



SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

April 2013

Calendar at a Glance

- April 8th SAS Meeting
- April 9th Bird Sightings to John Parker
- April 15th Newsletter Submissions Due
- May 22nd Big Sky Festival Nominations Due
- June 7th-9th Wings Across the Big Sky Festival



Better Birding Through the Artful Eye

Monday April 8th , 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman

Sacajawea Audubon presents "Better Birding through the Artful Eye" with George Bumann, M.S. on Monday, April 8, 7 pm at Hope Lutheran Church, S. 19th and Graf St. During this presentation, you will hone your identification skills through quick sketches of birds. This is not a drawing class, but a method for improving observation. George, as well as being an exhibiting artist, wildlife ecologist, and educator, is a delightful speaker. This is guaranteed to be a fun and informative evening.

The Sacajawea Audubon Society meets the second Monday of the month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m., at the Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman. We invite the public to attend our meetings and participate in our field trips

Bioline Biodegradable Fishing Line

Fishing line has long been an environmental problem, because most petroleum-based, nylon, monofilament fishing line requires 500 or more years for photodegradation. It is not biodegradable.

If you plan to use fishing line for any purpose, search for Bioline, designed by a doctor expert in biodegradable medical sutures. Bioline takes five years to biodegrade, but even after two years it has degraded enough to break should wildlife become entangled therein.

Eagle Claw's Bioline biodegradable fishing line should be available anywhere fishing equipment is sold. If a store does not have it, ask the store to carry it!

-Anne Milbrook
Former SAS President

Thanks, Anne!



Bird Notes



The IBA survey team of Vickie Backus, Martha Collins, Lynn and John Mugaas had an amazing find at the Meadow Lake fishing access on Ennis Lake March 2nd. They spotted **3 Willets** on the mudflats there. This sighting proceeds the typical arrival time for the species by seven weeks!

A **Great Gray Owl** was photographed by Katherine Crumrine February 22nd, at the Bozeman Public Library. Occasionally Great Gray Owls come out of the mountains, and are seen in the valleys during winter, but this is the first I've heard of that was right in the city. A **Northern Pygmy Owl** was seen at the Drinking Horse trailhead on February 26th, by Joan Ryshavy.

If you have a large population of House Sparrows, then most likely there will be a Merlin in the neighborhood. On February 19th, Madeline Lieb saw an explosion of sparrows and then watched as a **Merlin** chased them into the bushes. She wasn't sure

if the Merlin had dinner or not when it emerged from the bushes. Joan Ryshavy reports that the **Kestrels** that nest near her house west of Belgrade, returned the first week of March. Joan was excited to see an early **Sandhill Crane** fly over Central Park Pond, on March 10th.

Once again this winter (February 15th), a **Virginia Rail** was seen at the Cherry River fishing access, by Paulette Epple. Paulette still has a **Blue Jay** coming to her yard near Story Mill.

On February 15th Dorie Green had a couple of surprise birds at the Regional Park off of Oak Street in Bozeman. The first surprise was a **Wilson's Snipe**, which was flushed from a ditch by a loose dog. Shortly after that Dorie saw a **Northern Shrike** that had caught either a mouse or a vole. Cedar Waxwings are never very common in our area during the winter, and this winter they have been especially scarce. So, it was notable that Dorie saw a flock of **12 Cedar Waxwings** February 12th, in downtown Bozeman by the Wells Fargo Bank.

On both March 3 and 4, Noreen Breeding enjoyed watching a flock of **Pine Grosbeaks**, as they were eating hawthorn buds on the northwest flank of Mount Ellis.

-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

Battle Ridge Campground Owl Prowl for March 23rd, 2013

The Owl Prowl trip up to Battle Ridge was a great success. Led by Peter Norlander, most of the group met at the City Hall parking lot at 7:30 PM, the group included participants Roxana and Bill McLaughlin, Vonnie Barhart, Janet Jorgensen, Jean Block, and Scott Swanson. After a brief introduction of Owl lore and calls of the target Owls at Battle Ridge the group headed up to the Battle Ridge campground where we were met by participants George and Jo Kelly from Livingston. All donned snowshoes with Jo Kelly on skis and proceeded South through the campground and after stopping briefly for stopping we heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling.

