



SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

March 2013

Calendar at a Glance

- March 2nd Madison Valley IBA Bird Survey
- March 8th-9th Raptor Field Trip
- March 9th Bird Sightings to John Parker
- March 11th SAS Meeting
- March 15th Newsletter Submissions Due
- March 23rd Owl Prowl
- June 7th-9th Wings Across the Big Sky Festival



March 2nd - Madison Valley IBA Bird Survey
Volunteers needed!
Contact Paulette (406-580-6186)



The Natural Cycles of Greater Yellowstone

Monday March 11th , 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church

2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman

On Monday, March 11, the Sacajawea Audubon Society presents Orville "Butch" Bach, Jr. speaking on "The Natural Cycles of Greater Yellowstone." In order to preserve the gem in our backyard, Yellowstone National Park, we need to understand how its health depends on the the health of the entire ecosystem. Butch has devoted his life as a seasonal ranger to educating and inspiring people about this issue. He is the author of [Tracking the Spirit of Yellowstone, 31 years as a Seasonal Ranger](#), and [Backcountry Hiking Yellowstone](#).

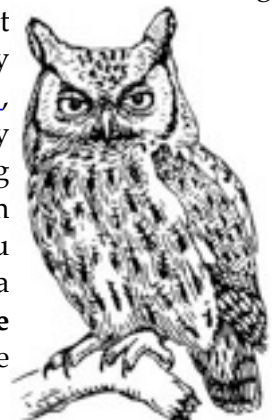
The Sacajawea Audubon Society meets the second Monday of the month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m., at the Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman. We invite the public to attend our meetings and participate in our field trips

Owl Prowl Planned for March 2013

Come join us for an Owl Prowl with Sacajawea Audubon this winter.

The Owl Prowl will be held on Saturday March 23th and will be held in the Battle Ridge Campground area (up at the top of the Bridger Mountains). We will hope to hear (and maybe find) Boreal Owls, possibly Northern Saw-Whet, possibly Great Gray Owls. We will meet at the City Hall Parking Lot (on Rouse) at 7:30 PM. **Snowshoes** will be required for this trip and there will be an 8 person maximum. Please call Peter Norlander 222-4646 to sign up. There will be a short discussion of owl lore, prior to leaving by car to the trail.

Please note that due to increased human activities in past locations for the Owl Prowls have inhibited owl breeding and nesting behavior. Please contact Peter Norlander if you have any questions (norlander@q.com, 222-4646). Please dress appropriately for **Nighttime** Winter/Cold Spring weather with snow boots or warm waterproof boots (no sneakers). You may bring binoculars and a flashlight. **Snowshoes will be required** for this night time excursion.



Bird Notes

Central Park Pond is the place to go in the Gallatin Valley for waterfowl viewing during the winter. At least 16 species of waterfowl (13 species of ducks) have been observed at the pond since the New Year. Up to 20 swans, (15 Trumpeter and 5 Tundra) have been seen at the pond this year. On January 24th, Scott Dean stayed till almost dark, and watched the evening flight of **1,050 Common Goldeneye** drop onto the pond. Up to 3,000 Common Goldeneye have been counted, using the pond for their night roost.

Virginia Rails are always fairly secretive and hard to see in their marshy habitat. Along with that, southwest Montana is at the extreme limits of these rails' winter range. So, the **2 Virginia** Rails seen January 27th at the Cherry River fishing access, by Ellie and Larry Akins was quite a find.

On February 7th, George Kelly, John Parker, and Forrest Rowland were very fortunate to find a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, up Deep Creek in Paradise Valley. Without the mobbing behavior of the smaller forest dwelling birds, we never would have seen this owl. The mob harassing the owl included 28 individual birds representing 7 species. It's always worth the time to see what the commotion is about.

While hiking near Battle Ridge, January 26th, Geoff Hill got terrific views of a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

On three occasions from early January to early February, Sam Koenen has seen **2 Western Meadowlarks** on a haystack, by Harper Puckett Road, west of Bozeman.

Scott Dean nearly always has a nice variety and good numbers of birds coming to his feeders in Clyde Park. On January 13th his feeders were inundated by **250 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches**. Scott estimated that 10% of the flock was the Hepburns's race of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

-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

Save the Date! For The 14th Annual Wings June Across the Big Sky Festival June 7th-9th!



You are invited to join Montana Audubon and Lewistown for dynamic birding field trips, great speakers, interesting presentations, and fun festivities as we celebrate efforts to conserve our birds and wildlife in the heart of Montana. One of only ten cities nationwide selected to receive an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds grant, the Lewistown community and surrounding areas are gearing up to welcome birders to the region.

Keynote speaker Susan Bonfield of the International Migratory Bird Day and Environment for the Americas will share with us a glimpse into the Western Hummingbird Partnership and the world of hummingbirds. [Note the change in schedule for speaker John Marzluff. He will join us for the 15th Annual Wings Across the Big Sky Festival in Bozeman.]

