



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, May 13, Hope Lutheran Church

ANNUAL MEETING, SWEET & SAVORY POTLUCK, AND PROGRAM

Golden Eagle Monitoring and Research in Yellowstone National Park; Questions, Answers, and More Questions

Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are a North American species of conservation concern throughout their range. Prior to 2011, no data regarding local population size, reproduction, or food habits was available for the species in Yellowstone National Park (YNP). With range-wide conservation concerns for the species and the lack of local knowledge in YNP, Golden Eagle monitoring was initiated in 2011. Our primary objective was to monitor occupancy and reproductive rates annually. A secondary objective was to understand food habits through the collection of prey remains and the use of motion triggered cameras at the nests. We have identified a relatively dense local population across the northern range of YNP. However, average reproductive rates over the past 13 years have been low, stimulating questions as to what environmental factors limit reproductive success. Hypotheses include extreme weather, variation in prey availability, and the recovery of large carnivores within YNP. To date, our research has evaluated temporal and spatial components of Golden Eagle habitat that could explain reproductive output. The research has advanced our understanding of the potential drivers of low reproduction. However, research regarding survival rates and other life-history stages is needed to better understand the status of this local population.

David Haines is a wildlife biologist with over 20 years of experience studying birds and is currently leading Yellowstone National Park's Bird Program. He



Pronghorn fawn legs found in nest during the collection of prey remains after eagle nestlings have fledged.

has a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in ecology and systematic biology and a master's degree from the University of Montana in wildlife biology. He has been affiliated with Yellowstone's bird program since 2011. At the University of Montana, David studied breeding ecology and resource selection of Golden Eagles across Yellowstone's northern range. When not working, David spends much of his time with his wife Dana, two young children Henry and Wylie, and dog LD.

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This is our Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Election.

To attend virtually, please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/905886969300630362>. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The in-person meeting will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, 2152 West Graf. (off S 19th)

The potluck begins at 6:00 PM. Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share. Plates and utensils will be provided. Bring your own mug. There will be a main dish provided by SAS. After the potluck, there will be a short meeting and board elections beginning at 7:00 PM, immediately followed by the program.

Attendees -whether in person or virtual- are encouraged to share their bird sightings at this and every monthly program.

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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.



Measuring hallux length of captured golden eagle, Photo: NPS/Bird program

MEMBER PROFILE

This month SAS president, Chris Nixon defers space to recognize SAS secretary, **Emma Narotzky**



Emma with a Snapping Turtle.
Photo courtesy of Emma Narotzky

Emma started participating in SAS activities soon after moving to Bozeman in 2015. She’s been a nature-watcher since the age of about two and hasn’t seen a living creature she couldn’t appreciate.

She also enjoys reading, fencing, skiing, horseback riding, and

creating unique art. She especially likes being outside making observations. Her undergraduate years in Iowa found her outside “turtling”, attaching transmitters to ornate box turtle hatchlings and monitoring their movements around their natal dune.

At MSU she got outside with the Cooperative Predator Communication Consortium, monitoring the vocalizations of wolves in Yellowstone National Park by setting up recorders and combining the information with sightings and location data from collars.

For the past four years, Emma has served on the SAS board as secretary and assisted with or participated in various SAS activities, such as the Bridger Raptor Festival, World Migratory Bird Day, Birdathons, and field trips.

She is beginning her second year as Stewardship Coordinator for the IAWP, which involves facilitating educational field trips, volunteer work projects, and data collection as well as promoting awareness of the wetland project at community events.

Thank you Jack Evans,

MSU Leadership Institute SAS Boardroom Bobcat
for a great year!

We wish him well!

