



SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

November 2010

Calendar at a Glance

- November 8th Sacajawea Audubon Society Meeting
 November 9th Get your bird sightings to John Parker!



A Haiku for all of You!

*Twenty Five Pinyon
 Blue Surprise in Livingston
 Clean Bird Feeder*

-Peter Norlander

Earthjustice: Litigation in the Environment's Defense

November 8th at 7:00 pm
First Security Bank West
670 South 19th in Bozeman
Downstairs Community Room

At this November's Meeting the Sacajawea Audubon Society will feature a presentation by Sean Helle titled: Earthjustice: Litigation in the Environment's Defense.

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!



A Word From the New National Audubon President

After traveling 15,000 miles in 29 days, visiting 6 Audubon Centers, meeting 24 chapter presidents and seeing 184 species, I've landed back in New York today to put to use all I've learned on my listening tour.

I want to share my story and some pictures with you. It's at <http://magblog.audubon.org/field-report-audubon%E2%80%99s-president-david-yarnold>. There's much more to tell, but I wanted to keep it brief.

My travels introduced me to terrific Audubon staff, volunteers and partners. I'm optimistic that, with greater focus, better communication and a sense of urgency, Audubon's future has never been brighter.

With best regards,
 David Yarnold
 President
 National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Earthjustice is a public interest law firm with the motto "Because the earth needs a good lawyer." Sean Helle, a Senior Associate Attorney with Earthjustice's Northern Rockies regional office here in Bozeman, will discuss the history of the non-profit firm, the importance of environmental litigation, the past accomplishments of Earthjustice's Northern Rockies office, and the current docket.

Sean Helle has been a lawyer in Earthjustice's Northern Rockies office for three years. Previously, he worked as an associate in the New York office of Arnold & Porter, and he served as a law clerk to both Judge Diana E. Murphy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He grew up in Iowa. He fell for our public lands and wildlife during a blessed series of high-school backpacking trips in Colorado and New Mexico.

President's Comments: Local Species

The ousel is a local bird, seen in Bozeman Creek. While walking or swimming underwater, it catches its food. The ousel is common near flowing water as reflected in place names like Ousel Falls in southern Montana and Ousel Peak in northern Montana. Ousel, of course, is the old name for what is now commonly called the American dipper. The scientific name is *Cinclus mexicanus*, and the bird is of the order passeriformes and the family cinclidae.

John Muir devoted an entire chapter to this "water ousel," which he described as "a singularly joyous and lovable little fellow, about the size of a robin, clad in a plain waterproof suit of bluish gray, with a tinge of chocolate on the head and shoulders."

"In form," Muir continued, "he is about as smoothly plump and compact as a pebble that has been whirled in a pot-hole, the flowing contour of his body being interrupted only by his strong feet and bill, the crisp wing-tips, and the up-slanted wren-like tail."

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, "the American Dipper is North America's only truly aquatic songbird."

Not bad, not bad at all for a local species.

Anne Millbrooke

SAS President

Bird Notes!

It was a "great" day for Ed Harper and Robin Wolcott, as they birded around Ennis Lake, October 7th. Not only did they find a **Great Egret** on the south shore of Ennis Lake, but they also located a **Greater Scaup** along the north shore of the lake.

On September 12th, Norm Dusenberry noted a congregation of 30-40 **Common Nighthawks** south of the hospital in Bozeman. The nighthawks were probably flocking, prior to the start of their southward migration, as they typically leave our area by the third week of September.

Like this past spring and summer, **Pileated Woodpeckers** have continued to be seen this fall in the Bridger Canyon area. Vicki and Al Scharen had a pair of Pileateds around their home off of Jackson Creek, from spring till mid July. This fall there have been multiple sightings along the Bridger Ridge. This year's Bridger hawk watchers, Dave Laufenberg and Jamie Hogberg, saw a single Pileated Woodpecker on both September 4th, and again on the 24th.

