you gain access to discounted and free workshops with SAS throughout the year.

JOIN US FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Expand your knowledge of the diverse inhabitants of wetlands.

North American Beaver at IAWP. Photo by Kyle Moon

MONTHLY IAWP TRIVIA NIGHTS

Our partnership with Lockhorn Cider House continues as they host a series of **trivia nights** on the **third Tuesdays of each month, beginning January 16, 2024** when the theme will be **BEAVERS**.

Look forward to future wetland themes in upcoming months, including deer and moose, wading birds, bears and berries, waterfowl, bats, song birds and more.

Lockhorn Cider House is located at 21 S Wallace Ave. Arrive starting at 5 PM . Grab a drink, sign-in, and settle into your seat in time for trivia to begin at 6:30. Trivia runs approximately one hour.

WIN A LOCKHORN CIDER CLUB CARD!

Lockhorn Cider House has generously donated a club card in support education of at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve!

The Lockhorn Cider House Club Card includes:

- one pint each of Lockhorn's 26 specialty 2024 ciders
- a growler fill on your birthday
- $255 value

All proceeds support education programs offered to the community including workshops, classes, and field trips for all ages.

The **drawing will take place** at the **January 16th Trivia Night** at **Lockhorn Cider House**. Tickets are available at the January 8th SAS meeting, and Trivia Night. **Tickets may be reserved online for $2 each**. You do not have to be present to win. We will contact you by phone or email.

Get prepped for the 2024 Bioblitz at IAWP!
Photo by Emma Narotzky

2024 is Now Underway! Are You Still With Us?
Renew Your SAS Annual Local Membership Today!
We encourage all to join or renew today for January- December 2024

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 and flying high together today.

You can choose from the following membership levels as an Individual or Family:

- ❒ Basic Membership ……..…….. $25
- ❒ Supporting Membership ….....…..… $50
  (Supporting = additional local conservation and education projects)
- ❒ Student Membership …… $10
  (College & High School Students)

Join or Renew for 2024 by filling out the membership form on the next page, or online at: https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/for-members/.

For membership questions, email membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

SAS Members:

- Protect working lands for birds and other wildlife;
- Preserve and protect bird species and their habitats;
- Support bird-friendly communities in Montana with our bird-friendly landscape program;
- Contribute to important environmental education programs for people of all ages and abilities on birds, wildlife, and habitat;
- Support vital partnerships between other nonprofit environmental groups, citizens, and local governments to shape the health of our community; and
- Advocate for important environmental issues locally and regionally.

Black-billed Magpie. Photo by Terri Narotzky.

SAS Members Enjoy:

- Free Monthly Keynote Speaker meetings;
- Savings on purchases and access to member-only sales;
- Free *Birding Hotspots of Gallatin Valley*, a guide to birding around the Gallatin Valley and beyond;
- Free monthly member e-newsletter, so you'll always know what's going on (published nine times/year);
- Member-only discounts on educational courses, programs, and special events;
- Opportunities to meet new people and become part of a friendly group that shares an interest in birds, wildlife, the environment, and conservation;
- Participation in many citizen science projects; and
- Free guided birding field trips.

Sacajawea Audubon Society's Local Chapter membership does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. SAS is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with its own board of directors, membership, budget, and programs. We rely on financial support from local members to carry out our wide array of programs.

As a chapter of National Audubon Society (NAS), we fully value and support their work and advocacy. We encourage you, in addition to your SAS local membership, to join or renew your membership in NAS. Check the box on the SAS membership form and add $20 to join or renew with NAS.

We hope that you will join today as we approach our 57th year as an effective local grass-roots group – building on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education, and action.

Thank you from Sacajawea Audubon Society's Board of Directors!

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2024

Individual or Family | January–December 2024

❒ **Basic Membership** **$25**

❒ **Supporting Membership** **$50**
(Supporting local conservation & education projects)

❒ **Student Membership** **$10**
(College & High School Students)

❒ **Additional Donation $**_____

❒ Bridger Raptor Study ❒ Wetland Campaign
❒ Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station ❒ 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!

Jan '24 newsletter

WE HAVE WINNERS!

Congratulations to Judy Cline and Erna Smeets, winners of the Bridger Raptor Raffle. Each winner received a Bridger Bowl Ski season pass.

Thank You to Bridger Bowl for the generous donation of two season passes to benefit the Bridger Mountains Raptor Migration Count.

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets. All funds go directly to continuing management of this important project.

Golden Eagle. Photo by Daniel Cox.

2023 was the 32nd consecutive annual Bridger Mountain Raptor Migration Count.

The primary goals of the Bridger Mountain Raptor Project are to: A) assess the status and long-term trends of Golden Eagles and other fall migrant raptor species using this portion of the Rocky Mountain flyway, and B) to monitor landscape-level environmental changes using these widespread, apex predators as valuable indicators of ecological health.

For more information check out Bridger Mountain at www.Hawkcount.org. The 2023 report will be available in March 2024.

Thank you to all who have supported the Bridger Raptor Project!

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

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Terri Nartozki

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things. Join us, **February 16–19, 2024,** when the world comes together for the love of birds.

Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

Whether you count one bird or hundreds, participating is easy and fun for all ages! Let birds bring you closer to nature and to each other by spending four days in February with us!

Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days.

For more information, including how to **enter your data** go to https://www.birdcount.org/