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

President	Chris Nixon pres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vice President	John Edwards vicepres@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Treasurer	Loreene Reid treas@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Secretary	Emma Narotzky sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Board Members

Aaron Clausen	aaronclausen@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Ben Goodheart	bengoodheart@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Mikaela Howie	mikaelahowie@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Frank Marchak	frankmarchak@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Vicki Saab	vickisaab@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Ken Sinay	kensinay@sacajaweaaudubon.org
Boardroom Bobcat member Jack Evans	boardroombobcat@sacajaweaaudubon.org

Activity Leaders

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



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.



NEW VOLUNTEER SEASON!

Welcome to the new and returning volunteers who joined us at the season's kickoff early in April. The enthusiasm and interest of the group is inspiring.

Join here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/-6829nVMo7S-Yh_JWmHQ

If you want to volunteer as an Interpretive Host at IAWP or volunteer for water monitoring and were unable to attend the trainings at the end of April, contact Emma at wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org Water monitoring will be done on Saturdays at 10 am May through September.

May 5th: IAWP trash cleanup 11:00 am -1:00 pm. If you haven't already signed up to help with this satisfying effort, go to https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/-6829nVMo7S-Yh_JWmHQ

May 16th and 19th: Free Bird ID class for Busy Beavers only. Classroom on the 16th, field session at the IAWP on the 19th. *Session is full.*

July 19-21 : The third annual IAWP Bioblitz. Expert team leaders will aid in identifying birds, mammals, plants, invertebrates and aquatic life. All are welcome to join any team for an educational and enjoyable experience. **Details and schedule will be shared in the Busy Beaver Bulletin, SAS website at <https://sacajaweaaudubon.org>, and Facebook page @SacajaweaAudubonSociety.** For questions contact wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org

June 7 –8: Join us during Birdathon at the IAWP for a "Bermathon". Busy Beavers are invited to join the Berm Bums team to count bird species at the IAWP. We will start at 5 PM on June 7 and reconvene in the morning of June 8. Busy Beavers who are interested in participating during any portion of this 24 hour period please email wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org See page 7 for Birdathon information.

IAWP WETLAND MASTER NATURALIST COURSE

This wetland-focused master naturalist course will cover aspects of wetland ecology and environmental science tailored to Montana's unique landscapes and ecological characteristics. The course consists of 10 classes and three full-day field trips. The two-hour classes combine theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on activities or field observations integrated with three full-day trips into the field. The curriculum focuses on a comprehensive understanding of the complex ecological interactions occurring within these ecosystems, emphasizing scientific observation, analysis, and interpretation. Topics explore the natural science aspects of wetlands through wetland ecology, hydrology, soils, plants, and wildlife, presented by experts from Montana State University, the Society of Wetland Scientists, and other professionals in their fields.

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



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

Guided Bird Walks at the IAWP

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

Meet at Café M at 8:00 AM, 777 East Main. After a brief talk about the IAWP and our vision for its future, we will take a short walk to the Preserve. Bring your binocs! All birding abilities welcome and no registration is needed.

For more information email: wetlands@sacajaweaaudubon.org



2024 Sacajawea Audubon Society Spring Birding Series

Participants in all trips will meet at the front parking lot of the Museum of the Rockies at 6:45am and depart at 7:00am unless otherwise noted. **Contact the trip leader to reserve a spot and for more details about all trips. If you signed up for a trip, but are unable to attend, please notify the trip leader as others may be on a waiting list.** Field trips are limited to a certain number of participants and vehicles. Carpools will be arranged prior to the trip or at the predetermined meeting place. Dress for the weather; good footwear is a must as field trip conditions are not always dry. Bring any food or beverages that you will need during the course of the trips. Some of the longer trips might require that you pack a lunch. An offer to help with gas to the person driving is always appreciated but not mandatory. Please turn off your cell phones and keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum while in the field. We encourage all skill levels of birders to participate. Enjoy a good time with the birds and your fellow birders!

