



# Sacajawea Audubon News

*Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) builds on an interest in birds to promote the conservation of our natural environment through enjoyment, education, and action.*

*SAS Monthly Program: Monday, April 8th, Hope Lutheran Church*

## **Why did the Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific Slope Flycatcher Become a Single Species? with Ethan Linck, Ph.D.**



*Guest speaker Ethan Linck, Ph.D.*

Few groups of birds are as challenging to identify as the Empidonax flycatchers, whose uniform plumage and lack of obvious field marks are a familiar frustration in habitats across North America. Until recently, an extra level of difficulty could be found in mid-elevation conifer forest in far northwest Montana, where the geographic ranges of the nearly identical Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific Slope Flycatcher came into contact. Last year brought a reprieve to puzzled birders in the region when the naming committee of the American Ornithological Society unanimously voted to “lump” the two forms, grouping them into a single new species called the Western Flycatcher. This move has already impacted apps, websites, and bird counts, and will alter field guides in the years to come. But how are decisions to split or lump species actually made, and what evidence do scientists use to make them? MSU Professor Ethan Linck’s research and naming proposal was responsible for the change. He will discuss the history of the project and what it tells us about evolution, explain how DNA is used in the science of taxonomy, and talk about why losing a species on your life list may have a silver lining.



*Empidonax difficilis occidentalis. Photo: Steve Wickliffe, Macaulay Library*



*Empidonax difficilis difficilis.*

*Photo: Liam Singh, Macaulay Library*

Ethan Linck is an Assistant Professor at Montana State University, where he teaches classes in the Department of Ecology and studies the genetics, evolution, and conservation of birds in western North America and around the world. An avid birder who became interested in natural history growing up in Vermont and Tucson, Arizona, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of Washington and a B.A. from Reed College in Oregon.

**The in-person meeting** will be held Monday, April 8th at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf (off S 19th). A social begins at 6:30 PM; the program begins at 7:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups. **For virtual attendance, please register** at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9065580461467479900>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Attendees—whether in person or virtual—are encouraged to share their bird sightings at this and every monthly program. Share the program on social media using the hashtags #sasbirds, #sacaudubon, #conservation, and #raptors.

SAS monthly programs are free and open to the public, featuring a special guest speaker the 2nd Monday of each month, September through May. For more information, contact Ken Sinay at [programs@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:programs@sacajaweaudubon.org).

**Oh DARN! I missed the SAS Program!**

**You can view the recordings of many past SAS programs here:** <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/1c8878c1033747dba0cd82e9b5e6146f>

Others will be added. So check back often!

## A MESSAGE *from* SAS PRESIDENT, CHRIS NIXON



**P**lease check out ALL the great info to be found in this Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) newsletter! SAS is partnering with so many other organizations of common interests that it can make one's head spin! It is fun meeting those from other organizations and learning all the wonderful work and positive things they have going on. After all, We each need every bit of

encouraging news we can get in today's strange world. There IS a lot of good happening... and we are happy to bring it to your awareness.

Take a deep dive into the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (well, not literally) by signing up for SAS's new summer IAWP Wetland Master Naturalist Course. *(See article page 3.)*

Fly in (again not literally) for Montana Audubon's Wings Across the Big Sky Birding Festival to be held in Helena (co-hosted by Last Chance Audubon Society) May 31-June 2, 2024. *(See article page 8.)*

Walk down the street (literally) to the Bozeman Public Library, as SAS will again provide a couple days of fun activities for the kiddos at the Bozeman Public Library's Summer Enrichment Program. Well, the Library has much more fun going on than the two days with SAS...so check out their other programs at <https://www.bozemanlibrary.org/>. *(See articles on page 7.)*

Hike (literally) into Lightning Creek with SAS and Crosscut for the rare opportunity to explore Crosscut's 640 acres of wonder and learn all about the ecology of that special area just outside YNP. *(See articles on page 9.)*

And at next month's membership meeting, sit comfortably (literally - with the right seating), whether joining us at Hope Lutheran Church or virtually from your recliner at home, to learn why you no longer have to stress about whether you are seeing a Cordilleran Flycatcher or a Pacific Slope Flycatcher. What a relief! *(See article page 1.)*

And I know! I know! I keep telling you to look forward to exciting updates about the IAWP. The IAWP is such a HUGE (Shouted Bernie Sanders) Project for SAS! There are numerous moving parts that change weekly - for the BETTER! So, you are going to have to wait (LITERALLY) to find out about all the exciting updates concerning the IAWP. I really do believe there is MAGIC in the AIR there!

## SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Officers

President	Chris Nixon <a href="mailto:pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org">pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Vice President	John Edwards <a href="mailto:vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org">vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Loreene Reid <a href="mailto:treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org">treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Emma Narotzky <a href="mailto:sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org">sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>

### Board Members

Aaron Clausen	<a href="mailto:aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org">aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Ben Goodheart	<a href="mailto:bengoodheart@sacajaweaaudubon.org">bengoodheart@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Mikaela Howie	<a href="mailto:mikaelahowie@sacajaweaaudubon.org">mikaelahowie@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
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Ken Sinay	<a href="mailto:kensinay@sacajaweaaudubon.org">kensinay@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Boardroom Bobcat member Jack Evans	<a href="mailto:boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org">boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>

