



SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

October 2012

Calendar at a Glance

Oct 5, 6, 7th	Raptor Festival
Oct 8th	SAS Meeting
Oct 9th	Bird Sightings to John Parker
Oct 15th	Newsletter Submissions Due
Oct 20th	SAS Field Trip

*Slate Blue Raucous Callers
Bright flock of winged indigo
Pinyon in the Tree*

*By,
Peter Norlander*



Montana Moose



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

For the October program, Sacajawea Audubon Society welcomes Braden Burkholder, a Wildlife Technician at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Bozeman. He'll be sharing a general overview of moose natural history, ecology, and management in southwest Montana, as well as a small portion of his thesis research examining moose habitat selection and use patterns in the Upper Big Hole Valley.

Braden grew up in Helena, MT, enjoying the wildlands of the Montana Rockies throughout his childhood. Those early experiences inspired him to pursue a career in wildlife research and management. Braden completed a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Whitman College and then volunteered on numerous research and conservation projects, working with species including the Channel Island fox, spotted skunk, California condor, pine marten, mule deer, Canada lynx, and snowshoe hare. After three years volunteering, he started a Master's in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University studying moose ecology in the Upper Big Hole Valley, which he completed this last spring. For the last five years, Braden has also worked for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks as a wildlife technician and aspires to join FWP's world-respected cadre of wildlife biologists. His professional interests focus on applying research and adaptive management to improve conservation and management for all of Montana's native wildlife species. When he's not at work, he enjoys backcountry skiing, mountaineering, backpacking, mountain biking, fly fishing, and spending time with his wife and their brand new daughter.

October Field Trip Ennis Lake Waterfowl

Saturday, October 20th
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. If the weather is too extreme, we will reschedule for the following Saturday, October 27. Please contact John Parker at 586-5863 for more information or if you plan to attend.

Announcement for Raptor Festival 2012

October 5th, 6th and 7th

Please come join us for the 2012 Raptor Festival. Sacajawea Audubon will be having a booth at this year's Raptor Festival in Bridger Bowl again, this year October 6th and 7th. This year, Raptor Festival promises to be a great event again. The key note speaker will be on October 5th. Jack Horner is speaking Friday night at Museum of the Rockies. Please come to all the events. If you would like to volunteer to help with taking care of our booth please contact Peter Norlander at 222-4646 or norlander@q.com. Also see the Bridger Raptor Festival website at <http://www.bridgerraptorfest.org/>.

Thanks for coming to the 2012 Raptor Festival!

Bird Notes



On August 18th, Peter and Nancy Norlander were canoeing on Daily Lake in Paradise Valley when a **Long-tailed Jaeger** flew over them. Potentially this could be Montana's eleventh state record for Long-tailed Jaeger.

A first year **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen September 7th, at the east Gallatin Recreation Area, by Ed Harper, Nate Kohler, Robin Wolcott, and John Parker. Coincidentally, this warbler was within 100 yards of the spot an adult male Chestnut-sided Warbler that was seen May 26th. These sightings represent the 4th and 5th records for latilong 38 (Bozeman area). Later that same day we

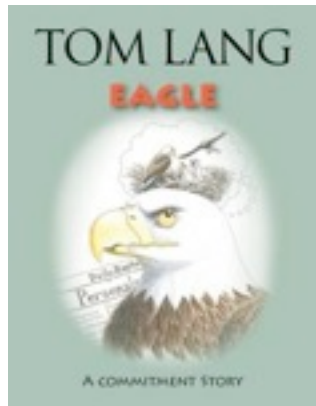
came across a male **Lesser Goldfinch** along the east shore of Ennis Lake. This striking goldfinch was an eastern race psaltria, with an all black back. While no longer requiring documentation to the state records committee, this species is still rarely seen away from localized areas near Billings.

In a field at the corner of Baxter and Davis in Bozeman, Lou Ann Harris observed a large concentration of approximately **20 Red-tailed Hawks**, September 10th. Typically mid September is around the start of peak migration period for raptors in our area. High numbers of raptors will continue moving through southwest Montana till mid to late October. Don't forget Raptor Fest October 5-7, 2012.



