## Sacajawea Audubon News

## Special Year-End Program:

# The Wild Wolves of Yellowstone \& the High Arctic Monday, December 9th, 2019, 7 pm, Ellen Theater 



The Sacajawea Audubon Society is pleased to present a special holiday program featuring National Geographic Photographer Ronan Donovan. He will be presenting on his vastly different experiences with wolves in Yellowstone and the Canadian High Arctic.

A biologist turned photographer, National Geographic Photographer Ronan Donovan has documented the intimate social structures of wild mammals such as chimpanzees, mountain gorillas and wolves. Ronan lived for a year in Yellowstone trying to capture the lives of wolves and the research that surrounds them. While Yellowstone may be the best place to see wolves, they are still elusive-hunted and trapped outside of the park-which makes many of their behaviors hidden from the human eye. This inspired Ronan to try and find a place where those behaviors weren't hidden from view so a complete portrayal of wolves would be possible. That place ended up being Ellesmere Island in the Canadian High Arctic. It is here where wolves have no reason to fear humans.
"As a student and involved community member who has no experience beyond basic biology, this lecture will still be fascinating and engaging due to the story format that Ronan Donovan has perfected," says Ashley Meyer, a Business and Psychology student at MSU. Wolves are so mysterious due to their untouchable nature, so to be able to dive beyond the mystery of these lovely creatures will make for a fantastic night of learning," added Ashley.
Ronan's work with wolves resulted in a National Geographic Magazine story that was published in September 2019 alongside a three-part TV series called 'Kingdom of the White Wolf." He has had great success prior to this assignment,

including having shot and filmed for National Geographic, The New York Times, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, and numerous other wildlife conservation organizations. When not travelling, Ronan makes his home in Bozeman.
The event is free and open to the public; however, a suggested donation of $\$ 5$ is greatly appreciated to help cover the cost of the program. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at $6: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ and Ronan's story will begin at 7:00 pm. There will be a $\mathrm{Q}+\mathrm{A}$ session following Ronan's lecture.
For more information, call Lou Ann Harris at (406) 600-3585, e-mail her at pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org, or visit https:// sacajaweaaudubon.org


## INTRODUCING THE INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE PROJECT

Sacajawea Audubon was founded in 1967 and through the efforts of our volunteers over the subsequent decades we have successfully completed dozens of conservation and education projects in Southwest Montana. We have recently embarked on the biggest project in our history. Sacajawea Audubon has acquired through donation and purchase nearly 40 acres of critical wetland habitat within the city limits of Bozeman. The name of this Site is the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP). The map (at right) shows the IAWP location near East Main Street in Bozeman, Montana.

The IAWP property is currently a severely degraded wetland and it must be restored so that it can reach it's full potential as a wildlife habitat and migration corridor. The IAWP property was formerly intended to be converted to residential housing and retail use. But the owners, Ileana Indreland and Mike Delaney, changed course and donated most of the property to Sacajawea Audubon. It is very important that Sacajawea Audubon members and the public be informed and involved in the future of the IAWP. This series of Sacajawea Audubon newsletter articles will keep our members educated on the exciting process of studying, designing, permitting, constructing, and maintaining the renewed wetlands.
Less than $2 \%$ of Montana's lands are classified as wetlands, yet more than $50 \%$ of Montana's wildlife depend on wetlands. Wetlands provide the highest biodiversity in Montana, including threatened and endangered species. So it is critically important that we retain our current wetlands, restore degraded wetlands, and create additional wetlands where feasible.


This preliminary conceptual plan was prepared by Design 5 Landscape Architecture and Confluence Consulting Inc., Bozeman, Montana.

