



# Sacajawea Audubon News

*Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) builds on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education, and action.*

SAS Monthly Program & Membership Meeting: Monday, March 9

## Old-Growth Forest Features and the Birds who Depend on Them

*With Ashley Martens, True Nature Education*

All forest stages have an important ecological role to play. The old-growth stage of a forest is especially important because of its structural and functional complexity. Micro habitats, thick bark, and standing dead trees provide food and shelter for many bird species. We'll explore some old-growth forest features and some bird species that depend on them in Montana and the greater northwestern United States. Expect some hands-on learning.

Ever since hand-feeding chickadees with her grandparents as a young child, Ashley has sought out intimate relationships with nature through both scientific inquiry and mindful nature-connection. After meandering her way through studying the life sciences in her young adulthood, she finally settled on a B.S. in Biology, an M.S. in Environmental Science, and certifications in teaching yoga, dance, and meditation. Becoming a naturalist takes time and attention. With experiences ranging from hunting arrowheads in the gullies of high-desert Wyoming as a child, to surveying woodpeckers in the backwoods of north Idaho, to researching seabirds on a remote wildlife refuge island in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to reintroducing Mountain Quail in eastern Washington, Ashley weaves all of her experiences into her work. She brings her values of lifelong-learning and community-building forward

in her teaching and facilitation. Her approach is to empower your learning journey by guiding you to learn from nature, rather than simply learning about it. She now serves as the Intermountain West Regional Manager for the Old-Growth Forest Network.

*Brown Creeper,  
Photo by Mick Thompson*



*Pileated Woodpecker, Photo by Mick Thompson*

*Ashley inside an ancient Douglas Fir hollowed out by fire.*



**The in-person meeting will be held Monday, March 9, 2026 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 [sacajaweaudubon.org/](https://sacajaweaudubon.org/). 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 a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. For more information, contact Chris Nixon at [programs@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:programs@sacajaweaudubon.org)



## MESSAGE from PRESIDENT, CHRIS NIXON



There are so many great opportunities in March and coming months for you to get out and experience birds and nature with Sacajawea Audubon Society — classes, workshops and training. You can expect to experience all sorts of wonders of the natural world... well...except maybe WINTER! Where is the snow?

Seriously, you have the opportunity to hone your **raptor identification skills with Steve Hofman** (pg. 6). And there are **numerous classes with Ashley Martens** in which you can learn about various groups of birds and how to better identify, experience, and enjoy them all (pg. 6). Then there is the opportunity to dive deeper into all aspects of nature, birds and beyond, by taking the **Master Naturalist Course with Cedar Mathers-Winn** (pg. 5).

We are excited to also have **Ashley Martens** share aspects of **Old Growth Forest** with us at this **month's membership meeting** (Pg 1). It will be a great opportunity for you to meet Ashley and maybe even sign up for one or more of her upcoming classes.

There are opportunities to support the **Kestrel Nest Box** and **Blue Bird Nest Box Program** (pg 8). I am especially excited for the Blue Bird Nest Box Program this year. Now that the Motus towers have been installed and are functioning, we hope to be able to place Motus tags/transmitters on several of the female Mountain Bluebirds and possibly find out where they go for the winter months. Our Blue Bird team has documented one particular female bluebird using the same nest box each year for six years (except one when she used the box closest to her usual nest box). She produced young for all those years. See last month's newsletter (*February 2026 Newsletter*, pg. 6), But... we have no idea where she goes, or where the others go, for the winter. Hopefully attaching Motus tags to some of the females will help solve the mystery. With a little luck and enough funds, we may also be able to tag some American Kestrels. We do know that at least one kestrel fledged here made its way to Tlaxcala, Mexico between Veracruz and Mexico City (*March 2023 Newsletter*, pg. 5).

Whether you want to get out with our classes, workshops, and fieldtrips or wish to participate by supporting our projects, there is a means to take part in SAS. After all, none of it happens without your interest, support, and participation.

Thank You, for however you show-up, to be "you" in Sacajawea Audubon Society!