Experience Central Montana and all this landscape has to offer either through festival field trips or your own exploration. There will be an art workshop, tours of the historic Lewistown and its architecture, and other things to do for those who choose to remain at the hotel during field trip outings. Lewistown has wonderful fishing too! Bring your rod and reel along with your binoculars!

- Lewistown Trail System
- Snowies, Moccasins, Belts, Judiths, and Highwoods
- Big Springs Trout Hatchery
- Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
- Big Spring Creek Fishing
- An official Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird Trail Tracker, the first and only in the state, will be available in the lobby of the festival hotel, the Yogo Inn, to record your sightings!

Registration will open on March 6, 2013! Visit mtaudubon.org for more information.

Keeping House Sparrows out of Your Feeder

Hi Birding Friends. Do you have a problem with the nasty pests of House Sparrows invading your feeder or your Blue Bird houses or other Bird Houses? Well there is a very simple solution that has been discussed amongst some few birders but still not widely known. Simply hang a single piece of fishing line (8 to 12 inches long) with a small weight (like a small washer) on the end to keep it from blowing in the wind from each of the corners of your bird feeder or in front of the hole of your bird house. That's it. Simple. You can use a small screw or holes in your feeder to hang the fishing line from. House Sparrow **will not** go past the fishing line and yet all other birds will keep coming back. I have had mine around my feeder for a month and the House Sparrows have almost completely avoided my urban yard. Works great and easy to do. Questions? email me Peter Norlander at norlander@q.com.

Thanks Peter!

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

This spring is an exciting time to be a Sacajawea Audubon volunteer. If you like to bird, no matter what your skill level, we could use your help on bird surveys of the IBAs (Important Bird Areas) within our region. If you would like some hands-on conservation work we need help this summer with a fence-moving project in the Madison Valley to protect valuable riparian habitat for nesting birds. We also are looking for people to monitor kestrel and bluebird nest boxes. If writing and networking is more your style, we are looking for someone to handle our publicity. Here are some important dates and contacts to call for more information.

Check our website, www.sacajaweaaudubon.org, for updated information on all volunteer opportunities. *And thanks for all you do for the birds!!!*

- **Madison Valley IBA Bird Surveys** Mar 2nd, Apr 27th, and Jun 22nd Contact: Paulette Epple 580-6186 or sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
- **Headwaters IBA Bird Surveys** Apr 20th and May 18th Contact: Annie Sisk 285-6596 or anniesisk@sacajaweaaudubon.org
- **Paradise Valley Bird Survey** May 19th Contact: Paulette Epple 580-6186 or sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
- **Fence Moving Project** Watch for more information later in our newsletter
- **Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring** Contact: Lou Ann Harris 600-3585 or louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
- **Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring and Construction** Contact: Paulette Epple 580-6186 or sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
- **Publicity Chairperson** Contact: Loreene Reid 600-6666 or pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Raptor Identification Workshop and Field Trip March 8th and 9th

Presented by: Steve Hoffman, Executive Director, MT Audubon and founder of HawkWatch International)

Have you ever wanted to sharpen your raptor identification skills? If so, this is the workshop for you! On Friday evening Steve will provide a detailed discussion of the identification and natural history of all raptor (e.g., hawks, eagles, falcons, etc.) species wintering in the Gallatin Valley. Steve's illustrated talk will include a description of the many plumage variations (including subspecies and color forms, as well as age and sex variations) of the more common and observable species. Helpful behavioral clues will also be incorporated. Eagles, falcons and the "buteo" hawks (such as Red-tailed Hawks) will be emphasized. Participants will then go into the field (north of Bozeman) on Saturday to practice their newly-developed skills. Steve's presentation will be especially valuable for "intermediate" and "advanced" raptor watching enthusiasts, although beginners will also find this workshop quite helpful.

The Friday night presentation will start at 7 PM and last till 9 PM, in the Bozeman Public Library's small conference room. Saturday morning's field trip will meet at the Museum of the Rockies at 8:30 am, and leave at 8:45. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring any necessary drinks or snacks for this 4-5 hour trip. If you have a spotting scope that you can bring, that would be helpful. There is a \$20 fee and 20 person limit for the workshop and field trip. Advance reservation and payment is required. For more information and to make reservations please call John Parker at 586-5863.



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

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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	Annie Sisk	285-6596	anniesisk@sacajaweaudubon.org
	Peter Norlander	222-4646	norlander@q.com
	John Shellenberger	585-5384	conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org
	Monica Brelsford	388-6125	monica.brelsford@gmail.com
Audubon Adventures	John Parker	586-5863	birdsightings@sacajaweaudubon.org
Field trips, Bird Count	John Shellenberger	585-5384	conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org
and Bird Sightings	Diane Gresham	219-3543	dgresham@bresnan.net
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Hospitality/Coffee	Mary Cloud Ammons	600-0301	newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org
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Program Chair	Wane Urbonas	599-4681	programs@sacajaweaudubon.org
Publicity Chair	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaudubon.org
Chapter Rep. to State			
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

The Sacajawea Audubon Society Newsletter is Printed on 100% Recycled Paper