The IAWP wetlands are degraded from the invasion of non-native vegetation and from disruption of the former wetland waterways by artificial ditching and drainage. In spite of the poor current condition, bird surveys by Sacajawea Audubon have documented 113 resident and migratory bird species at the Site. We anticipate that both the numbers of birds and the number of bird species using the Site will increase dramatically following completion of restoration. The drawing (above) shows a preliminary conceptual plan of the restored IAWP property.
Once the wetland restoration has been completed, Sacajawea Audubon will place the site into permanent conservation status. This means that the wetland property will never be lost to redevelopment and will be a permanent wildlife habitat and migration stopover.
Future Sacajawea Audubon newsletter articles will inform our readers on such topics as the history of the site since it was first mapped as part of a vast wetland in the Lewis and Clark Journals, as well as:

- Findings from the Sacajawea Audubon IAWP bird surveys;
- Wetland restoration goals and objectives;
- Opportunities for public use and education;
- The wetland restoration study and design process; and
- Integration of the IAWP into the local trail system.
Although most of the IAWP land was donated by Ileana Indreland and Mike Delaney, we are purchasing a portion of the property. The cost of land purchase, restoration design, permitting, restoration construction, and future maintenance will be significant. Sacajawea Audubon is a 501(3c) non-profit and our all-volunteer organization is mostly funded by private donations with some support from public grants. In future newsletter articles we will lay out our fundraising needs for the IAWP restoration and the many other conservation and education projects that we conduct annually. Additional details on this wetland restoration project can be found at https://bozemanwetlands.org.


Virginia Rail on 2013 Bozeman CBC. Photo courtesy Lou Ann Harris.

## Be a Part of the Christmas Bird Count

come join the fun on one of our area's Christmas Bird Counts. The Christmas counts, started in 1900, are an opportunity for beginning and expert birders to get together and enjoy this holiday tradition. If you are unable to join a count for the entire day, another option for participation is to be a feeder watcher.
For more information, contact the area count compilers. Please Contact the area compiler before the count, as this will give them the opportunity to plan and organize the count before the count day.
Participation in all counts is free.


## Christmas Stroll Pierogies for Sacajawea Audubon

Vickie's Pierogies will again be partnering with Sacajawea Audubon at the 2019 Bozeman Christmas Stroll on December 7th from 4:30-7:30 pm. We will be located in front of Cello Gallery on the corner of Tracy and Main Street. On the menu: Vickie's most popular Potato-Cheese pierogi and the utterly delectable Three-Mushroom Cabbage pierogi, both pan fried with ghee. You can also buy raffle tickets for a chance to win a season pass at Bridger Bowl. Raffle proceeds support the Bridger Raptor Festival; 10\% of Christmas Stroll profits will support other conservation projects. The Kimm family of Manhattan has donated potatoes for the event. Interested in volunteering? Contact Lou Ann Harris (pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org) or Vickie Backus (vickiespierogies@gmail. com) to help with raffle tickets or food, respectively.

## Bozeman: Saturday, December 14

Compiler: John Parker (406) 586-5863
conundrumjp@gmail.com
Meet at IHOP 1687 North $19^{\text {th }}$ Ave. (new meeting location) between 7 and 7:30 am.

## Ennis: Wednesday, December 18

Compiler: Robin Wolcott (406) 581-5418
pajaros@wewolcotts.com (e-mail preferred) Meet at Yesterday's Café in the Ennis Pharmacy by 7:30 am or sooner for breakfast.

## Livingston: Saturday, December 21

Compiler: George Kelly
(406) 220-0282
gjkingfisher@gmail.com
Meet at Pinky's, on Main Street, in Livingston between 7:30-8 am.

## Yellowstone: Sunday, December 22

Compiler: Woody Martyn (406) 224-1476 woodymartyn@hotmail.com Meet at the Yellowstone Grill, in Gardiner, at 7:00 am.

## Three Forks: Thursday, Dec. 26

Compiler:Tom Forwood (406) 570-6432
tjfishing75@gmail.com (email preferred) Meet at Wheat Montana on US 287 at exit 274 at $7: 45$ am or by $7: 15$ for breakfast.

## West Yellowstone: Sunday, Dec. 29

Compiler:Tut Fuentevilla (406) 646-7001 education@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com Meet at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, in West Yellowstone, at 8:30 am.

