SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SacajaweaAudubonNews

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

September 2015

Calendar at a Glance

Sept 12th	Fall Migration Field Trip
Sept 14th	SAS Book Group and Monthly Meeting
Oct 2nd - 4th	Bridger Raptor Festival

Tales from the Field: Montana Bird Conservation and Citizen Science

Monday Sept 14th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
2152 W. Graf Street in Bozeman

Montana bird conservation efforts have matured in many ways over the past three decades. Priorities have been established, partnerships formed, and opportunities for birders to engage in data collection and conservation action continue to increase. With new monitoring efforts, eBird, Montana Online Birders (MOB), and the upcoming "Birds of Montana" we have access to more information than ever before about our birds and their habitats. This presentation will provide examples of (and anecdotes from) this evolution, drawing from Dan's experiences with joint ventures, Christmas Bird Counts, Jewel Basin Hawk Watch, eBird, and more. In addition to enjoying photos of Montana's birds and habitats, the presentation is intended to inspire attendees to play a personal role in "citizen science" birding to help advance bird conservation.

Dan Casey has been a fixture in Montana's ornithological community for nearly 35 years. He was the primary author of the 2000 Montana Bird Conservation Plan, and received Montana Audubon's Conservationist of the Year Award in 2006. He served 25 years as the regional editor for Montana CBCs, is a member and past Chair of the Montana Bird Records Committee, a moderator of the MOB Yahoo site, regional eBird reviewer, and co-author of the upcoming "Birds of Montana". He has worked for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (16 yrs.), American Bird Conservancy (15 yrs.), and now for Ducks Unlimited as the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture Coordinator based in Billings.

Fall Migration Field Trip

Saturday, September 12, 2015
Trip Leader: Robin Wolcott
406-581-5418 pajaros@wewolcotts.com
Meet at 7:45 am at the Museum of the Rockies.
Carpool and leave at 8 am.

September is the peak of fall migration with an amazing diversity of birds passing through Montana. This field trip will take advantage of the many birding opportunities in the Headwaters State Park and Three Forks area. The trip will last until early afternoon but let's be prepared for anything. Bring a lunch. Bring a scope if you have one. Bring your enthusiasm and your flexibility.

To reserve a spot on the trip or for more information please contact the trip leader.

Bird Notes

The month of September is arguably the best month of the year for birding. In early September the shorebird migration is still near its peak, the raptor migration will be building throughout the month. It that isn't enough to keep you busy, the peak passage of all of the passerine family groups will occur during September. So, whether you chose to climb a mountain to view raptors, or watch for warblers in your backyard, the opportunities to enjoy birds are nearly limitless this month.

And speaking of shorebirds, Cottonwood Reservoir produced several exciting birds this past May. Two **Whimbrels** were spotted at Cottonwood May 13th, by Andrew Guttenberg. Later that day Vic Fesolowitz was able to get photographs of the Whimbrels. This was only the second time Whimbrels have been seen in this part of Montana. On May 25th, Forrest Rowland found two **Dunlin** and a single **Stilt Sandpiper** at Cottonwood Reservoir. This was a first for both of these shorebirds at Cottonwood.

Northern Parula

A pair of **Swainson's Hawks** nested again this year just off of Davis Lane in west Bozeman near Madeline Lieb's house. Even with an apartment building being built next to the nest tree the Swainson's Hawks were able to fledge several young. Anyone who dared to stop nearby and look at the screaming hawks, risked being raked by the attentive parents.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present in this area again this summer. A single gnatcatcher was seen at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park on June 17th, by Tom Forwood. At least two and possibly a third gnatcatcher were found in Cottonwood Canyon east of Cardwell. A male and female were photographed by Tom at a nest, to confirm breeding. These gnatcatchers were present at this location from late May till at least mid July.

A male and female pair of **Western Bluebirds** was seen at a nest box in Kelly Canyon east of Bozeman on June 13th, by Cheryl and Ron Farmer. This is the first time a pair of Western Bluebirds has been seen together during breeding season in the Gallatin or surrounding valleys. The past two or three years more Western Bluebirds have been reported in the area, southeast of their established range, then ever before.

Lazuli X Indigo Bunting

A first year female **Northern Parula** was seen on May 13th, near Central Park Pond between Belgrade and Manhattan, by Byron Butler. This was only the forth record for southwestern Montana. The rarest warbler of the spring migration was the **Black-throated Green Warbler** found by Matt Keefer, along the Sourdough Nature Trail in Bozeman May 8th. The Black-throated Green Warbler was the 25th record for Montana, but only the forth or fifth away from the northeast corner of the state. Ovenbirds were seen and heard at several spots in Gallatin and Park counties this summer.