### Activity Leaders

Education Chair	<b>Looking for Volunteer</b>
Conservation Co-Chairs	Paulette Epple <a href="mailto:conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org">conservation@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a> Lou Ann Harris <a href="mailto:louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org">louann@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Field Trips, Bird Sightings	John Parker <a href="mailto:birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org">birdsightings@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Hospitality	<b>Looking for Volunteer</b>
Membership	Loreene Reid <a href="mailto:membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org">membership@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Newsletter	Terri Narotzky <a href="mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org">newsletter@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Programs	Ken Sinay <a href="mailto:programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org">programs@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Website	Lou Ann Harris <a href="mailto:webmaster@sacajaweaaudubon.org">webmaster@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Social Media/ Communications	Lou Ann Harris and Mikaela Howie <a href="mailto:socialmedia@sacajaweaaudubon.org">socialmedia@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Wetlands Preservation	Loreene Reid <a href="mailto:wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org">wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
IAWP/Busy Beavers Stewardship Coordinator	Emma Narotzky <a href="mailto:wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org">wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Book Club	Elisabeth Swanson & Hilary Johnson <a href="mailto:bookclub@sacajaweaaudubon.org">bookclub@sacajaweaaudubon.org</a>
Newsletter Design	Tamara Knappenberger   <a href="mailto:tkknappenberger@gmail.com">tkknappenberger@gmail.com</a>



**SACAJAWEA**  
**AUDUBON**  
**SOCIETY**

# INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE UPDATE: APRIL 2024

THE WETLAND PRESERVATION PROJECT (WPP) was initiated to accomplish Sacajawea Audubon Society's mission to protect and restore increasingly rare wetland and riparian habitats in our region, and to provide educational opportunities and enjoyment for generations to come. The IAWP is the first of our wetland protection projects.



## KICK OFF THE 2024 VOLUNTEER SEASON!

**Sunday, April 7th**  
**Bozeman Public Library**  
**starting at 1:15pm**

Are you a former Busy Beaver, new Busy Beaver, or just curious about

the Busy Beaver program? Busy Beavers are the volunteer corps for the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. Join this community of wetland enthusiasts and pledge at least 10 volunteer hours for the year to gain access to special workshops and educational events.

We will provide lunch and update our volunteers about IAWP news and volunteer/training opportunities in 2024 including water monitoring, weed management, beaver dam management, wetland hosting, bird surveys, and more.

We will walk to the IAWP and do a brief tour of the site – *weather permitting.*

**Learn more without making a commitment.**

**Registering in advance will help us plan for food!**

[https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/wNgabcYOK9TWMuZxKBXm8w](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/wNgabcYOK9TWMuZxKBXm8w)

## GUIDED BIRD WALKS AT THE IAWP

**Friday and Sunday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM**  
**May 3 – June 30, 2024.**

Curious about the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve that Sacajawea Audubon Society is restoring and enhancing? Eager to see some great birds without leaving the city? We've got you covered!

Meet at 8 AM at Café M, 777 East Main for a brief talk about the IAWP and our vision for its future. We will then take a short walk to the preserve. Bring your binocs and your enthusiasm for birds and wetlands while we explore this special area. All birding abilities welcome. No registration needed.

**For more information email:** [wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org](mailto:wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org)

## IAWP WETLAND MASTER NATURALIST COURSE

This wetland-focused master naturalist course will cover various aspects of wetland ecology and environmental science tailored to Montana's unique landscapes and ecological characteristics. The course will include 10 classes and three full day field trips. Each class will be structured to last two hours, combining theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on activities or field observations. Each topic will have a subject matter expert drawn from Montana State University, Society of Wetland Scientists, and local specialists.

The curriculum focuses on the natural science aspects of wetlands, with a concentration on the understanding of wetland ecology, hydrology, soils, plants, and wildlife. It covers topics that can provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex ecological interactions that occur within these ecosystems, with an emphasis on scientific observation, analysis, and interpretation, and integrates field trips and hands-on activities.

**Tuesday, June 25 – Saturday, August 3, 2024**  
(5 consecutive weeks)

**Tuesday/Thursday classes:** 5:30-7:30 PM (No class 7/4)

**3 Full Day Saturday field trips:** July 6, July 20, August 3

### Certification requirements:

- Attendance for 40 class hours
- 6 hours volunteer service
- Research and presentation on wetland topic of your choice

**Cost:** \$175 for Busy Beavers; \$275 for SAS members; \$375 for non-members.

**Class size is limited to 15 participants.**

**Register here:** [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/jfzPnCTj-YIvvtxw0hkllA](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/jfzPnCTj-YIvvtxw0hkllA)



*A study in progress at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. Photo by Loreene Reid.*





## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join your birding friends, new and old, **Monday, May 13, 2024 for the SAS Annual Membership Meeting, Sweet & Savory Potluck, and Board Elections.** Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share. Plates and utensils will be provided—please bring your own mug. The **potluck begins at 6:00 PM**; a brief **meeting and board elections begins at 7:00 PM**, followed by **keynote speaker David Haines, NPS Ornithologist.**

**SAS is accepting applications** from individuals interested in serving on the Board of Directors. To get an application or learn more, please contact Chris Nixon at [pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org](mailto:pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ☐ **April 7:** Busy Beavers kick-off event
- ☐ **April 8:** SAS Program – *Why did the Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific Slope Flycatcher Become a Single Species?* with Ethan Linck, Ph.D.
- ☐ **April 11:** Gallatin Valley Earth Day Presentation at MOR
- ☐ **April 11 & 12:** Montana Plant Conservation Conference
- ☐ **April 12:** Gallatin Earth Day Workshop at Gardner Park
- ☐ **April 16:** Trivia Night at Lockhorn Cider House
- ☐ **April 17:** SAS Book Club
- ☐ **April 19:** Gallatin Valley Earth Day Presentation at MOR
- ☐ **April 20:** Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds
- ☐ **May 2-3:** Give Big Gallatin Valley
- ☐ **May 11:** World Migratory Bird Day
- ☐ **May 13:** SAS annual meeting, potluck & board elections
- ☐ **May 18 – June 25:** Birdathon
- ☐ **May 31–June 2:** Wings Across the Big Sky, Helena
- ☐ **June 7–9:** Red Rock Lakes NWR Trip
- ☐ **June 25 – August 3:** Wetland Naturalist Course
- ☐ **June 27:** Birdathon Awards Party
- ☐ **July 5–7:** Lightining Creek Tour
- ☐ **July 19–21:** IAWP Bioblitz
- ☐ **July 22 & 24:** SAS at Bozeman Public Library

## APRIL IAWP TRIVIA NIGHT

**April 16th**

**Lockhorn Cider House**  
(21 S. Wallace, Bozeman)

### **What the “peck” did you say? Cavity nesters?**

The theme for the next trivia night is **Ecology of post-fire cavity-nesters** with Vicki Saab. Sign-in begins at 5:30. Grab a drink, mingle with other trivia-goers and find your seat. IAWP Trivia begins at 6:30 PM and runs approximately one hour.