## SAS Upcoming Events!

- 02 March:** SAS Board of Directors Meeting - Virtual Only
- 09 March:** SAS Monthly Membership Meeting - Hope Lutheran Church
- 10 March - 9 May:** Master Naturalist Course
- 12 & 14 March:** Raptor Identification Workshop
- 17 March:** SAS Wildlife Trivia at Lockhorn Cider House
- 18 March:** SAS Book Club at Hope Lutheran Church

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- 06 April:** SAS Board of Directors Meeting - Virtual Only
- 13 April:** SAS Monthly Membership Meeting - Hope Lutheran Church
- 21 April:** SAS Wildlife Trivia at Lockhorn Cider House
- 22 April:** SAS Book Club at Hope Lutheran Church

To see additional details including locations, please visit: [sacajaweaaudubon.org/events](https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/events)

## Partner Events

- 15 April:** Order Deadline (pre-sale) – Montana Freshwater Partners' Native Plant Sale
- 09 May:** Montana Freshwater Partners' Native Plant Sale, Park Co. Fairgrounds, Livingston, MT
- 12-14 June:** Montana Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky Festival, Kalispell, MT

### SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

President	Chris Nixon, <a href="mailto:pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org">pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Vice President	Doug McSpadden, <a href="mailto:vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org">vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Brad Frazee, <a href="mailto:treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org">treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Mikaela Howie, <a href="mailto:sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org">sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Membership	Loreene Reid, <a href="mailto:membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org">membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>

### Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve

President	Frank Marchak, <a href="mailto:Frankm@bozemanwetlands.org">Frankm@bozemanwetlands.org</a> <a href="http://Bozemanwetlands.org">Bozemanwetlands.org</a>
Treasurer	Loreene Reid, <a href="mailto:loreener@bozemanwetlands.org">loreener@bozemanwetlands.org</a>

### NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

Amy Crowder and Chris Nixon, [newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org)  
Newsletter Design: Amy Crowder [amy@vandycreative.com](mailto:amy@vandycreative.com)

For a complete list of board members and activity leaders, visit: [sacajaweaaudubon.org/our-board](https://sacajaweaaudubon.org/our-board)

# BIRD NOTES



..... by John Parker

**H**ave you ever wondered how many species of birds have been seen in Montana, and who decides if a bird species is added to the cumulative state list? The answer to the first question is 448 bird species as of February 2026. You may not be familiar with the **Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC)**, but this is the volunteer body that evaluates all rare bird reports and keeps an official list documenting the naturally occurring birds in the state, and a list of any bird species to be reviewed.



*Wood Stork, Montana's first and only record, collected near Ennis October 1902. Specimen in the Montana State University collection. Photo John Parker.*

So, what birds get reviewed? The simple answer is any bird seen in Montana 20 or fewer times. Also, birds that may be somewhat expected in certain areas of Montana, but rare in most of the state may also come under review.

Prior to the 1960's, many rare birds and especially first state records were "collected" as proof that a bird had occurred in a particular state or region.

In the 1960's with the advent of better field guides, optics, and identification skills, requiring a specimen for posterity no longer seemed necessary. Around this time, **Bird Record Committees (BRCs)** began to take shape in Europe. In the United States the first BRC came into existence in 1970 when California's BRC was formed. Montana followed suit in 1991. During these formative years, BRCs mainly relied on written reports, oftentimes with field notes and drawings to accompany the official rare bird forms.



*Red-bellied Woodpecker Belgrade, Montana 5-21-2024. Photo Jeff Marks.*

With advances in technology over the past 25 years, BRCs have increasingly become

more reliant on photographs, videos, and in some cases audio recordings. This has been a real boon, as it has sped up and taken some of the subjectivity out of the review process.

The MBRC can consist of 7-15 members, with at least two thirds of the committee in attendance at the annual meeting for a quorum. A rare bird record will be accepted with 3 dissenting votes with 14-15 members voting, 2 dissenting votes with 11-13 members voting, and only 1 dissenting is allowed with 10 or fewer members voting. If there are more dissenting votes than allowed, the bird is not accepted into the records for the state.

