



SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

October 2013

Calendar at a Glance

Sept 1st - Nov 5th	23rd Annual Bridger Raptor Count
Oct 2nd	eBird Class
Oct 4th-6th	2013 Raptor Fest
Oct 14th	SAS Meeting
Oct 19th	Ennis Lake Field Trip
Oct 26th	Madison Valley IBA

Oktoberfest @ Raptor Fest

Get your beer stein ready and celebrate the annual Bridger Raptor Festival with beer, food, and music in the Jim Bridger Lodge from 3 to 6pm on Saturday, October 5th.



OCTOBER SAS PROGRAM: BIRDING THE FOUR SEASONS OF MONTANA

Monday October 14th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Hope Lutheran Church
 2152 W. Graf Street (off of South 19th) in Bozeman



Join us October 14th at 7 pm as Ed Harper takes us through Montana's varied seasons, sharing with us the great diversity of birds he has managed to photograph over many years of intensive coverage. Whether it is a majestic Gyr Falcon in winter or an Upland Sandpiper in summer, you will find a

myriad of images that are not only pleasing to the eye but are also very informative.

Ed Harper's interest in birds goes back to his early childhood while growing up on a ranch south of Livingston, Montana. Following graduation from Montana State and subsequent graduate school at the University of Wyoming, Ed engaged in a career in education as a college math teacher. With his passion for birding, he also taught a variety



of classes in field ornithology. An experienced world traveler, Ed Harper has traveled to all the continents in search of birds. Presently he serves on the board of Western Field Ornithologists.

An avid photographer, Ed has photographed over 2000 species of birds, with many of his photos found in books and periodicals. In North America alone, he has photographed over 750 species of birds. Starting out as a tour leader for the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1980, Ed now operates *Sandpiper Journeys* with his wife, Susan Scott. Together they have conducted many birding and natural history tours throughout the world.



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.

-Photos by Ed Harper

Bird Notes



While hiking the Leverich Canyon Trail of September 4th, I had a very interesting encounter. I was focused on trying to ID a late season flycatcher, when I heard “thunck, thunck” up the hillside. After momentarily dismissing this distinctive drumming cadence, I left the flycatcher to investigate. At first I thought I’d found a grouse in the berry patch. A low heavily browsed serviceberry was shaking near the ground, with a fairly large shape visible through the thick foliage. Then, climbing through the brush eating every berry as it moved up the branch, appeared a female **Pileated Woodpecker**. I didn’t know they ate berries. As she was eating the berries, a female **Williamson’s Sapsucker** swooped in and landed two feet above the Pileated Woodpecker. After curiously watching what this strange woodpecker was doing for a minute, the Williamson’s Sapsucker flew off. When the Pileated Woodpecker finished all the berries on the bush it flew to a short rotten stump and started to excavate a hole at the base, for more typical (ants) woodpecker fare.

Aside from being intrigued by this locally uncommon woodpecker’s behavior, I was contemplating this specie’s apparent range expansion. Surprisingly, just a month earlier I’d seen a male Pileated Woodpecker on the ridge above Langhor Campground in Hyalite Canyon.

Pileated Woodpeckers are fairly common in Montana west of the divide and in the Helena area. But, prior to 1995 there was only one local record, an undated specimen taken near Harrison during the first half of the last century. In January 1995, Annie Woodward saw a Pileated Woodpecker at Bridger Bowl. In the last decade, there have been over ten sightings reported in Gallatin and Park counties. During this same period Pileated Woodpeckers have also been documented in Yellowstone Park, near Mammoth, for the first time.

The focal point for many of these recent sightings has been east of the Bridger Mountains. In the last three years, on two different occasions, evidence of breeding Pileated Woodpeckers have been observed in Bridger Canyon area. During May in 2010 George Kelly and Jo Newell saw a male and female Pileated Woodpecker together, along with numerous fresh cavities near the firehouse in Bridger Canyon. In September of 2011, Vicki and Al Scharen saw a juvenile Pileated Woodpecker at their house near Jackson Creek. Previous to this sighting they had seen adult birds, and fresh cavity excavations in their neighborhood.

So why are Pileated Woodpeckers expanding their range in this part of southwestern Montana? Obviously, there are many more people out looking at birds, but how was such a striking bird totally missed before the mid nineties? Has their range expanded and retreated in the past due to availability of foods, climate, or wildfire?

-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

Bridger Raptor Festival Keynote Speaker

Steve Hoffman, Executive Director of the Montana Audubon Society

"Ecology of Hawk & Eagle Migration in the Rocky Mountain West"

October 4th, 2013 - 7:00 pm Museum of the Rockies

Observations of the amazing fall eagle & hawk migration along the crest of the Bridger Mountains (above Bridger Bowl Ski Area) began in 1991. Steve’s presentation will explore the natural history and migratory patterns of more than a dozen common species of hawks and eagles that migrate through the Bridgers and throughout the Rocky Mountain region each autumn.