**This series is proving to be mugs of fun!**



*Black-backed Woodpecker*  
Photo: Ed Harper



## World Migratory Bird Day 2024

**Saturday, May 11th**

This year's theme for World Migratory Bird Day focuses on the importance of insects and their impact on migratory birds. Insects are essential sources of energy for many migratory bird species, supporting their extensive journeys and greatly affecting the timing, duration, and overall success of bird migrations.

Along their migration routes, birds actively seek out protein and fat rich insects in fields, forests, wetlands, and various habitats during stopovers. The timing of their bird migration often coincides with peak insect abundance at stopover locations, supplying nourishment for birds to replenish their energy reserves before continuing their journey.

The loss and disturbance of insect populations along avian migration routes threatens bird survival and well-being.

**Featured species this year include:** The American Kestrel, the Wood Duck, and Cliff Swallow, as well as some of their important foods: the Red-legged Grasshopper, the Giant Water Scavenger Beetle and the Vivid Dancer Damselfly.

Details of SAS WMBD activities will be posted soon at [www.sacajaweaaudubon.org](http://www.sacajaweaaudubon.org)

## Give Big Gallatin Valley May 2-3 2024

This year, donations to Sacajawea Audubon Society will support the ongoing Bridger Mountain Raptor Count. Your generous contributions will go further, thanks to a Challenge Grant to be given once we have raised  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our goal! (See article below.)

[https://www.givebiggv.org/donate?campaign\\_id=203631](https://www.givebiggv.org/donate?campaign_id=203631)



## Freshen up your landscape with Native Plants!

Montana Freshwater Partners 3rd Annual Native Plant Sale!

Deadline to order is April 15. [https://freshwaterpartners.org/mfp-native-plant-sale/?mc\\_cid=048e7c25ea](https://freshwaterpartners.org/mfp-native-plant-sale/?mc_cid=048e7c25ea)



## Challenge Grant Opportunity for 2024 Bridger Raptor Migration Project!

**T**hanks to the outstanding generosity of members/donors Erna Smeets and Bill Simkins, this spring Sacajawea Audubon Society (SAS) has a wonderful opportunity to reach its \$20,000 fundraising goal to cover our costs for the upcoming 2024 Bridger Raptor Migration Project season. This will be our 33rd consecutive year of complete autumn season counts of these southbound migrants - comprising 17 raptor species - along the crest of the Bridger Mountains, above the Bridger Bowl Ski Area.



*Immature Northern Harrier, Photo: Anna Wolke*

This scientific count has been conducted each fall from August, 27 through October, 31 since 1992! Bill and Erna have offered SAS a challenge grant in the amount of \$5,000 to encourage Bozeman-area, conservation-minded supporters to give generously. Our goal to raise an additional \$15,000 this spring will provide the necessary funds to once again complete a full-season Bridger Count so we can continue to better understand the status and population trends of these critically important, top-of-the-food chain, bio-indicators of ecosystem health. As predators, these birds are valuable barometers of the health of our natural world. We have already learned that Golden Eagles and American Goshawks have shown dramatic long-term declines since these standardized counts began in 1992. What does the future hold for these majestic birds, and for humanity?

We are confident these annual counts will help us to answer these critical questions.

This Challenge Grant Campaign begins immediately, and will last through the end of May. This Bridger Raptor Count fundraising campaign will be promoted throughout the GIVE BIG online fundraising initiative to be held May 2-3, 2024. ALL DONATIONS to SAS through GIVE BIG this year will count towards meeting the Challenge Grant. We welcome your participation to help us reach our

2024 Bridger Raptor Count budget goal. Alternatively, you can also send your check with "Bridger Raptor Count" on the memo line to: *Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman, MT 59771*, or simply give online at our Sacajawea Audubon Society website [www.sacajaweaaudubon.org](http://www.sacajaweaaudubon.org). Most importantly, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the tremendous outpouring of support from Bozeman-area donors to help ensure the continuity of this exceptional scientific and educational effort during the past 30+ years.

**And a special THANK YOU to Bill Simkins and Erna Smeets for their huge support and encouragement to continue collecting this important data!**

THANK YOU ALL!!!

# 2024 Gallatin Valley Earth Day Schedule

**TALK: Old-Growth Forests in Montana: Where Are They, Why are They Important, and What You Can Do to Save Them?**

**Thursday, April 11<sup>TH</sup>, 7 PM**

with Dr. Joan Maloof at Museum of the Rockies, Hager Auditorium, **FREE**

**J**oin Dr. Joan Maloof to learn about the importance of ancient forests for the health and stability of our planet. She will describe what is currently happening on a broad political level to both monitor and preserve our forests. She will also talk about what is happening in Montana and how you can get involved in making a difference. There will be time for audience questions and comments. If you love trees and forests, you won't want to miss this presentation.

Enjoy food and drink from Fork & Spoon and visit the numerous exhibits. Joan's latest book, *Nature's Temples: A Natural History of Old-Growth Forests*, will be available for sale and signing. (Books supplied by the Museum of the Rockies bookstore).

**The talk will be live-streamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in person.** REGISTER for the live stream at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8SC-2mA0QEyl2pcs-cQm6Q#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8SC-2mA0QEyl2pcs-cQm6Q#/registration) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Dr. Joan Maloof has likely been to more U.S. old-growth forests than anyone alive today. She is the founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network, the first national organization working specifically to preserve ancient forests for the enjoyment of present and future generations. In counties still capable of supporting forest growth, the organization identifies at least one forest that will be forever protected from logging and open to the public. Maloof also speaks out to help save threatened forests and educates about their importance. She is the author of five books about forests: *Teaching the Trees*; *Among the Ancients*; *The Living Forest*; *Treepedia*; and *Nature's Temples*. She is a Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University where she taught biology and environmental studies.