The official Montana bird list can be accessed through the Montana Bird Advocacy website. All MBRC records and minutes are archived with the Montana Historical Society in Helena.

In any given year the MBRC will review between 20-50 rare bird reports. Currently, of the 448 bird species on the Montana list, 106 species are review species. 17 new bird species have been added to the official list in the last ten years, and the newest addition in 2025 was a **Mexican Violetear**.



*Mexican Violetear Montana's first record, Fort Smith, Montana 9-6-2024. Photo Matt Lerer*

There have been several mid-winter

surprises in our corner of southwest Montana. You may remember that a **Burrowing Owl** was discovered along Bench Road south of Three Forks on December 1st. This Burrowing Owl was relocated on January 13th by **Robin Wolcott**, and was continuing to be seen into February. This is the **first documented over wintering Burrowing Owl for Montana**, and the first February record.



*Burrowing Owl Montana's first over wintering record. Photo Robin Wolcott*

On January 25th, **Anna and Gavin Blackburn** photographed a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** at Lewis and Clark Caverns. This represents Montana's third winter record for Williamson's Sapsucker. Interestingly, all three of these sightings have occurred the last two winters. A fourth Williamson's Sapsucker was seen just across the Wyoming line in Mammoth during the 2024 Christmas Bird Count.

With less than ten records for **Greater Yellowlegs** in Montana during the winter, it is notable that all three of those detections occurred in our area this winter. The first this winter was an audio recording December 26th by **Don Profota** near his home south of Bozeman. The following day, another Greater Yellowlegs was seen during the Three Forks Christmas Bird Count. Finally, on December 30th **Avery Benzinger** found another Greater Yellowlegs on the East Gallatin River northeast of Belgrade. This Yellowlegs was seen by several others throughout the month of January.



**SACAJAWEA**  
**AUDUBON**  
**SOCIETY**

# INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: MARCH 2026

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.

## 2025 AVIAN POINT COUNTS AT THE INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE

### 4th ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

By Victoria Ann Saab, Sacajawea Audubon Society  
Board Member & Scientist Emeritus USDA Rocky  
Mountain Research Station

Avian point count surveys were established in spring 2022 to 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 (SAS) in Bozeman, Montana. Point count data are being collected to provide a standardized and repeatable method for evaluating changes in avian metrics



2025 point counts added two new shorebird species to the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. Spotted Sandpiper (l), Photo by Mick Thompson and Greater Yellowlegs (r), Photo by Bob Martinka.

(number of bird species and abundance of each species) related to proposed wetland restoration activities and the potential designation as a wetland mitigation bank.

During the 2025 field season, we conducted point count surveys at the 9 established point count locations within the Indreland Preserve. 71 bird species (species richness) and 1,948 individuals (species abundance) were recorded during 11 point-count surveys in 2025 at 9 stations from mid-April through mid-October, excluding June due to a scheduling error. Species richness (71) in 2025 was similar to past years (67, 75, 65, in years 2022 – 2024, respectively).

Continued on Page 5

## Celebrating 2026 World Wetland Day



Ermine at the Indreland Preserve on World Wetland Day. Photos by Allison Rognile

Wetlands are largely formed by forces of nature over time. Historically however, many wetlands have been further shaped by generations of knowledge and practice to become cultural heritage landscapes.

We extend special thanks to **Connor Parish of Trout Unlimited**, who shared insight into restoration projects across the Gallatin Valley; **Ashton Buntz of Montana Freshwater Partners**, who provided updates on mitigation banks and restoration efforts on the Crow Reservation and the Flathead Indian Reservation; **Lilly McLain of the Gallatin Watershed Council**, who highlighted collaborative water stewardship; and **Frank Marchak of the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve**, who shared insights into Bozeman's urban wetland. Visit [Bozemanwetlands.org](http://Bozemanwetlands.org) to view the presentation.