-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



"Like most sub-adult males, I couldn't wait to mate; but like most sub-adult males, I did more waiting than mating. Just before my 5th birthday, when my head and tail turned as white as the Cathedral Peaks, I hit the eagle bars."

--from *Eagle: A Commitment Story* by Tom Lang

The new edition of **Eagle: A Commitment Story** (Boudelang Press, \$6.95, e-book \$2.95), is now available in both paperback and e-book. Author Tom Lang has been the senior guide in the world famous Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve outside of Haines, Alaska, for over 20 years.

Hal, an American Bald Eagle, has commitment issues. Will he choose Leu, the love of his life, or continue his raptor singles lifestyle, spending his nights at the Gestation

Station, the Talon Lock and the Breed and Brood? Will Leu take him back so they can mate for life?

Like all of Tom's books in his "Little Books, Big Stories" series, **Eagle** is funny, educational and insightful. Underneath the humorous storyline Tom examines the past, present and future of the American Bald Eagle in our world. Tom Lang has worked as a river guide in the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve outside of Haines, Alaska since 1991. A funny, dynamic speaker, Tom presents at universities, conventions and private functions. He divides his time between Haines, Alaska and Ubud, Bali.

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Flying too Close to the Flame...

Summer was busy as usual with all of the summer raptors in Montana. It was challenging to pick out some of the rehabilitation stories from the summer to share with everyone, since there were so many unique bird narratives, that included quite a few eagles in the hospital, nine nestling and fledgling kestrels all at once, and many late nestlings this year.

But there was one case we had not seen before. It brought about visions of the Greek mythological figure, Icarus, who wanted to leave his island and so constructed wings put together with wax. He was warned to not fly too close to the sun, but did anyway. Our raptor version of Icarus was a very unlucky osprey. Becky Kean, Director of MRCC received the call of an injured osprey (Osprey 41-12) near the Laurel refinery. With the help of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon chapter, it was transported to Bozeman for treatment. The injury was obvious. This bird's feathers were as crispy as they could get. That's right. He had either been perched on one of the refinery stacks when it let off its flame, or had flown right over at the extremely wrong time.

After closer inspection, Becky determined that while seemingly an unlucky bird, this osprey was very fortunate that his skin was unscathed. What did this mean for his treatment? Well, in order to fly, he needed functioning feathers, so he would have to molt almost all of his feathers to be released. As you know summer is molting season for birds, but they generally do not molt all of their feathers at once for very practical reasons. To try and enhance his rate of



molting, he was kept in an area with close to 24 hour light, and given vitamins and a very good diet.

Osprey are very unique in the raptor world. They fly to Montana for the spring and summer months to raise their young and take advantage of the rivers full of fish. An osprey's diet consists almost entirely of freshly caught fish. They can even dive two to three feet in the water to retrieve them. Their talons are especially curved, like fish hooks, and they have one toe that can move back to front to maneuver the slimy fish in a more aerodynamic position for flight.

Along with the fish hook talons, osprey have spicules on the bottoms of their feet. It would be sort of like having Velcro on the bottom of your feet to help grab things better.

In rehabilitation, osprey usually do not do well. They are very high stress birds, and do not like to eat dead fish. Luckily, this particular osprey eats well, and is putting up with us for the most part. As you can all imagine, migration is a big concern. Our hope is that he

will finish molting in the next few weeks, so that he can migrate to warmer climes, but he has a way to go. Keep your fingers crossed that he does not have to spend the winter at MRCC. Unlike Icarus, Osprey 41-12 has another chance to fly thanks to caring individuals who noticed his plight and picked up the phone!

Report an injured raptor quickly! 406.585.1211

*Article by Cynthia Zyzda
Photo by Becky Kean*



For those of you who were not at SAS meeting in September, the Bridger Raptor Festival www.bridgerraptorfest.org/ is coming up next October and we need a couple more folks to sign up for some time to be at the SAS booth:

Mornings: from 10 am to 12:30 pm

Afternoon: from 12:30 pm till 3 pm

The Sunday afternoon also includes 15 minutes of take down at the end. If you can help please call me at home in the evenings 222-4646 or email at norlander@q.com.

Thanks for your considerations,
Peter Norlander



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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.

Change of Address: Please notify **Sally MacDonald, 223-9167** 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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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

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
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