



SacajaweaAudubonNews

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON BUILDS ON AN INTEREST IN BIRDS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ENJOYMENT, EDUCATION AND ACTION.

September 2010

Calendar at a Glance

September 7	Audubon Magazine Photography Contest
September 9	Get your bird sightings to John Parker!
September 11	Fall Migration Field Trip
September 11	Mission Valley Hat Party
September 13	Sacajawea Audubon Society Meeting
October 2-3	Bridger Raptor Festival

Note from the Newsletter Editor:

Happy fall to all you fellow birders, neighbors, and friends. Welcome to a new season of the SAS News. We have changed the format a bit, but all the same useful content is here! I would be happy to hear from all of you on your thoughts about this new format and if you have any suggestions for future newsletters. I hope you all are enjoying this erratic weather!

-Mary Cloud B. Ammons



Happy Fall Birding Enthusiasts!

September 13th at 7:00 pm
First Security Bank West
670 South 19th in Bozeman
Downstairs Community Room

This September Sacajawea Audubon Society welcomes members and guests to the start of fall season with announcements of birding activities and the first program of its new year. Come share your stories from the summer! Details of the program are still being finalized at the time this newsletter goes to press, so stay tuned!

The doors open and the social period begins at 6:30 pm. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. We encourage members and non-members alike to meet, mingle and socialize with others during the social period. Refreshments will be served. Non-members are welcome!

Last year the first-ever Audubon Magazine Photography Awards was a big success, and we got hundreds of amazing bird photos. (For a look at the winners and some very worthy runners-up, go to <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/issuearchives/issue1001.html>.)

The 2010 contest is now in full swing, and we're expecting to see even more great photos this year. The deadline is September 7, which means you still have time to send us your best bird shots and compete for some great prizes (trips to the Galapagos, Belize, and Peru; camera equipment; iPod Touch with your choice of 5 Audubon Guide apps). The entry fee for Audubon members is just \$15 (there's also a free-entry option).

Again, the deadline for this year's contest is September 7. If you'd like to enter, or would like more information, go to <http://www.audubonmagazine.org> and click on the Photo Awards banner at the top of the page.

Thanks, and if you decide to enter, good luck!

Fall Migration Field Trip

Saturday, September 11
Meet at 7:45 at the Museum of the Rockies. Carpool and leave at 8 am.

September is the peak of the fall migration, with an amazing diversity of birds passing through southwestern Montana. The emphasis of this trip will be on shorebirds, with the primary destination being Harrison Reservoir. Weather and water levels can make predicting where the birds are difficult, so be prepared for any last minute changes to the itinerary.

This trip will last until mid-afternoon. Bring a lunch and anything else you may need for a day in the field.

**Trip Leader: Ed Harper (916)
704-7954**

A Word from the President

We of the Sacajawea Audubon Society are part of a global network of people enjoy birds, respect nature, and contribute to conservation.

When we report bird sightings, survey bird populations at a particular site, submit bird counts, or improve habitat for birds, we are functioning as citizen scientists. This is true whether a member has formal academic training and professional credentials in science or whether, as is more common, the individual learns through a combination of reading, workshops, classes, local nature societies, museums, and the help of friends.

There is a saying that comparison kills initiative, because there is always someone better, someone worse. The question is not whether someone else can do a task better, but whether your doing the job will help. Sacajawea Audubon has lots of opportunities for you to help — to help in the field, office, or home, to help identify and monitor birds, to help conserve habitat, to help educate and inform the public, and to help the organization function.

Speak up and we will guide you get into a productive volunteer role. We are entering a new year, and we need you. We need your active participation.

Anne Millbrooke

President

Back to the Wild-With New Boots On

The April 2010 issue of the Sacajawea Audubon News reported the fitting of custom-made shoes to a Golden Eagle received at the Montana Raptor Conservation Center this past February in an effort to open clenched feet caused by neural damage from heavy metal poisoning. The MRCC is pleased to report



that the same bird, GOEA #10-10, recovered fully and made a spectacular return to the wild. Filmed by a crew from National Geographic WILD and cheered on by volunteers and staff that had worked with the raptor for four months, GOEA#10-10 took off from the transport box and headed west toward the nearest trees several hundred yards away. Midway to the trees, he doubled back, caught a thermal and soared upward gliding eastward on the wind until he disappeared from sight. Our local bird

will be featured on the National Geographic Wild channel in a program entitled Yellowstone Spring this September on the National Geo WILD channel. While we don't have an exact showing time, we hope that you will watch for this bird's spectacular launch back into the wild.

The Raptor Center placed most of the nestling Great Horned Owls with adoptive parents and released many other species received over the summer. Numerous and Unusual patients include: 14 Bald Eagles, seven Golden Eagles, four Ferruginous Hawks and a Burrowing Owl.

The Raptor Center's Education birds participated in an array of educational events over the summer including the Watershed Fest, the Helena International Migratory Bird Day, and Lewis & Clark Caverns Speaker's Series. The birds will be at the Kids River Resource Day in Sheridan MT on September 16. You can also catch them at the annual Raptor Fest being held October 8, 9 & 10 at Bridger Bowl. Come see how you measure up size-wise against the life-sized quilted

birds depicted on our new 16 foot long raptor banner.

You can help us continue to educate the public and rescue raptors through donations of in-kind Cleaning Supplies, Office Supplies & Equipment, or Gift Cards for purchases at local Building, Gas and Business/Computer suppliers. Wild game and fish (no ground meat, please) are always needed. The Center needs new or reliable used mowing equipment, picnic table and a vehicle to help us launch a Raptormobile outreach program. For more information about a tax deductible donation, please call MRCC at 406 585-1211.