**OUTSIDE WORKSHOP: Explore the ecology and wonder of Riparian Forests**

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> OR Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2–4 pm**

with Ashley Martens at Gardner Park, Bozeman

**Limit:** 12 participants/day **Cost:** \$30/person

**Register at:** [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/CjCoLUqFrALR8BpXd1DzIA](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/CjCoLUqFrALR8BpXd1DzIA)

**TALK: Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy**

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM** with George Wuerthner at Museum of the Rockies, Hager Auditorium, **FREE**

**Presented by Gallatin Valley Earth Day in partnership with Gallatin Wildlife Association**



*Fire on Blacktail Plateau at night, Yellowstone NP, Wyoming.*

*Photo: George Wuerthner.*

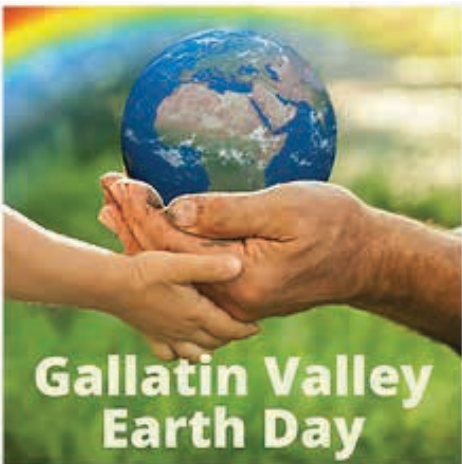
Please join us to learn about wildfire ecology and the role of wildfire in the ecosystem. Ecologically speaking, large high-severity blazes are ecological gifts that create essential habitats for many plants and animals. Common practices like thinning and prescribed burning are largely ineffective at slowing or halting the largest, extreme weather-driven blazes and have many negative ecological impacts. Wuerthner will cover how homeowners can learn to live with fire.



George Wuerthner is an ecologist and author of 38 books, including *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*. Wuerthner has traveled extensively throughout the west to document where, why, and how wildfires have burned. He is now the ED of Public Lands Media. Prior to that position, he worked as ecological projects director for Tompkins Conservation.

*George Wuerthner. Photo courtesy of George Wuerthner.*





## Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival

**Saturday, April 20th, 10 AM – 3PM**

**Gallatin County Fairgrounds - Exhibit Buildings 1-4**

**Exhibits ~ Talks ~ Children's Activities ~ Music ~ Food**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### ALL DAY

**Earth Day Passport Education Program** *(with prizes!)*  
**Petting Zoo • Face painting**

#### PERFORMANCE

**10:00 AM**

**Magic Monster Show**

Random Acts of Silliness, Exhibit Bldg #4



#### SCHEDULE OF TALKS

**11:00 AM**

**Is Your Property at Risk for Wildfire?**

Jay Pape, Gallatin County Emergency Management

**12:00 PM**

**Create Your Own Backyard Food Forest!**

Kareen Erbe, Broken Ground

**1:00 PM**

**Trees for the Gallatin Valley**

*Advice & Tips from Cashman Nursery*

Jerry Cashman

**1:30 PM-**

**2:30 PM**

**Live Raptor presentation**

Keaton Thomas, MT Raptor Conservation Center

**2:00 PM**

**Get to Know the City's Forestry Division**

Alex Nordquest, City of Bozeman Forestry

Lilly McLane Gallatin Watershed Council

## Kids! Meet us at the Bozeman Public Library

**for Ornithology and Zoology Exploration  
with Sacajawea Audubon Society!**

**S**AS will provide two programs with The Bozeman Public Library Summer Learning Experience for kids ages 3-11 and their caregivers. Learn to migrate like a bird, learn to solve puzzles like a crow, and examine zoological specimens!

**Where:** Library Front Plaza  
*(Community Room in case of bad weather)*

**When:** Mon July 22 & Wed July 24, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**More fun for Kids Until Mid-April at the Naturalist  
Play Corner in the Bozeman Public Library:**

Calling all junior naturalists! Birdwatch, examine specimens from nature, roast pretend marshmallows on an equally pretend fire, and camp in a tiny tent in the Bozeman Public Library Children's Room. The naturalist rotation in the Dramatic Play Center is available during all library open hours until mid-April. Make believe encourages children to explore tools, language, and ideas through play. Bring your youngest birders and stop on by!



# Wings Across the Big Sky... Registration Open!

It's finally time - Registration for the 2024 Wings Across the Big Sky Birding Festival is NOW OPEN!

Visit the Montana Audubon website to learn more and to register online. <https://mtaudubon.org/events/wings/>

Along with Last Chance Audubon, Montana Audubon has put together a fantastic lineup of trips, speakers, and more - you won't want to miss it!

If you're on Montana Audubon's mailing list, check your mail for the registration brochure, or visit their website to view & download the brochure. Register online - and early - for the best field trip availability.

You can also register via mail. For questions or issues, please email the Montana Audubon office at [info@mtaudubon.org](mailto:info@mtaudubon.org), or call us at 406-443-3949.

See you in Helena this summer!

**Montana Audubon and Last Chance Audubon are pleased to announce this year's keynote speaker: Tiffany Kersten! *Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders***

Tiffany Kersten didn't set out to do a Big Year, but after a series of unanticipated and serendipitous events, she suddenly found herself amidst one. As a sexual assault survivor, she spent 2021 traveling to all corners of the Lower 48 States, tallying birds and gifting personal safety alarms to women she met along the way. Her goals were to see 700 species and to raise awareness of women's safety in the outdoors. She ended up



surpassing her goal and setting a new record of 726 species. In her presentation Tiffany will lead us through the fear, empowerment, struggles, and healing that all played vital roles in the personal growth she experienced on this wild adventure. Learn more about Tiffany and Nature Ninja Birding Tours on her website: <https://tiffanykersten.blogspot.com>.