Ruby Valley: Saturday, January 4
Compiler:Tom Forwood (406) 570-6432 tifishing75@gmail.com (e-mail preferred) Meet at Fritt's Dream Bean Cafe, in Sheridan, at 7:45-8:15 am. Please let Tom know if you plan to eat breakfast at the cafe. NOTE: cross country skiers are needed for some sections.


SAS VP John Edward shows off new recycling tube at Ennis Lake. Photo by Hobart Collins.

## Reel In and Recycle!

Did you know that discarded fishing line kills wildlife? Consider this: Every bit of monofilament fishing line that has ever been lost in the environment is still there, whether it's from cutting a snagged line, blowing out of a boat, or careless littering. Monofilament line is not biodegradable. Quite the opposite, it persists in the environment for hundreds of years without breaking down and it is one of the most dangerous forms of debris encountered by wildlife. The discarded fishing line often entangles and kills a wide variety of birds, as well as turtles, fish, and mammals.

To combat this problem Sacajawea Audubon has embarked on a project to encourage the proper disposal of unwanted fishing line by installing tubes to collect the monofilament line at several of our popular fishing access sites. Thanks to John Edwards and Hobart Collins five monofilament line recycling tubes have recently been installed, with three at Ennis Lake and two at fishing access sites on the Gallatin River. Plans are under way for others at Harrison Reservoir and Dailey Lake. Fishermen can drop off any tangles or unwanted fishing line in our tubes and we will see that the line gets recycled. Everyone can do their part by picking up every piece of fishing line they see and removing it from the environment. Just drop it in one of our tubes.
We will be looking for volunteers to maintain the tubes by cleaning them out two or three times next year. If you frequent any of these areas and would like to help contact Paulette Epple at conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.com.

## BRIDGER教相

## WIN ONE OF 2 BRIDGER BOWL SEASON PASSES FOR 2019-2020

## (value of \$900 each)

## Support the Bridger Mountains

 Raptor Survey (BMRS) by buying one or more raffle tickets! The Bridger Ridge is one of the most important locations for monitoring migrating Golden Eagles in the western United States. Now in it's 29th year, the BMRS is critical in providing needed data to assess population trends in Golden Eagles and other raptors. The drawing will be held Monday, December 9th, at 7 pm at the Sacajawea Audubon special monthly program at the historic Ellen Theatre in downtown Bozeman.RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH OR 6 FOR \$50.

NOTE: If you have already purchased your season pass, Bridger Bowl will reimburse you if you win.

To purchase your raffle tickets, contact Loreene Reid at (406) 600-6666 or e-mail loreener@ sacajaweaaudubon.org or call Lou Ann Harris at (406) 600-3585 or e-mail pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org.
Tickets will also be available at Vickie's Pierogies during the Christmas Stroll on December 7th, and prior to the December 9th program at the Ellen Theatre.

## Make Windows Safer for Birds!

## By Beth Madden

Have you heard the "thud" as a bird hits your window? You're not alone. Hundreds of millions of birds die each year from striking windows in the US. Birds don't see glass the way we do. They see the sky and trees reflected in the windows and it appears to be habitat to them. We can save the lives of many birds by making our windows safer.
For residential dwellings, many proposed solutions are available, with varied rates of success, installation costs, and ease of application. At our house, we recently embraced the Acopian Bird Savers, otherwise known as "Zen Curtains", as a solution that has been studied and deemed effective. This method involves installing a series of parachute cords that hang down vertically along the outside of your window. The cords are spaced roughly 4 inches apart, and look kind of cool out there, we think. See background and details on buying and making at: https://www.birdsavers.com/
After outfitting one window with the parachute cord, and getting ready to install others, we learned of an even simpler technique advertised by Alex Sally of the United Kingdom on You Tube (https://www.youtube.com/ watch? $\mathrm{v}=\mathrm{UC} 9 \times \mathrm{QkUtQ} 98 \& \mathrm{t}=14 \mathrm{~s}$ ). All it takes is a white paint marker pen, and a long straight edge. You simply paint vertical lines, 4 inches apart, on the outside of your windows. The paint can be removed with a razor blade, but is hardy to weather and even window washing.