A beautiful male **Lazuli X Indigo Bunting** was photographed by Hobart Collins June 13th, along the Triple Tree Trail south of Bozeman.

-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 birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Calling All Volunteers!

Sacajawea Audubon is proud to be the educational host for the Bridger Raptor Festival this year, but we are in need of volunteers. Build a Niffy Nest Box, Binocular Games, Sketch-A-Bird, or volunteer to welcome and help direct festival goers.

Available time slots for all are:

Friday, October 2, 2015

- 12:00pm to 3:00pm Setup at Bridger Bowl
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm Welcome attendees to Keynote Speaker event Museum of the Rockies

Saturday, October 3, 2015 at Bridger Bowl

- 9:30 am to 12:30pm
- 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Sunday, October 4, 2015

- 9:30 am to 12:30pm
- 12:00pm to 3:00pm

If you have 3 hours of your time to donated to this fun-filled festival contact Sharon Hanton at sharonh1313@gmail.com or 406 586-9500.

SAS Book Group

The SAS Book Group will meet on September 14 at 6:30pm, right before the SAS program, to discuss the book group's plans for 2015-16. We hope to accommodate a core group of participants as well as folks who want to attend discussions occasionally.

The proposed schedule and reading list includes six books, with discussions roughly six weeks apart on 1st or 3rd Thursdays from 5:30pm - 6:45pm:

Oct. 15: *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere With Migratory Birds.* Scott Weidensaul. This will be our second discussion of *Living on the Wind,* with emphasis on the last two-thirds of the book.
Dec. 3: *Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy: The Activist Who Saved Nature from the Conservationists.* Dyana Z. Furmansky.
Jan. 21: *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*. Scott Weidensaul.
Mar. 3: *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds.* Olivia Gentile.
Apr 21: *Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and other Wildlife*. John Marzluff.
June 2: *Adventures in the Anthropocene, A Journey to the Heart of the Planet We Made.* Gaia Vince.

We are excited about reading and discussing these books and invite everyone to get involved. The location will be announced in September. Please contact members of the steering committee for more information and to express interest and ideas for the book group: Adele Pittendrigh, 406-587-7710 adele.pittendrigh@gmail.com; Karin Jennings, 406-600-6563 karin.jennings@gmail.com; Karin Utzinger 406-586-1604, klutzinger@yahoo.com.

Membership Update

Thanks to our members – you! – Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) is currently the largest chapter in the state! Our membership success is due to the hard work of your Board of Directors and a community engaged with our fine-feathered friends. The best thing about membership is being informed about what is going on with SAS so you can get involved. Our newsletters are our primary vehicle for conveying this information – but also our web site (http://www.sacajaweaaudubon.org).

Printing and mailing our newsletters is one of SAS's primary expenses, especially as our membership grows. Last year our total newsletter costs were $3,864 for printing and mailing nine newsletters through the year. Newsletters are SAS's largest expense, behind contributions to support conservation or education projects.

You can increase SAS's support funds for conservation and education by electing to receive the newsletter by email instead of printed and mailed. If you wish to do so, please email membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Currently 75% of our membership is still receiving the newsletter by mail, which costs $9/member/year. (Note that the contributions we receive from National Audubon Society through membership renewals is only $5/member/year…)

Additionally, if you choose to receive the newsletter by mail please let us know if you change your address or will be out of town for an extended time (stop/start for mailing September through May). Each returned newsletter costs an additional $0.59 to the Chapter -- and you miss receiving your newsletter! (Note that emailed newsletters can find you anywhere…)

If you have any questions about your membership, please don't hesitate to contact membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org.

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

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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 15th 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 Karin Jennings at **587-2279** 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
Vice President	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Secretary	Paulette Epple	586-0932	sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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	Chris Nixon	544-4901	christopherfnixon@yahoo.com
	Leo Freeman	414-403-7943	leofreeman@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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	Richard Keigley	582-5833	richardkeigley@sacajaweaaudubon.org
	Jeff Safford	587-3782	jeffsafford@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Education Chair	**OPEN**		
Field trips, Bird Count and Bird Sightings	John Parker	586-5863	birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Vickie Backus	600-2280	conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Hospitality/Coffee	Diane Gresham	219-3543	dgresham@bresnan.net
Membership Records	Karin Jennings	587-2279	membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org
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Publicity Chair	**OPEN**		kehlert44@gmail.com
Chapter Rep. to State	Sharon Hanton	586-9500	
Webmaster	Lou Ann Harris	600-3585	louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Audubon Adventures	Hillary Johnson		ralphhilary@gmail.com

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

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)