After travelling south out of the campground we heard the fledging Great Grey Owls calling from a nest in the trees some 150 feet to the east, with the mother calling back to them too. The male Great Grey was heard at a great distance off, probably hunting. Returning back at the campground most of the group moved up the road to a lookout looking south where we heard a Northern Saw-whet call and Peter tried to call it closer.

Traveling back to the parking lot a Saw-whet called from the North briefly. Peter then did a Boreal Owl call and one answered briefly to the South. The bright moon, and the brilliant winter Milky Way illuminated the winter landscape at the Battle Ridge campground. We departed at 10:15 with the temperature around 10° F.



Call for Nominations!

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife. We are currently seeking nominations in the following categories:

Lifetime Achievement Award. For an Audubon volunteer who has dedicated extraordinary effort, time and energy to shape the activities and successes of a local Audubon Chapter and/or Montana Audubon.

Educator of the Year. For a person who has shown outstanding achievement in educating others about birds, other wildlife, and conservation of habitat.

Conservationist of the Year. For an individual who has provided significant wildlife conservation achievement in Montana.

Download a nomination form from our website (<http://www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html>). Nominations are due at the office by May 22, 2013. Award winners will be announced at our Bird Festival banquet in Lewistown on June 7. Thanks for your help in our search for this year's award winners!

Citizen Scientist of the Year. For a person contributing significantly to our knowledge and understanding of birds and their habitats through monitoring and observations.

Special Achievement Award. For a person who has shown an extraordinary commitment to birds, other wildlife, and the conservation of habitat on a special project or through special activities.

Introducing Amelia...

Not all birds of prey that attain permanent injuries are good candidates as education team members for MRCC or other facilities. The temperament of the bird and the potential long term effects of their injuries must be taken into account. You can imagine that not all wild birds would tolerate living around us humans. But in some cases, we deem ourselves quite lucky indeed to make the commitment to care for and get to know a bird of prey for the rest of their lives. Through education programs, adults and children alike are able to witness up close the magnificence of raptors.

A name can speak volumes. It can hint at the unique personality of an individual, including a raptor individual. The staff and volunteers at MRCC are so thrilled to welcome a new raptor member to the education team. Her name is Amelia (after Amelia Earhart of course). She is an adult, female peregrine falcon, and so she knows of the adventure of

flying fast. Originally, Amelia was admitted to the Wildlife Center of Montana in Helena in June of last summer. It is most likely that she was struck by a vehicle and sustained a traumatic shoulder fracture, inhibiting her ability to fly. About 40%- 45% of the injuries documented at Montana Raptor Conservation Center are due to birds of prey being hit by cars.



The federal government issued MRCC a permit for Amelia to become a part of the growing education program, and we feel very privileged. While it is difficult to know a raptor's exact age once they have reached adulthood, it is believed that Amelia was part of a

breeding pair near Frenchtown, and has been reported to have nested there for seven years.

Peregrines hold some very special qualities, with speed being one of the most exciting. These birds have been clocked in a stoop (diving after prey) at 200 miles per hour. Wow. They have special nostrils and eyelids to prevent debris from entering at such speeds. And as with other falcons, they are keen on efficiency in their hunting. If a blow from a peregrine's closed talons at those high speeds does not immediately kill the prey, they use the famous notch in their beaks (tomial tooth) to sever the spine.

And so it is with great pleasure that we at MRCC introduce Amelia, the peregrine. Please look for her at education programs and of course at Raptorfest in the fall!

Report an injured raptor quickly!
406-585-1211

**Article by Cynthia Zyzda
Photos by Becky Kean**



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 newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org.

Change of Address: Please notify Sally MacDonald, 223-9167 or membership@sacajaweaudubon.org 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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Webmaster			

Membership Application

National Audubon Society
 (Includes chapter membership)

- National, State and Chapter Audubon Membership
- National Audubon Magazine
- Monthly Sacajawea Audubon newsletter September through May by surface mail or E-mail
- Admission to National Audubon sanctuaries
- Support of National Audubon conservation efforts

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

_____ \$20 First Time Member

_____ I would like to receive the chapter newsletter by E-mail only.

Mail your check and application to:
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 597711711

(N51)

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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