We bought the recommended paint pens, and installed the lines on all of our problem windows in early October 2019. We are thrilled to report an almost complete cessation of bird strikes. In the weeks before installation, we had been having hoards of pine siskins visiting our feeders, with multiple window strikes by them each day. Since installation the few window strikes that have occurred have been very light and the birds have flown away.
So, not a scientific study, but as someone who has tried many of the available options (decals, etc.) over the years, I feel this is a very effective method at our house. It is inexpensive and easy to try.
We bought paint pens online at first, and then found some at the MSU-Bozeman Bookstore, though the tip was not quite as wide as the recommended 1.3 mm in the You Tube video. We have a few extras if anyone would like one- e-mail me at bethmadden64@gmail.com.

To learn about many other techniques that can be used to prevent window strikes visit this website: https://www. allaboutbirds.org/news/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it/


Above: Installation of paint lines with a straight edge. White paint lines are applied 4 inches apart. (Notice the mirror-like reflections!) Below: Acopian Bird Savers or a "Zen Curtain." Photos by Beth Madden.


# JOIN THE FLOCK \& FLY HIGH TOGETHER SAS Annual Local Membership Drive for 2020 

Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) encourages everyone who enjoys our field trips and monthly programs or supports our conservation work to join/renew your local chapter membership. Even if you belong to the National Audubon Society, we need your support through a Local SAS Membership. As an SAS member, you'll enjoy the benefits of membership while knowing that $100 \%$ of your annual dues will be used for conservation right here in your own neighborhood. Join our flock today by filling out the membership form below or join online at https:// sacajaweaaudubon.org/its-time-to-renew-your-chapter-membership.
SAS's Local Membership gives you many benefits. SAS Members Are.....

- Protecting working lands for birds and other wildlife
- Preserving and protecting bird species and their habitats
- Supporting bird-friendly communities
in Montana with our bird-friendly landscape program
- Contributing to important environmental education programs for people of all ages and abilities on birds, wildlife, and habitat
- Supporting vital partnerships between other nonprofit environmental groups, citizens, and local government to shape the health of our community
- Advocating for important local and regional environmental issues


## SAS Members Enjoy:

- FreemonthlyKeynoteSpeaker meetings
- Free "Birding Hotspots of Gallatin Valley" guide
- Free monthly e-newsletter (published 9 times a year)
- Member-only discounts on educational courses, programs, and special events
- Savings on purchases and access to member-only sales
- Opportunities to meet new people and become part of a group that shares an interest in birds, wildlife, the environment, and conservation
- Participating in citizen science projects
- Free guided birding field trips

While SAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and a participating chapter of Montana Audubon, SAS's Local membership does not include membership in NAS. We are an independent 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization with our own board of directors, membership, budget, and programs.
We hope that you will join today, as we approach our 53rd year as an effective local grass-roots group, building on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education and action. Thank You!

- Sacajawea Audubon Society's Board of Directors
Sacajawea Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
PO Box 1711
Bozeman, MT 59771-1711
* Sacajawea Audubon News is sent by email. There is a $\$ 10$ annual fee for a paper copy mailed to you.
I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me and have included an additional $\$ 10$ to cover the annual cost.
* We do not share your information except with Montana Audubon, so your contact information is safe with us.

| Mail this form with your check to: | Sacajawea Audubon Society |
| :--- | :--- |
| Attn: Membership |  |
| PO Box 1711 |  |
| Bozeman, MT 59771-1711 |  |

Thank you for your membership and donation. We look forward to birding with you!

## 3 BIRD NOTES by John Parker

Now that the fall migration is over it is time to recap the unexpectedly late migrants, the tail end of the waterfowl migration, and some other surprises.
Last month I mentioned some fairly late sightings for Western Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and now, a month later, the limits are being pushed even further. Three different Western Tanagers were seen the last week of October, with the one spotted October 25th by Matt Keefer in east Bozeman being the latest. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are usually gone from Montana by mid-September, so for one to be seen on November 3rd is notable enough to represent Montana's third latest fall record. But the two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seen together in Harold Ziolkowski's Belgrade yard on that date is truly amazing. In late October a lingering Black-headed Grosbeak spent over a week in Hobart and Martha Collins yard near Four Corners. This grosbeak was last seen October 25th, making it the latest fall record for Montana by over a month, though there are three winter records for the state.