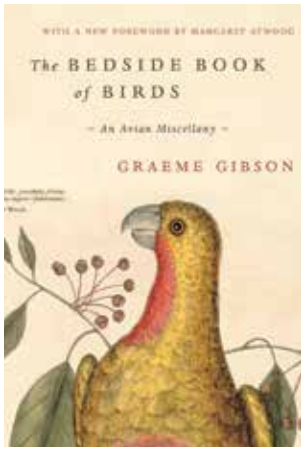
Community members gathered at the Indreland Preserve to tour the frozen landscape, learning about its ecological functions and winter wildlife. A highlight was the sighting of an ermine in its brilliant white winter coat, attempting to blend into the snowless surroundings—its black-tipped tail giving away its identity.

**Thank you to our dedicated Busy Beaver volunteers and Board members for making the day a success.**

## SAS MARCH BOOK CLUB NEWS

Join us as we discuss Graeme Gibson's **The Bedside Book of Birds: An Avian Miscellany**, Reprinted in 2021 with a foreword by Gibson's wife and writer, Margaret Atwood. Atwood writes: "What he was after [in this book] was the many ways birds have affected people throughout many centuries and many cultures."

And Gibson himself explains: "It is about the richly varied and sometimes very intimate relationships that we have established with them [avian life] during the hundreds of thousands of years that we have shared life on earth."



Many good bird books have been published in recent years, but this 20 year labor of love is different. Canadian novelist and birdwatcher Gibson has assembled all manner of artistic forms that our affinity for birds have been expressed in; paintings, poems, essays, stories, creation myths, scientific observations and even recipes. Contributors are legion: ancient and modern, primitive and accomplished, famous and obscure.... Gibson's own graceful and erudite essays are as satisfying as are the other texts and illustrations. The literature

Continued from Page 4

### 2025 AVIAN POINT COUNTS ...

The most notable changes in 2025 compared to 2022-2024 were the additions of two shorebird species recorded for the first time during our surveys, **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Greater Yellowlegs**. **Mallards** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** continue to be the most abundant species across all years. Since the project began in April of 2022, we have recorded 101 species during point count surveys. A pattern of increased abundance is noteworthy for Mallard, while a pattern of decreased abundance is notable for **Marsh Wren**.

We are grateful to all observers that conducted point count surveys and entered data into eBird, which allowed for more efficient data entry and data management to complete this report: **Kristen Bontadelli, Ben Goodheart, Angie Kociolek, Sam Koenen, Doug McSpadden, and Victoria Saab**. The complete report, including a table of species, can be found on the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve website, [bozemanwetlands.org](http://bozemanwetlands.org).

## SAS BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

We meet on 3rd Wednesdays (March 18) from Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-April at Hope Lutheran Church, Room 123 from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. If you have any questions please call or email Hilary Johnson at: [ralphhilary@gmail.com](mailto:ralphhilary@gmail.com) or (406) 599-1446. To join us virtually, please notify Sarah Paulos in advance of the meeting at: [SarahmarilynPaulos@gmail.com](mailto:SarahmarilynPaulos@gmail.com).

You can find a list of this spring's book selections on the Sacajawea Audubon Society website.

**April 2026 – Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens and Other Marvels of the Dark**

By Leigh Ann Henion (2024)

is as diverse as Ovid, Thomas Hardy, Kafka, Thoreau and T.S. Eliot. Birds figure charmingly and tellingly in the work of such nature writers as Gilbert White, Peter Matthiessen, Farley Mowat and Barry Lopez. The book contains more than 100 stunning images of birds depicted in bestiaries, folk art, ancient sculpture and works of artists such as Audubon, Landsdowne, and Catesby.

*The Globe and Mail* (Toronto) which judged this a Best Book of the Year states: "Put this on your list for those who love birds, for those who appreciate fine writing and beautiful art, and for those who wish to accompany a noble mind on a journey into the heart of things."

