



# SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

November 2012

## Calendar at a Glance

Nov 12th	SAS Meeting
Nov 9th	Bird Sightings to John Parker
Nov 15th	Newsletter Submissions Due

*Grey Coud Winged Hunter  
Winter Flyer Wonder Day  
Snow Talented dark Gyr*

*By,  
Peter Norlander*

## Where the Wind Blows

### Wind Energy in Montana: Impacts on Birds and Other Wildlife

Monday November 12th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hope Lutheran Church  
2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman

As the threat of global warming looms ever larger, alternative energy sources like wind power become increasingly essential to meeting our country's energy demands. Montana ranks as one of the best places in the United States to build new wind farms. A few large-scale wind farms have already been built - and many new projects are slated for construction across the state. This development must be managed responsibly, because poorly-sited wind farms can cause significant impacts to birds, wildlife, and habitat. Learn what Audubon's concerns are on this important issue.

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon's Program Director, has lobbied for Montana Audubon since 1983, and was hired to staff its office on a year-round basis when it opened in 1989. Her work focuses on protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat through public policy, with an emphasis on land use planning, stream setbacks, wind energy, and more. She has received several awards for her work, including the Conservationist of the Year Award from Montana Audubon, the Montana Wildlife Federation, and the Montana Environmental Information Center; and Special Achievement Awards from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



## Thanks for 2012 Raptor Festival!

Special Thanks to **Emily Lind** who especially organizes the Raptor Festival and special thanks to **Doug Wales** of **Bridger Bowl** who both work to make the 2012 Raptor Festival such a great success.

Thanks to all the Volunteers who helped with the set up and helped at the Booth at the Raptor Festival including Peter Norlander, Loreene Reed, Jackie Wilson, Lou Ann Harris, Nora Miller, Linda and Wano Urbonas, and Paulette Epple. We all talked to lots of people sold books, hats and had a great time with Thayer Birding Guide and Quiz.

The Attendance Count included: Saturday (AM 21 children, 37 Adults; PM 60 children at least 106 adults) and Sunday (AM 20 children 44 Adults; PM 25 Children, 43 Adults). Thanks to all Booth Volunteers.

**Thanks to all of you for a Great Time.**

**Happy Birding,**

**Peter Norlander**

## Bird Notes

It has been a record-breaking year for migrating raptors at the Bridger Ridge hawkwatch site, above Bridger Bowl. The hawk watchers Kalon Baughan and Bret Davis have tallied record high or near record high numbers for several raptor species so far this season. By mid October they had seen a record high **35 Peregrine Falcons** and near record high counts for both American Kestrel and Broad-winged Hawk. Besides counting raptors, being on the ridge is a good opportunity to see other south bound migrants. On two occasions in mid September, Bret and Kalon saw migrating **Common Loons**. They also noted three small flocks of **White-throated Swifts** passing overhead between September 10 and 15.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Lou Ann Harris had a very productive time birding the KG Ranch slough, southwest of Willow Creek. **White-faced Ibis** are always notable in our area, and the one Lou Ann saw at the slough was especially so, as it was a late record for this area. Four **Greater Yellowlegs** and a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also at the slough that day.

A **Blue Jay** was a locally surprising bird for Gardiner. Doug McCartney had the jay visit their feeder on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Another late migrant was discovered along the north end of the Sourdough Nature Trail, September 25<sup>th</sup> when Andrew Guttenberg spotted a **Hammond's Flycatcher**. Two days later Andrew found a **Tennessee Warbler** in the same area.

I was very excited to see a female **Chestnut-sided Warbler** foraging in a service berry in our backyard the evening of September 15<sup>th</sup>.

There has been an influx of **White-throated Sparrows** all across Montana and the Gallatin Valley this year. At their home near South Cottonwood Canyon, Mary and John Hecht saw a White-throated Sparrow on October 5<sup>th</sup>. During the last week of September, we had two different White-throated Sparrows around our yard, near Hyalite Canyon. On October 6<sup>th</sup> Paulette Epple saw three White-throated Sparrows coming to the ground feeder in her yard near Story Mill. That same day Paulette also had a late **Spotted Towhee** feeding with the sparrows.

-John Parker

Thank you to all our sharp-eyed birders for reporting your great sightings. Please report your Bird Sightings by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month to John Parker at 586-5863 or [conundrum@imt.net](mailto:conundrum@imt.net)

### The CBC is now FREE!

Important and Exciting news for the Christmas Bird Count program

After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, head-scratching, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count program effective with the upcoming 113<sup>th</sup> Count in December, 2012.

First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants. Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, American Birds will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

In order to continue to fund the Christmas Bird Count program in the long term, Audubon will be moving to a voluntary donation model for the CBC.



### Beating the Odds: A Year in the Life of a Piping Plover

Piping Plovers are birds on the brink. With only 8,000 adults left, habitat loss and human disturbance are the two biggest threats to Piping Plovers today.



From Canada to the Caribbean, Audubon is working to safeguard sandy beaches critical to the birds' survival.

For more visit: <http://birds.audubon.org/beating-odds-year-life-piping-plover>

## The Peregrine Fund's new American Kestrel Partnership with SAS!



The American Kestrel is North America's smallest and most colorful falcon, and rightfully maintains a reputation of a little raptor with big attitude. Most of us are accustomed to seeing kestrels hunting from power lines or fence posts, or "hover hunting" in the air. Unfortunately, researchers believe the kestrel's population status is changing from "common" to "of

concern". Data from the Breeding Bird Survey since 1966 suggest that populations of breeding kestrels have declined 47% across North America, with declines as steep as 88% in the New England region. The time to study and conserve the American Kestrel is *before* it reaches threatened or endangered status, and now you can help.