The rarest warbler of the fall and a first for southwestern Montana, was the Black-throated Blue Warbler that turned up in Mike and Stephanie Becker's yard near Harrison on October 21st. There are only about thirty records for Black-throated Blue Warbler in Montana, with most being found in the eastern third of the state. Like their name suggests, Common Yellowthroats are common, but
the one seen November 9th was anything but common. This Common Yellowthroat that was discovered by Dalton Spencer at Langhor Park in Bozeman, missed being the latest ever for Montana by three days.
The late season waterfowl had to deal with the late October freeze up of nearly all of this area's lakes and ponds. Central Park Pond, which is spring fed and typically will stay at least partially open except during the most extreme cold, once again attracted a wide variety of waterfowl including several uncommon birds. A Greater White-fronted Goose was first seen at Central Park Pond on October 18th by John Karath, and was subsequently seen again the next day by others. A single White-winged Scoter was found at Central Park Pond on November 8th by Paulette Epple, Lou Ann Harris, and Dalton Spencer, and seen by many others during the following week. Glen Lake in north Bozeman never completely froze over during that cold spell, which was a surprise for Vic Fesolowitz when he visited the lake on the morning of November 4th. Even more surprising were two White-winged Scoters and a Surf Scoter floating on the open water. When others visited Glen Lake later that afternoon the two White-winged Scoters were gone, but the remaining Surf Scoter was still a nice consolation.


Great Gray Owl photo by Stephanie Nelson.
On November 1st Lou Ann Harris, Stephanie Nelson, and Adele Pittendrigh got to share a magical morning while birding the Sourdough Nature Trail. As the group was savoring their encounters with several Hermit Thrushes and a flock of Pine Grosbeaks, Adele said "now we need to find an owl." Then, as Stephanie was scanning through the trees, she realized she was face to face with a Great Gray Owl. After that encounter, as they continued walking down the trail a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers flew past them, sealing a special morning in their memories forever. Three days later at the same location, while enjoying the continuing flock of Pine Grosbeaks, Dalton Spencer discovered a Varied Thrush (see "Patagonia picnic table effect").

## Plants for Birds:

## Colorado Spruce (Colorado Blue Spruce)

\author{

- Scientific Name: Picea pungens <br> - Height: up to 60 feet <br> - Hardiness: Zone 2 <br> - Wildlife Value: Excellent shelter, nesting sites, and seeds for food
}

colorado spruce is a beautiful native North American conifer known for its blue-green color and sharp pointed needle-like leaves. It is the state tree for Colorado and Utah and is known and beloved as a Christmas tree. As it grows large and takes on its infamous pyramidal shape, it makes a stately, strong presence in a garden.

While we enjoy evergreen trees for their beauty and color, birds seek them out as a critical part of their habitat. The dense foliage offers reliable protection from winter snowstorms, other harsh weather conditions, and aggressive predators. Birds love the thick stiff branches and prickly needles for concealing nests, providing safe roosting sites, and deterring predators. Spruce are a favorite nesting site for robins, magpies, several species of sparrow, and a variety of other birds. Many birds and small mammals also feed on the seeds found in the cones including grouse, finches, crossbills, siskins, juncos, nuthatches, chickadees, chipmunks and red squirrels.