So far this fall, Jamie and Dave are reporting good numbers of raptors migrating along the ridge, after a couple of relatively down years. At this writing accipiter numbers look especially encouraging. One of the notable sightings from the hawk watch site was the

Broad-winged Hawk that they saw on October 7th, which is a late record for this location.

The story of Montana's first recorded breeding **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** continued into the fall. As noted in September's newsletter, this male grosbeak successfully bred with a female Black-headed Grosbeak, along the Sourdough Nature Trail. It turns out that Margaret and Lyle Andersen had the male Rose-breasted Grosbeak and fledgling grosbeaks coming to their Gardner Park feeder, till the quite late date of September 20th.

-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



Sometimes It Takes A State To Save A Hawk - Montana Raptor Conservation Center

*"It takes a village to raise a child."
— George Washington Carver*



Seven Ferruginous Hawks have found their way to MRCC this year, significantly surpassing the usual two or three per year.

Ferruginous Hawk (FEHA 63-10), a small bundle of ferruginous fluff observed sitting unattended at the edge of a road near Miles City for two days, was transported to Billings where the bird was picked up and transported by Robert Lubbers, Yellowstone Valley Audubon member, to Reed Point, Montana. From there, the nestling was picked up by Becky Kean, MRCC Director, who delivered him to the Center and assessed his condition. In good shape, the nestling needed something almost impossible to find in Bozeman: a new home on the prairie and an adoptive family. Ferruginous Hawks typically live in open grasslands and sage country and are rarely seen in more populated areas. Claire Gower, biologist with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 3 suggested contacting biologist Nathan Korb in SW Montana, and he lead MRCC to Jack Kirkley with the University of

Montana Western. Mr. Kirkley had knowledge of an active ferruginous nest near Dillon. MRCC staff drove the now fledgling hawk to a site near Dillon, MT. Waiting near the nest site was a vocal parent and another fledgling ferruginous. These factors are the primary signs of a great release site. The release of a bird into the wild is the product of a caring network of people and



organizations committed to Raptors. So, understanding that the Montana Raptor Conservation Center is in an unlikely region of Ferruginous activity, the Center got a report of an injured Ferruginous Hawk in August near Oak Street in Bozeman. Down with a fractured carpal, FEHA 101-10 was probably migrating through the area. With patience and care, today that bird has been rehabilitated, and

is just waiting for primary feathers to come in and carry him further along his migratory journey.

Another fledgling ferruginous hawk (FEHA 73-10) was just released last weekend back to his summering grounds near Ennis, Montana, where he can join up with his fellow hawks and migrate to a milder climate for winter in the west and southwest US. These largest species of North American hawks are amazing creatures. In the sky look for a definitive "V" shape of the legs. And if you are lucky enough to see one of these hawks either perched or on the ground, watch for a wide, gaping yellow mouth. They often exhibit a "fight rather than flight" tendency, so give them a wide berth, if you encounter one.

Sharing nest locations with the MRCC (406 585-1211) enables the Center to provide orphaned nestlings and young fledglings with a new home and active adults to teach hunting and survival skills. And it affords a spectacular opportunity for the people reporting these nests to enjoy observing the parental process of producing viable youngsters in mere months.

Raptor Festival Success!

The Raptor Festival was a great success. Saturday was a record breaking attendance for the Raptor Festival with Sunday being just a little slower. Totals for Saturday were 43 children and 77 adults participating at the SAS booth. Sunday morning was slower than the afternoon with totals of 47 children and 62 adults participating in the booth.

Special thanks to the Volunteers to the booth including John Shellenberger, Jennie Chaiet, Ron Farmer, Paul and Lynn Elder, and Jan Jorgensen. Also thanks to Paul and Lynn who took down the booth on Sunday Afternoon and delivered it to the Meeting on Monday night. Thanks everybody!





Sacajawea Audubon Society
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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 Chaiet, jenniechaiet@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.sacajaweaudubon.org/>

Mailing Address

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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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