Steve Hoffman has dedicated his entire 32-year career to wildlife conservation. He has served as Executive Director of Montana Audubon since 2006. Steve founded HawkWatch International (HWI), a nonprofit organization focused on the study and conservation of hawks, eagles and other raptors. Through HWI Steve launched the Bridger Raptor Migration Project (as well as many other similar raptor monitoring projects across the West). Steve has authored more than 30 scientific papers on raptor migration ecology and various wildlife conservation topics. He has given hundreds of public presentations on raptor-related topics across the U.S. Steve earned his M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from Utah State University (1979).

Exciting October Birding Activities!



Introduction to eBird Class

October 2, 2013 6:30 pm
Bozeman Public Library
Small Community Rm

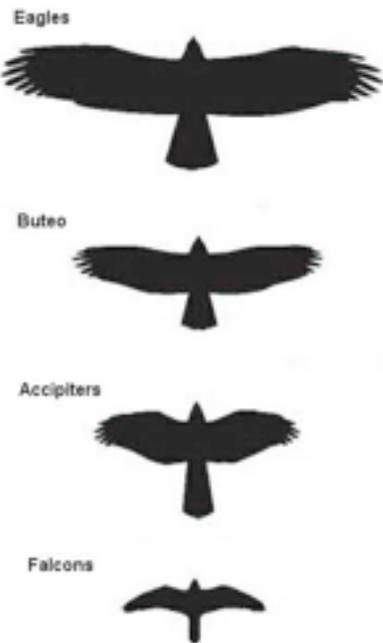
You've probably been hearing about eBird and wondering how this new online birding tool works. Join Sacajawea Audubon for a 2 hour class to learn how you can add your bird observations to this valuable citizen-science data base. Forrest Rowland, international tour guide with *Rockjumper - Worldwide Birding Adventures*, is passionate about eBird and will be presenting an **Introduction to eBird** class. Come learn to enter and track your bird records online and share them with the birding community while making them available for science and conservation efforts. eBird allows birders to post sightings, keep life lists, and manage their personal records. eBird is also a remarkable tool to learn more about birds and birding. This is a free class but a reservation is required. Contact Paulette Epple to register at sec@sacajaweaudubon.org or call 580-6186.

Bridger Raptor Festival

October 4-6, 2013
Bridger Bowl Ski Area

The annual Bridger Raptor Festival is being held October 4-6. The festival, which is free to the public, centers around a raptor migration count of the largest known Golden Eagle migration in the United States which takes place at the Bridger Bowl ski area north of Bozeman. Friday night features a keynote speaker at the Museum of the

Rockies. Saturday and Sunday events at Bridger Bowl continue with interpretive hikes, lectures, displays, adult and kids activities and live bird presentations.



October Field Trip Ennis Lake Waterfowl

Saturday, October 19th
Meet at 7:45 am at the Museum of the Rockies
Carpool and depart at 8:00 am

This should be near the peak time for migrating waterfowl and loons. Ennis Lake is one of the premiere staging areas for migrating waterfowl in southwestern Montana. Thousands of ducks can be spread across the lake on any given day. As is typical with high concentrations of birds, there is always the possibility of a rarity being found. Bring a lunch as we'll be out until at least mid-afternoon. Also, remember to bring plenty of warm clothes as it will likely be cold and windy. For more information and to make reservations, call John Parker at 586-5863.



-Photo by Beth Johns

Madison Valley IBA Fall Census

SAVE THE DATE! October 26th (Saturday) we are going to do one last survey of the Madison Valley IBA. We are timing this survey to catch large numbers of migrating waterfowl, loons and grebes on Ennis Lake. Join us to use your bird watching skills to add to our data base on this Important Bird Area. Please meet at the Ennis Pharmacy Cafe. Come early enough for breakfast if you want, but plan to be ready to head out for birding at 8 am.

Please let Paulette Epple know if you are going to be able to help out with the count. Phone: 580-6186 or email: bigskyepples@msn.com





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

Change Service Requested

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Mailing Address

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@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Change of Address: Please notify Sally MacDonald, 223-9167 or membership@sacajaweaaudubon.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.sacajaweaaudubon.org/>

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Loreene Reid	600-6666	pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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	Leo Freeman	414-403-7943	leofreeman@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	bird sightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Vickie Backus	600-2280	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality / Coffee	Diane Gresham	219-3543	dgresham@bresnan.net
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Program Chair	Jackie Wilson		programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Publicity Chair	OPEN		
Chapter Rep. to State	Sharon Hanton	586-9500	
Webmaster	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org

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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