Bird Sightings

This past spring's waterfowl migration came and went without much fanfare. A single Eurasian Wigeon was seen on a pond just east of Hebgen Lake by Kirk Horn, from April 15th to the 17th. On May 21st, Kate Olsen photographed a male and female pair of Harlequin Ducks on Specimen Creek, in the northwestern corner of Yellowstone Park.

On the east side of the Bridger Mountains George Kelly and Jo Newell saw a male/female pair of Pileated Woodpeckers on May 23. Over the course of the next month they saw the pair excavating several cavities, though they could never confirm that they had nested in the area.

This summer, Andrew Guttenberg located a couple of terrific birds. While indoors at his house in north central Bozeman, he heard an oriole singing. When he went outside to investigate, he confirmed that it was what he suspected, a Baltimore Oriole. This was only the third time a Baltimore Oriole has been seen in the west or southwestern part of the state. Then on July 1st, Andrew and his friend Jon King discovered a Black-billed Cuckoo just off of Goldenstein, on the Sourdough Trail. Black-billed Cuckoos were considered fairly common here until the early seventies. Yet this is the first report of one

in the Gallatin Valley in the last twenty years.

At first, June 11th didn't seem like a great to be out birding with George Kelly, Ed Harper and Robin Wolcott. The day began cold, windy, and snowing, but the storm had caused a spectacular fallout of birds along the north shore of Ennis Lake. With well over 200 Western Tanagers and several hundred Yellow-rumped Warblers by the road, on the road, in the grass, it was hard to know where to look. Eventually, mixed in among the more dazzling birds, we were able to identify nine species of flycatchers. But the find of the day was a Northern Parula in an Elm tree that contained an amazing 15 other species of birds. A first for southwestern Montana, Northern Parulas have only been seen about seven times previously in the state.

This year was another banner year for Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings, with at least five different birds seen from Gardiner to Bozeman. On May 19th both Robin Wolcott and Ashley Martens noted a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak along the Sourdough Nature Trail. Presumably the same bird was seen and heard on several occasions in the same area during June. Then on July 2nd, Maggie Butler spotted the male Rose-breasted Grosbeak singing from a nest right above the trail. The next day the

Rose-breasted's nesting partner was confirmed to be a female Black-headed Grosbeak. This mixed pair of grosbeaks successfully nested and were seen feeding the fledglings. This sighting and follow-up was especially notable, as this is the first proven breeding record of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak for the state of Montana.

On the evening of July 19th, Matt Rognlie spotted a different bird at their south Bozeman feeder. Immediately, Matt's daughter Miriam identified the bird as a male Lesser Goldfinch, and then she realized there was a female with the male. Miriam only saw the pair one more time, the following morning. A new western-most state record, and a pair, no less. A very exciting backyard bird. I know I'm looking at every goldfinch a little more carefully now.

It's September already, and the fall migration is well underway, with abundant opportunities to enjoy the birds heading south for the winter. Remember that anything is possible during migration, and I hope to hear about your sightings this fall.

-John Parker

Thank you to all our sharp-eyed birders for reporting your great sightings. Please report your Bird Sightings by the 9th of the month to John Parker at 586-5863 or conundrum@imt.net

THE 10TH ANNUAL MISSION VALLEY HAT PARTY



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010,
AT THE OWL RESEARCH INSTITUTE!
All Auduboners and friends are welcome!**

The Hat Party begins at 4 p.m. with live music.

Food service starts at 5:30. The bands continue till midnight, with three groups on the play schedule.

Campfire music continues into the morning!

A \$20 donation provides you with all-you-can-eat barbecue: pork and beef brisket, pasta and green salads, pies and pastries, beer and wine, and soft drinks. You are also guaranteed a spot for overnight camping (both trailers and tents).

Don't forget your hat—the more creative, the better! Forgetting a hat will cost you \$5. An especially creative hat could win you a prize.

Address: Ninepipes Center; 35490 Ninepipes Lane; Charlo, MT 59824

Signs are posted at intersections near the Hat Party.



Sacajawea Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711

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Sacajawea Audubon Society, affiliated with the National Audubon Society, meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May.

Sacajawea Audubon News is sent to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members monthly September through May. Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the month articles will appear. Please send to: **Mary Cloud Ammons, 503 Bozeman, Bozeman MT 59715** or mcammons@gmail.com. Send announcements for upcoming activities to **Jennie Chalet, jenniechalet@gmail.com**.

Change of Address: Please notify **Sally MacDonald, 222-5752** or smacbirder@msn.com if your address changes. When you move or are away, newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society Website** at: <http://www.sacajaweaaudubon.org/>

Mailing Address

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	conundrum@imt.net
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Program Chair	OPEN		
Publicity Chair	Jennie Chalet	914-629-9163	jenniechalet@gmail.com
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Webmaster	Jeff Pentel	586-3534	jpentel@wispwest.net

Would you like to join Audubon? Clip here:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

NAS Membership includes:

- National, state, and chapter membership
- Quarterly Audubon magazine and chapter newsletter September through May
- Admission to Audubon sanctuaries
- Support of conservation efforts

- \$20 for First Time Member
- \$15 for Seniors (62+) or Students
- _____ Amount enclosed

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Email: _____

Mail this application and your check to
Sacajawea Audubon Society
 PO Box 1711
 Bozeman, MT 59771-1711
 (N51 / 7XCH)

Montana Audubon: 406-443-3949; PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624; mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org; www.mtaudubon.org
 For direct contact: shoffman@mtaudubon.org
 Montana Bird Hotline: 406-721-9799 to report unusual or out-of-season birds

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