## Encouraging the Next Generation of Birders/Conservationists

Just in case you didn't notice..... This year the SAS Board of Directors established a Student Membership category (College & High School Students) at the rate of \$10.00. We have had our first student take advantage of this discount to join SAS at this new membership category. Yay!

**We WANT and NEED to encourage young people!** The next generation of birders/conservationists are critical to the long term survival of birds, other wildlife, and the environment we humans depend upon. Great strides were made in the protection of wildlife and the environment in the 60's and 70's when a generation awoke to the loss of birds and the destruction being inflicted upon the environment. Apparently many have forgotten the



*Dusky Grouse Hen and Chick. Photo: Terri Narotzky*

huge efforts it took for that generation to turn the tide and bring about such improvements through passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Forest Management Act, Coastal Zone Management Act and numerous others.

If you recognize any young person that demonstrates a key interest in birds and/or the environment, please encourage them to become an SAS member! Take the opportunity to purchase a student membership for them. You may happen to have stumbled upon the next Rachael Carson or E. O. Wilson. Your moment

of encouragement may be the small action that makes a world of difference for the world.



# 2024 Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Tour- June 7-9

**3 days, 2 nights:** Departs Bozeman Friday morning, June 7 – Returns by 5:00 PM on Sunday, June 9

**\$650/person for double occupancy | single supplement + \$175**

**Includes lodging, food, and transportation from Bozeman. Limited to 10 participants**

**TOUR GUIDES:** *Steve Hoffman & Steve Eshbaugh, Merlin Birding & Nature Tours LLC*

This tour will explore a diversity of habitats, ranging from high-elevation wetland and prairie habitats at 6,600 feet to the forests of the Centennial Mountains.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is in the incredibly scenic and isolated Centennial Valley of southwestern Montana, 60 miles west of Yellowstone National Park. This 3-day, 2-night tour will include a vast array of habitats, ranging from high-elevation wetland and prairie habitats at 6,600 feet, to the dense aspen & conifer forests of the adjacent Centennial Mountains, which ascend to over 10,000 ft. in elevation. This diverse, wetland-prairie-sagebrush-montane environment gives Red Rock Lakes its unique character. Nesting wetland and prairie birds are abundant throughout Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge at this time of year, with 120+ species possible.

Red Rock Lakes is best known as the primary location for heroic efforts in the 1930's to save the Trumpeter Swan from regional extirpation. In addition to this majestic swan, another 230 bird species have been identified within the refuge,



*Trumpeter Swans, Photo: Kyle Moon*

including: Long-billed Curlew, Sandhill Crane, Red-necked Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, American White Pelican, Sora, White-faced Ibis, American Avocet, Willet, Northern Harrier, Bald & Golden Eagles, Swainson's & Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie & Peregrine Falcons, Short-eared Owl, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, numerous duck species, flycatchers, kinglets, warblers, vireos, tanagers, thrushes, woodpeckers and, if we're lucky, even Greater Sage-Grouse! Moose, Pronghorn, Mule Deer, Coyote, Red Fox are likely. Gray Wolf and Grizzly Bear are possible!

**For more information**, email Steve Hoffman at [Steve@merlinbirding.com](mailto:Steve@merlinbirding.com) or cal 406-461-5714. Spaces for this trip will be limited to no more than 10 participants, providing an exceptional ratio of five participants to each of the two skilled guides. Registration will be on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

## Rare Opportunity - Overnight Trip into Lightning Creek's Deep Nature

**"Exploring the Natural History of Lightning Creek in the Taylor Fork drainage of the Madison Range"**

Led by Vicki Saab & other specialist instructors  
**Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, July 5, 6, & 7, 2024**

Explore the geology, avian ecology, wildflowers, pollination ecology, and indigenous perspectives at Crosscut's Lightning Creek property and surrounding areas on the doorstep to Yellowstone National Park. The property is located in the heart of the Madison Range, surrounded by National Forest and Wilderness areas.

This remote space is only accessible to the public through a trail easement that allows public hiking through the property to reach high alpine areas. This 640-acre section of land provides a variety of wildlife habitats, including wetlands, meadows, riparian areas, sagebrush, and high-elevation coniferous forest. Additionally, the property includes a diversity of wildflowers



and valuable habitat for species such as Westslope Cutthroat Trout, elk, and Grizzly Bears."

For more information and to register: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/P8o29ekZMZ3ZkJRp8x0vyA](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/P8o29ekZMZ3ZkJRp8x0vyA)

# 2024 SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY SPRING BIRDING WORKSHOPS

Birds inspire curiosity and a sense of wonder. Ever wonder who exactly is whistling “Hey Sweetie!” outside your window in the wee hours of the morning? Or how to identify a bird based on a flash of yellow feathers? Or what the little brown bird in the woodpile is called? Or why she’s there in the first place? To help you answer all these questions and more, Sacajawea Audubon Society is offering a series of classes with experienced naturalist and educator Ashley Martens (plus Cedar Mathers-Winn co-teaching Bird Language).

**Register at:** [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/GSwwoopGXdP0HnoA4QMYKQ](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/GSwwoopGXdP0HnoA4QMYKQ)

## BEGINNING BIRDING IN FOREST AND FIELD WORKSHOP

Participants will be introduced to the basics of birding through three evening classroom sessions and three field trips to a variety of habitats in the valley. We will cover bird families, common birds in our region, and what to look and listen for when seeking out the identity of a bird. Sections A & B will meet together for classroom sessions. Section A will have field trips on Friday mornings and section B will have field trips on Saturday mornings. Maximum of 9 students per section.