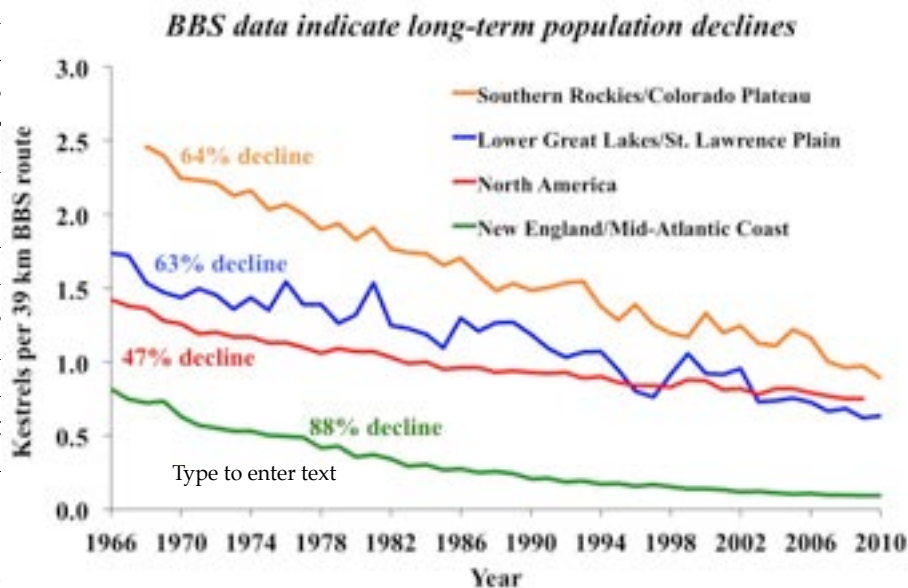
Sacajawea Audubon recently joined The Peregrine Fund's new American Kestrel Partnership, a research and conservation project supported by Audubon chapters, birders, families, students, scouts, researchers, teachers, and anyone else inspired by the Western Hemisphere's only kestrel species. We spent some beautiful afternoons building kestrel boxes to create kestrel nesting habitat on local ranches. We will also be monitoring kestrel boxes during the nesting season to collect data for researchers to understand relationships between nesting performance and environmental factors like habitat quality. You can join

the American Kestrel Partnership by creating a partner profile, building and hanging kestrel boxes, and then peering into them once every 1-3 weeks from



April through July to record the numbers of eggs and nestlings. After collecting the nesting data, simply enter it on the American Kestrel Partnership's website, and voila, you just contributed both kestrel nesting habitat and data to the largest kestrel research and conservation

program in history. Autumn is the best time to build and hang nestboxes for kestrels to use in the spring, so now is the time to have a box building party with your family and friends. To participate and learn how to establish your kestrel box program, contact Mary Cloud [Ammons](mailto:Ammons)



([mcammons@gmail.com](mailto:mcammons@gmail.com)) at Sacajawea Audubon and check out the American Kestrel Partnership's website: <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/>

-Matt Giovanni  
Research Biologist and Director, American  
Kestrel Partnership  
-Photos Courtesy of Mia McPherson







**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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the month articles will appear. Please send to: **Mary Cloud Ammons, 503 Bozeman, Bozeman MT 59715** or [newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org).

**Change of Address:** Please notify Sally MacDonald, 223-9167 or [membership@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto: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**

<b>President</b>	Loreene Reid	600-6666	<a href="mailto:pres@sacajaweaudubon.org">pres@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	<a href="mailto:louann@sacajaweaudubon.org">louann@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Evelyn Acton		<a href="mailto:treas@sacajaweaudubon.org">treas@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Paulette Epple	586-0932	<a href="mailto:sec@sacajaweaudubon.org">sec@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Anne Millbrooke	599-1096	<a href="mailto:anne27m@yahoo.com">anne27m@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Board members</b>	Jackie Wilson		<a href="mailto:jackiewilson@sacajaweaudubonsociety.org">jackiewilson@sacajaweaudubonsociety.org</a>
	Chris Nixon	544-4901	<a href="mailto:christophernixon@yahoo.com">christophernixon@yahoo.com</a>
	Annie Sisk	285-6596	<a href="mailto:anniesisk@sacajaweaudubon.org">anniesisk@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	Peter Norlander	222-4646	<a href="mailto:norlander@q.com">norlander@q.com</a>
	John Shellenberger	585-5384	<a href="mailto:conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org">conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	Monica Brelsford	388-6125	<a href="mailto:mbrelsford@montana.edu">mbrelsford@montana.edu</a>
<b>Audubon Adventures Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings Conservation Chair Hospitality/Coffee Membership Records Newsletter Ed./Design Program Chair Publicity Chair Chapter Rep. to State Webmaster</b>	John Parker	586-5863	<a href="mailto:birdsightings@sacajaweaudubon.org">birdsightings@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	John Shellenberger	585-5384	<a href="mailto:conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org">conservation@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	Diane Gresham	219-3543	<a href="mailto:dgresham@bresnan.net">dgresham@bresnan.net</a>
	Sally MacDonald	223-9167	<a href="mailto:membership@sacajaweaudubon.org">membership@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	MaryCloud Ammons	600-0301	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org">newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	Wayne Urbonas	599-4681	<a href="mailto:programs@sacajaweaudubon.org">programs@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	<b>OPEN</b>		
	Wane Urbonas	599-4681	<a href="mailto:programs@sacajaweaudubon.org">programs@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>
	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	<a href="mailto:louann@sacajaweaudubon.org">louann@sacajaweaudubon.org</a>

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$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](mailto:mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org);  
[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org) For direct contact: [shoffman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:shoffman@mtaudubon.org)  
 Montana Bird Hotline: 406-721-9799 to report unusual or out-of-season birds

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