Although it is not a native to Montana, Colorado spruce grows just across the border in Idaho and Wyoming. It is used throughout our state as a popular ornamental. It grows well in cultivation, is easy to transfer and establish, and thus is one of the best evergreens to use for creating shelterbelts and wildlife thickets or to just establish conifers in the garden.
Give Colorado spruce plenty of room when you plant it, taking into consideration the full-grown dimensions of 60 feet high and 20 feet wide. The color of the tree can vary from blue, blue-green, or green in color. It does best in full sun but will tolerate some shade and once established is very easy to maintain. Colorado spruce grows well in zones 2-7 and adapts to a wide range of soils from alkaline to clay. It's the most drought tolerant of the spruces but benefits when irrigated during dry periods. However, it will not grow in soggy wet areas. This evergreen is a slow grower but is very long-lived. Many cultivars are available including some dwarf forms for smaller yards.
Whether planting Colorado spruce as a privacy screen, windbreak or a colorful evergreen garden specimen, it's sure to provide many benefits to the birds visiting your yard.

## SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## Board of Directors:

| President | Lou Ann Harris <br> pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
| :--- | :--- |
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| Member at Large | Stephanie Nelson <br> stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org |

## Committee Chairs \& Project Leaders:

| Conservation Chair | Paulette Epple <br> conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
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| Newsletter | Stephanie Nelson <br> newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
| Monthly Program | OPEN <br> programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
| Website | Stephanie Nelson <br> stephanienelson@sacajaweaaudubon.org |
| Membership | Loreene Reid <br> membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org <br> Hespitality |
| Sherry Staub <br> hospitality@sacajaweaaudubon.org |  |
| Wetlands | Karin Jennings <br> wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org |

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: DECEMBER 10TH Hopa Mountain hosts a conversation celebrating a healthy environment

A$s$ part of the Hopa Mountain Human Rights Day event at the Bozeman Public Library, Paulette Epple will give a presentation on "Landscaping for Birds: How to Invite Birds to Your Backyard" on December 10th, from 7:10 to 7:40 pm. The event begins at 6 pm and also includes talks on native bees and the importance of conservation and trails for the health of our community.


## Drink a Brew \& Support Birds, Too! Dec. 16th at Bridger Brewing

Every Monday, Bridger Brewing supports our community by donating \$1 from every pint sold to a selected local non-profit through their Pints With Purpose program. Bridger Brewing is located at 1609 S. 11th Avenue in Bozeman, across from the MSU Fieldhouse.

Sacajawea Audubon Society is the featured non-profit on Monday, December 16, from 5 pm to $\mathbf{8}$ pm. Please join us and support bird conservation by enjoying a delicious local microbrew. It's for the birds!


Sacajawea Audubon Society<br>P.O. Box 1711<br>Bozeman, MT 59771-1771<br>Change Service Requested

Sacajawea Audubon Society, affiliated with the National Audubon Society, meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May.

## Sacajawea Audubon Society Monthly Newsletter is available

 electronically to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members September through May. Members and non-members can receive a mailed paper newsletter for an annual $\$ 10$ subscription fee. Please send your check to the address above.Deadline for article submission is the 15 th of the month preceding the month the articles will appear. Send articles electronically to Stephanie Nelson at: newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org.
Change of Address: If you have a change of address or are away, please notify membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org. Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the Sacajawea Audubon Society website at: sacajaweaaudubon.org

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## Sacajawea Audubon Society's Calendar at a Glance DECEMBER 2019

| $\mathbf{5}$ | SAS Board Meeting at <br> the Lehrkind Mansion |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | Special Year-End Program <br> \&Bridger Raptor Project <br> Raffle Drawing at the <br> Ellen Theater |
| $\mathbf{1 0}$ | Hopa Mountain <br> Human Rights <br> Day Presentation: <br> Landscaping for Birds |
| $\mathbf{1 4}$ | Bozeman <br> Christmas Bird Count |


| 16 | "Pints With Purpose" at <br> Bridger Brewing |
| :---: | :--- |
| 18 | Ennis Christmas <br> Bird Count |
| 21 | Livingston <br> Christmas Bird Count |
| 22 | Yellowstone <br> Christmas Bird Count |
| 26 | Three Forks <br> Christmas Bird Count |


| $\mathbf{2 9}$ | West Yellowstone <br> Christmas Bird Count |
| :---: | :--- |
| Jan. <br> $\mathbf{4}$ | Ruby Valley <br> Christmas Bird Count |



Leucistic Black-billed Magpie by Sue Williams.