**Classroom Sessions – Sections A & B:** Wednesdays  
May 8, May 29, June 19

6:00-7:30 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip – Section A:** Fridays, May 10, May 31, June 21  
7-10 am | Various Locations

**Field Trips –Section B:** Saturdays/Sunday,  
Sat., May 11; Sun., June 1; Sat., June 22  
7-10 am | Various Locations

**Cost:** \$100 for Sacajawea Audubon Society members; \$120 for non-members.

**Supply lists will be provided upon registration.**



*Admiring an Ovenbird during a SAS birding class with Ashley Martens.  
Photo: Ben Yanker*

## INTERMEDIATE BIRDING SHORT COURSES

These are the perfect classes for birders who want to boost their skills up a notch and start studying more details of plumage, bird behaviors, and more sight and sound identification tips for specific bird families or groups.

### CAVITY NESTERS

Together we’ll explore the ecology of birds in our region who either excavate their own cavities (like woodpeckers and nuthatches) or nest in existing cavities (like bluebirds, chickadees, and some owls). We’ll also focus on how to identify woodpeckers by calls, drums, and more. This trip happens early because most of these species breed early - and there are not so many leaves out so we can spot them easily!

**Classroom Session:** Thursday, May 2nd 5:30-7:00 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip:** Saturday, May 4th 7-10 am | location TBA

**Cost:** \$50 members and \$60 nonmembers.

### ART & SCIENCE OF BIRD LANGUAGE

Birds are the true messengers of the forests. They can tell us if there’s a fox hiding in the brush, a person about to run down the trail, or an owl about to fly through. Bird language can also open a window into the lives of birds as individuals, from the intimacy of courtship to the drama of territorial duels. Come learn the ancient art of bird language paired with modern scientific studies in animal communication. In class, we’ll explore each of the five voices of the birds, and learn some alarm patterns. Then we’ll practice identifying these voices and patterns in the field. Awareness of bird language also inevitably leads to a deeper awareness of self. Join naturalists Ashley Martens and Cedar Mathers-Winn for our complimentary collaboration!

**Classroom Session:** Thursday, June 6th 5:30-7:30 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip:** Saturday, June 8 7-10 am | location TBA

**Cost:** \$60 members; \$70 nonmembers.

### WARBLERS

What is better than yellow feathers?! Well, maybe orange ones! We’ll learn to identify differences between these wonderfully little flashy, fidgety birds and sort them out with plumage, song/call, and habitat clues.

**Classroom Session:** Thursday, June 13th 5:30-7:00 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip:** Saturday, June 15 7-10 am | location TBA

**Cost:** \$50 members and \$60 nonmembers.



## SPARROWS & ALLIES

Those little brown birds can be difficult to tease apart. We'll focus on plumage, habitat, songs, calls and clues for the sparrows of our region so that we can begin to appreciate their subtle beauty and differences.

**Classroom Session:** Tuesday, June 4 5:30-7:00 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip:** Sunday, June 9th 7-10 am (location TBA)

**Cost:** \$50 members and \$60 nonmembers.

## THRUSHES & OTHER SONGSTERS: BIRDING BY EAR

The songs of the thrushes are some of the most magical sounds of summer. We'll learn to identify these birds by sight and song, as well as the many other lovely songsters in our region. This class will focus more on birding by ear than by sight, but of course we will take some time to explore and enjoy visual identification as well. Other birds/families we will be sure to include are: vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks, and the Western Tanager.

**Classroom Session:** Thursday, June 27th 5:30-7:00 pm | Hope Lutheran Church

**Field Trip:** Saturday, June 29th 7-10 am | Location TBA

**Cost:** \$50 members and \$60 nonmembers.

## NEW!!! BIRDING BY EAR BY HABITAT 3-FIELD TRIP SERIES

You asked for it! This class will help you make more connections between the birds, their songs & calls, and their habitats. We'll visit sagebrush steppe, riparian forest, and montane forest.

**Field trips:** Tuesdays, May 21st, June 11th, and June 25th 7:30-9:30 am

**Cost:** \$60 members and \$70 nonmembers.



*White-crowned Sparrow. Photo: Terri Narotzky*

## DEEP NATURE CONNECTION SERIES

For four weeks, we will gather in community and practice routines to develop a deeper understanding of and connection to wild nature and natural cycles. We will investigate nature through mindfulness practices, play, observation, and inspiring instructions. We will learn about edible and medicinal plants and mushrooms (and even make some tea and/or tinctures), animal tracking, bird language, and the many ways we can learn from nature.

**Field Trips:** Wednesdays 9 am-11 am on May 22; May 29; June 5; June 12 | Near-town location TBA.

Week 1 – Observing & Sit Spot

Week 2 – Wandering & Edible/Medicinal Plants

Week 3 – Listening & Bird Language

Week 4 – Connecting with Natural Cycles

**Course Materials:** Blank journal and writing utensils, bag or backpack for collecting, and binoculars if you have them (not required).

**Cost:** \$95 members; \$125 nonmembers for the series. Maximum 9 students.

**Register at:** [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/GSwoopGXdp0HnoA4QMYKQ](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/GSwoopGXdp0HnoA4QMYKQ)

# 2024 Montana Audubon Citizen Science Projects

## Help contribute valuable observations to science – and have a great time doing it!

Montana Audubon is recruiting volunteers to help with several surveys this year, including:

**Climate Watch surveys | May 15-June 15**

**Chimney Swift surveys | June - July**

To sign up, or for more information about any of the projects, email Gwynne at [gwynne@mtaudubon.org](mailto:gwynne@mtaudubon.org).

Learn more about each of these projects on Montana Audubon's Citizen Science website: <http://www.montanabirdsurveys.com/>





## RETHINKING BOULEVARD STRIPS

By Paulette Epple

Spring is in the air and it's that time of year when our thoughts naturally turn to gardening and landscaping. That could mean planting a new shade tree or a cluster of berry-producing shrubs for the birds. Or... maybe it's time to jazz up the boulevard strip with a colorful, drought-tolerant garden to support the native bees, butterflies, and birds.