**Just a few spots remain!**

## Spring Master Naturalist Course

**8-week Course Provides Montana Master Naturalist Certification**

**Dates:** March 10 - May 9, 2026; April 18 & May 9

**Time:** Evening classes (classroom & field),  
Tues / Thurs, 5:30-7:30pm

Two Saturdays in the field, April 18 & May 9

**Location:** Classroom sessions will be held at Hope Lutheran Church; Field locations will vary.

**Certification requirements:**

- Attendance for 40 class hours
- 6 hours volunteer service
- Research and presentation on topic of choice

**Tuition:** \$450.00 SAS members / \$475.00 Non members  
Scholarships are available!

Contact Cedar at

[thuja.sp@gmail.com](mailto:thuja.sp@gmail.com)

**Class size is limited to 15 participants**

**Click or Scan the QR code to register!**



## 2026 BIRDING CLASSES WITH ASHLEY MARTENS

Deepen your connections with birds this season with a class or two with our local educator, Ashley Martens. Contact her at [truenatureed@gmail.com](mailto:truenatureed@gmail.com) with questions.

### CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

**Cavity Nesters** Knock! Knock! Learn about and delight in the woodpeckers, nuthatches, and others who excavate cavities and those species who use them again.

**Classroom Session\***– Wed, May 6th • 5:30-7:00pm

**Field Trip\*\***– Sat, May 9th • 7-10am

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$70

**Beginning Birding** Love birds? Curious about learning to identify them without having to use another app? Learn basic identification skills you can use anywhere you go to connect with the birds around you.

**Classroom Session\***– Wed, May 20th • 5:30-7:00pm

**Field Trip\*\***– Sat, May 23rd • 7-10am

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$70

**Warblers** Learn about and delight in these wonderfully colorful little birds by focusing on plumage, habitat, songs and calls.

**Classroom Session\***– Wed, May 27th • 5:30-7:00pm

**Field Trip\*\***– Sat, May 30th • 7-10am

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$65

**Sparrows** Learn about and delight in these little brown birds' subtle beauty and differences by focusing on plumage, habitat, and songs and calls.

**Classroom Session\***– Wed, June 10th • 5:30-7:00pm

**Field Trip\*\***– Fri, June 12th • 7-10am

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$70

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE CLASSES:



[Click Here to Register](#)



*Instructor Ashley Martens has a B.S. in Biology, an M.S. in Environmental Science, and certifications in teaching yoga, dance, and meditation.*

**Birding By Ear** Cultivate presence and listening skills. Learn a variety of techniques to help you identify the bird soundscapes around you.

**Classroom Session\***– Wed, June 24th • 5:30-7:00pm

**Field Trip\*\***– Fri, June 26th • 7-10am

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$70

**Bird Kinship** Settle into a deeper relationship with birds in this session. We'll learn the ancient and wise skill of listening for "Bird Language" and spend time appreciating birds without (necessarily) having to identify them. You'll develop a sensitive, grounding, and relaxing practice to take with you anywhere you go.

**Classroom Session\***– none

**Field Trip\*\***– Tues & Thurs, June 16th & 18th, 5:30-7pm

**Cost**– Members \$55, Non-Members \$70

*\*Classroom sessions are at Hope Lutheran Church Room 123.*

*\*\*Field trip locations in the Gallatin Valley TBA*

## SPRING RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP WITH STEVE HOFFMAN

If you struggle with raptor identification or feel your raptor identification skills can be improved, this opportunity may be what levels up your skills. You will learn the key details to look for in order to better identify all the raptors likely to be seen in our area.

This workshop includes a **classroom session** on **Thursday, March 12** at 6:30 pm and an **all day field trip** on **Saturday, March 14** at 8:00 am. You can still sign up for the classroom session if you can't make it to the field trip.

**Cost:** \$45 - Classroom and Field Trip SAS Member

\$60 - Classroom and Field Trip Non Member

Steve Hoffman has devoted his entire 44-year career to wildlife conservation. Steve founded HawkWatch International in 1986, and has authored more than 50 publications and reports

on raptor migration, ecology and conservation. Steve is also the owner of Merlin Birding Tours and leads birding groups all around the world. Here in Bozeman, he coordinates the local Bridger Raptor Migration Project.

REGISTER AT:



[Click Here To Register](#)



*Workshop leader, Steve Hoffman, founded HawkWatch International in 1986, and coordinates the local Bridger Raptor Migration Project.*

# SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

## Join the Flock, Fly High Together!

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) encourages everyone who enjoys our field trips or our monthly programs or supports our conservation work to join our local chapter. Even if you belong to National Audubon Society, we need your support through a Local SAS Membership.