Boulevard strips (that section of lot frontage lying between the street and sidewalk) are desirable in urban areas to provide a safety buffer between pedestrians and moving traffic, and for snow storage in northern climates like ours. Even though boulevards are really an extension of your front yard, they are often neglected, can be troublesome to maintain, and generally provide zero benefit to birds and pollinators. Most homeowners just plant bluegrass in this "no-man's land," but it's an awkward area to mow, and watering the narrow strips can be inefficient since much of the water runs off into the street.

It doesn't need to be this way! More and more communities and property owners are realizing that boulevard strips provide an excellent opportunity for planting drought tolerant and native species, creating more attractive environments and benefiting pollinators and birds.

Below are some suggestions on how you can create a vibrant boulevard garden and invite pollinators and birds to your yard. Don't have a boulevard strip? Any of these ideas work for a garden along your driveway, wrapped around your patio, or anywhere else in your yard.



Boulevard planting -Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*) Catmint (*Nepeta*),and Yarrow. Photo: Paulette Epple

### For very low plantings use:

- Creeping Thymes
- Pine-leaf Penstemon
- Pussytoes
- Goldmoss Sedum
- Sulphur Buckwheat
- Snow-in-Summer
- Creeping Phlox
- Silver Mound Artemisia

### For 1-2 foot tall plantings use:

- Moonshine Yarrow
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Catmint (*Nepeta*)
- Blue Flax
- Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*)
- Dotted Gayfeather (*Liatris*)
- Purple Coneflower
- Showy Goldeneye

You can also mix and match, with shorter plants along the edges and taller plants in the middle. Add a few Little Bluestem or Prairie Junegrass for interest and because skipper butterflies need grasses for their life cycle.

The first step in redoing a boulevard is to remove whatever grass and/or weeds might be growing there. For a small enough area this is best done with a shovel, making sure to dig deep enough to remove the roots of the plants to prevent resprouting. For larger areas a sod-cutter, similar in size to a rototiller, can be rented and used to strip the sod. Grass can also be killed with natural weed killer products (often containing

### *Rethinking Boulevard Strips continued...*

vinegar) or by covering it thoroughly with cardboard for a year. Once the grass is gone you may want to incorporate some compost to improve the soil. Mulching after planting with bark dust or shredded cedar will help to keep moisture in and weeds down. Keep the final grade of the area just slightly below the level of the sidewalk and curb or rain will wash the mulch off.

If you plant a perennial garden using these plants, you won't need to water much after the plants are established. You will be doing your part to save precious water resources while supporting biodiversity in your yard. The taller plants will provide seeds for finches and sparrows while all the blossoms will attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and a whole variety of insects. Remember, planting for insects supports birds too since most songbirds raise their young on a diet of insects.

As Dr. Doug Tallamy has told us, we are "nature's best hope" by planting our yards and boulevards with plants that provide what our wild neighbors need to thrive.



*White Coneflower and Prairie Dropseed grass. Photo: Paulette Eppler*

## AWESOME OPPORTUNITY HERE IN BOZEMAN FOR THOSE KEEN AND GREEN ABOUT MONTANA NATIVE PLANTS!



**T**he Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) will host the **12th biennial Montana Plant Conservation Conference on Thursday & Friday, April 11 & 12, 2024** on the campus of **MSU in Bozeman**. Luckily, the location should make it very possible for those in the SAS coverage area to attend. Restoration is the theme of this year's conference.

For full schedule, information about the speakers, topics, and a link to register, visit: <https://mntnativeplants.org/conservation-conference/>

You can also register in person at the conference.

**Thursday**, attendees will hear from the fantastic lineup of speakers and take a tour of SAS's Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. (*weather permitting*)

**Friday** will be spent updating the information about threats to Montana's Species of Concern.

(Unfortunately, those registering after 4/1/23, will not be able to get in on the catered lunches.)





## SAS BOOK CLUB for APRIL 2024

**T**his month the Sacajawea Audubon Society Book Club meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 17th** at **Hope Lutheran Church, Room 129**, from **6:30 to 7:45 PM**. We hope you can join us in person or virtually for a discussion of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Dessert will be provided. Please bring your own hot drink.

Over the last couple of years our book club has nominated and voted to read a few classic nature books that were seminal to our understanding of the natural world. We started this book club year by reading E.O. Wilson's *Biophilia* and we will end our reading year with *Silent Spring*.

"This is a book to relish: not for the dark side of human nature, but for the promise of life's possibility." (Linda Lear, *Introduction*, p. xix, Carson's biographer)

Fifty-two years old, published in 1962, *Silent Spring* "contained the kernel of a social revolution" by initiating "a transformation in the relationship between humans and the natural world" and stirring "an awakening of public environmental consciousness." (Lear, p. x) One way Carson did this was by writing for the general public instead of a narrower scientific audience. She gleaned information from technical literature and combined it and made it understandable to everyone. She cleverly used the public's knowledge of atomic fallout as a reference point to get across the idea that "poisonous and biologically potent chemicals" could alter the cellular processes of plants and animals. This was done in an era when

technology and chemistry were king, chemistry especially because of the successes with DDT and other agricultural pesticides. The chemical industry fought back, spending more than a quarter of a million dollars to discredit her.