**100% of your Local Membership dues directly support SAS education and conservation programs.**

**January – December 2026**

*Membership dues covers an individual or nuclear family*

**Basic Membership .....\$25**

**Supporting Membership .....\$50**

**Student Membership.....\$10**

**Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridger Raptor Study                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever is Needed                 |

Sacajawea Audubon Society **Newsletter** is sent by email.

Check here to receive a **paper copy**.\*

*\*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 National Audubon Society.
- YES!** Include another **\$20** to join National Audubon Society.

**Choose your membership level above, and THANK YOU for considering an additional donation.**

**Mail this form and your check to:**

Sacajawea Audubon Society, Attn: Membership  
PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

**or Visit:** [sacajaweaaudubon.org/membership](http://sacajaweaaudubon.org/membership) to [join](#) or [renew](#) your membership online.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

PO Box or Physical Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mar. '26 Newsletter

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!**

## HIGHLIGHTING SAS PARTNER EVENTS



**Montana Freshwater Partners'** annual Native Plant Sale is a fundraiser that supports the Give Back to the Yellowstone Program, a program based in Park County, MT that carries out on-the-ground restoration, hazard mitigation, and education and outreach. The Native Plant Sale is in partnership with Great Bear Nursery in Hamilton, MT.

**Plants can be reserved through presale now through April 15th.** Visit: [freshwaterpartners.org/shop/](http://freshwaterpartners.org/shop/) to reserve your order. Plant pickup is on Saturday, May 9th. All orders will be pre-packed for easy pickup. Out of the inventory provided, about 25% is reserved for a "day-of" sale on Saturday, May 9th following the presale plant pickup.

Pickup is at the Park County Fairgrounds, during the day-of sale – Saturday, May 9th.

## 25TH ANNUAL WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars and join **Montana Audubon** this summer in **Kalispell, June 12 -14, 2026**, for the Wings Across the Big Sky Festival! Montana Audubon and the local chapter partner, Flathead Audubon Society, have been hard at work putting together a birding festival to commemorate the 50th anniversaries of both organizations- you won't want to miss this year's festival!

wings MONTANA AUDUBON  
across the big sky

**2026**

Presented by GLACIER BANK



There are multiple field trips into Glacier National Park; tours of favorite local hotspots around Flathead Lake; a Friday afternoon pre-festival trip to Flathead Lake Bio Station; and for the more adventurous, the opportunity to bike & bird Going-to-the-Sun Road!

**Registration will open in March 2026.** Keep an eye on Montana Audubon's email newsletter and social media for updates.



**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](mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org).

**Change of Address:** If you have a change of address or are away, please notify [membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org](mailto: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](http://sacajaweaaudubon.org)

## NEST BOX SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Scan here to  
Sponsor a  
Bluebird  
Nest Box.



Scan here to  
Sponsor a  
Kestrel  
Nest Box.



**S**acajawea Audubon Society is again offering a fun way to support our chapter's conservation projects by sponsoring one or more **bluebird** or **kestrel** boxes that we monitor. Sponsorship is **\$20 per bluebird box**, or **\$50 per kestrel box**.

You can sponsor as many as you want. Starting in May, you will receive emailed reports and photos from the field. At the end of the season, we will send a summary of how the nesting season went. If you sponsor a kestrel box, you will be assigned a box number and get to follow its progress through the nesting season.

The money raised this year will go towards the expenses of

maintaining the bluebird and kestrel projects, along with helping fund a **new project** to attach **GPS tags** to a few of our **female bluebirds** and maybe a few **kestrels** as well. We hope to find out where these birds spend the winter months and the route they take, using the Motus Tracking System ([motus.org](http://motus.org)). **This project will be the first of its kind for Mountain Bluebirds.**

To sponsor a nest box, scan the QR codes to be directed to the online form or, mail a check to: Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman MT 59771-1711. Please indicate "Bluebird" and/or "Kestrel" on your check.