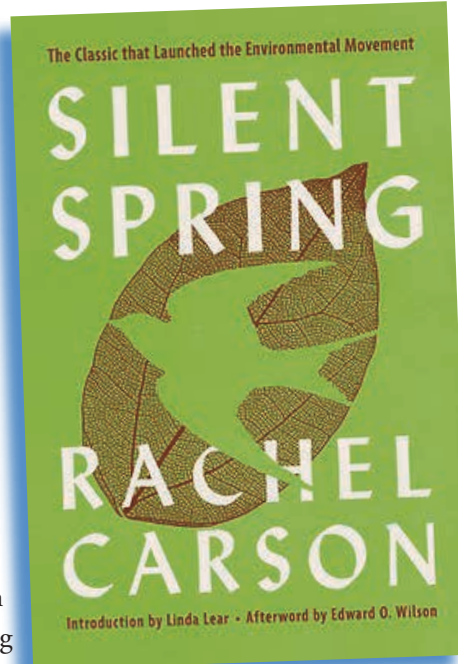
Carson also addressed the lack of governmental oversight in this book and "deliberately challenged the wisdom of a government that allowed toxic chemicals to be put into the environment before knowing the long-term consequences of their use." (Lear, p. xv)

Let us end as we began with E.O. Wilson who, in the Afterword to the 2002 edition, said "Silent Spring also became a national political force, largely responsible for the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970." "The general environmental concern abetted by *Silent Spring* resulted in the passage in 1973 of the Endangered Species Act ..."

**Nominations for Next Fall:** Please email nominations to Hilary or Elisabeth (see addresses below). We accept all nature

related books, they don't have to be exclusively bird related. You can look over past years' reading lists at the Sacajawea Audubon Society website to get an idea of books we have read in the past. The deadline is April 21th. Thank you.

If you would like to be included in monthly email reminders or to attend the meeting virtually, please email Elisabeth Swanson at [elsswa@gmail.com](mailto:elsswa@gmail.com) or call her at (406) 570-8325. For other questions, you can email our other leader, Hilary Johnson, at [ralphhilary@gmail.com](mailto:ralphhilary@gmail.com), or call her at (406) 599-1446.



### DO YOU HAVE A COPY YET?

#### YELLOWSTONE'S BIRDS: *Diversity and Abundance in the World's First National Park*

Co-authored by Douglas W. Smith, retired Senior Wildlife Biologist with Yellowstone National Park, this recently released book is the first on the science and conservation of the Park's birds.

To view the recording of Doug's presentation at our January 2024 SAS meeting:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/1c8878c1033747dba0cd82e9b5e6146f/recording/c300019666ce4ee5a3b8cc609d0db2f9/watch>

**Purchasing a copy through this link supports Sacajawea Audubon Society:**

[https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/ycBsFcuSppoOyjR7vuBXmA](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/ycBsFcuSppoOyjR7vuBXmA)



## With Gratitude

By Lou Ann Harris

Sacajawea Audubon Society would like to extend a thank you to several people for their recent help and generosity.

A big thank you is owed to SAS members Skyler, Dennis, and Alicia Ochs. Skyler spent her Christmas break from MSU making 19 beautiful cedar nest boxes for our bluebird trails. Dennis and Alicia pitched in by constructing 5 new kestrel nest boxes for the SAS Kestrel Project. Thanks to the entire Ochs family for helping us out!



New bluebird nest boxes await delivery. Photo: Skyler Ochs.

The owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Bozeman, Kathy and John Haigh, made a generous store donation to the Story Mill Community Park Bird-Feeding Station for seed and suet. The store is also offering their seed club members the option of donating their “Bird Bucks” to the seed fund. We thank them for their support and partnership.

**And we thank YOU if you have or choose to donate your “Bird Bucks” to the SAS seed fund!**



A Downy Woodpecker enjoys suet at Story Mill Community Park bird feeding station. Photo: Lou Ann Harris

## SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2024

*Individual or Family | January–December 2024*

☐ **Basic Membership** ..... \$25

☐ **Supporting Membership** ..... \$50  
(Supporting local conservation & education projects)

☐ **Student Membership** ..... \$10  
(College & High School Students)

☐ **Additional Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                                                  |                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridger Raptor Study                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Campaign   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Story Mill Park<br>Bird Feeding Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever is Needed |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or PO Box)

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sacajawea Audubon Society Newsletter is sent by email. ☐ I would like a paper newsletter mailed to me.

We do not share your information except with National Audubon Society, so your contact information is safe with us.  
Please check this box ☐ if you do **NOT** want your information shared with the National Audubon Society.

☐ **YES! I have included another \$20 to join National Audubon Society**

**Mail this form and 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!*

APR '24 newsletter



**Sacajawea Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 1711**  
**Bozeman, MT 59771-1771**  
*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's Monthly Newsletter** is available electronically to all Sacajawea Audubon Society members, September through May.

**Deadline for article submission** is the 10th of the month preceding the month the articles will appear. Send articles electronically to [newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@sacajaweaudubon.org).

**Change of Address:** If you have a change of address or are away, please notify [membership@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:membership@sacajaweaudubon.org). Undeliverable mailed newsletters are returned to us for an extra fee.

Find more at the **Sacajawea Audubon Society** website at [sacajaweaudubon.org](http://sacajaweaudubon.org)

## Sacajawea Audubon Society's 2024 Birdathon

**It's that time! Gather your favorite Birders and register your Birdathon Team**

**Saturday May 18 to Tuesday June 25**

A birdathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of collecting pledges per mile walked, you spend a great spring day outdoors with fellow birders, scanning skies, trees, shrubs, fields and bodies of water—even your backyard feeder—for birds. The challenge is to identify as many bird species as possible within a 24-hour period. You collect pledges per bird species and the money raised benefits SAS conservation and education projects.

**Participants have a chance to win prizes and awards! All the information you need is in the Birdathon kit**, which you can find on-line [www.sacajaweaudubon.org](http://www.sacajaweaudubon.org)

**Save the Date! Birdathon Awards Party** – Thursday, June 27.  
Details to come.

**Want to join a team or need help setting up a team?** Contact Loreene Reid at [Loreene@sacajaweaudubon.org](mailto:Loreene@sacajaweaudubon.org) or 406-600-6666.

Does your business want to take a “Bird Break”? Trade in your briefcase for binoculars, grab your co-workers and count birds on your lunch hour! **Businesses can also become Birdathon sponsors, creating a company Birdathon team.** Sign up today!



*Black-headed Grosbeak, Photo: Terri Narotzky*