Saturday, May 11: Paradise Valley Driving Tour

Leader: George Kelly 406-220-0282 gjkingfisher@gmail.com

(1/2 day trip; easy walking)

This trip will sample several locations at the northern end of Paradise Valley, beginning with a stop at the cliffs south of Livingston to scan for Peregrine Falcons and White-throated Swifts. After winding our way along sloughs, agricultural fields, and crossing the Yellowstone River, the tour will eventually make its way to the Pine Creek campground area. With so many habitats covered on the trip, a wide variety of birds can be expected from Sandhill Cranes to Ruby-crowned Kinglets. **Meet at Livingston Albertson's parking lot, northeast corner at 7:30 AM for car-pooling. 10-person limit**

Sunday, May 12: Headwaters State Park

Leader: Dave Story 206-718-5940 story.david.m@gmail.com

(1/2-day trip; easy walking)

The Headwaters area includes a variety of habitats, including sage/grassland and riparian, so anything from waterfowl to sparrows can occur. One of the unique features of the Headwaters area are the limestone cliffs, which support several cliff nesting species such as Peregrine Falcons and White-throated Swifts. The park, which is situated along the Missouri River corridor, is an ideal location to observe early spring migrants. Those wishing to meet at the Headwaters area contact the trip leader. Carpooling will be arranged where possible. **Meet in the northeast corner of the Target parking lot at 6:45am and depart at 7:00 AM. Those wishing to meet at the Headwaters area please make arrangements with the trip leader. 15-person limit**

Saturday, May 18: Sweet Grass County Prairie Bird Tour

Leader: Beth Madden 406-224-1012 bethmadden64@gmail.com

(Full day tour, with option for early departure.)

Celebrate the prairies during the height of the breeding season. We will follow an approximately 45-mile driving route through prairie and agricultural landscapes north of Big Timber, with an optional 45-minute walk on some prairie lands. Past trips have yielded curlews, cranes, raptors, and prairie songbirds from Bobolinks to longspurs. Stops at wetlands will feature water birds. **Meet in Big Timber (Big Timber is 63 miles east of Bozeman on Interstate 90) at the Town Pump located at I-90 Exit 367 at 8:00 AM . 12-person limit.**

Sunday, May 19: Mount Ellis

Leader: Martha Collins 406-579-0506 marthacoll54@gmail.com

(4-5 - hour trip; moderately strenuous walking 3 miles)

This slow-paced hike of approximately 3 miles, will explore a number of habitats on State and National Forest Service lands, including grassland, aspen meadow, and conifer forest edge. At this time of year many of the nesting birds, such as Calliope Hummingbirds, Red-naped Sapsuckers, Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and a wide variety of sparrows will have arrived on their territories. Along with terrific views of the Gallatin Valley, the wildflowers on this walk will likely distract you from the diversity of birds. **Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM. 8-person limit.**

Saturday, May 25: Sweet Grass County Prairie Bird Tour II

Leader: Beth Madden 406-224-1012 bethmadden64@gmail.com

(Full day tour, with option for early departure.)

Celebrate the prairies during the height of the breeding season. We will follow an approximately 45-mile driving route through prairie and agricultural landscapes north of Big Timber, with an optional 45-minute walk on some prairie lands. Past trips have yielded curlews, cranes, raptors, and prairie songbirds from Bobolinks to longspurs. Stops at wetlands will feature water birds. **Meet in Big Timber (Big Timber is 63 miles east of Bozeman on Interstate 90) at the Town Pump located at I-90 Exit 367 at 8:00 AM. 12-person limit.**



Saturday, May 25: Milligan Canyon and the Headwaters Area

Leader: Josiah Kiehl 406-539-6832 josiah.kiehl@gmail.com

(Until early to midafternoon; 2 miles of easy walking on gravel roads)

This trip begins with a walk through the arid limestone cliffs of Milligan Canyon. Canyon Wrens, Rock Wrens, and Spotted Towhees frequent this dry landscape. Golden Eagles and Pinyon Jays are also a possibility along this portion of the trip. Later in the morning we will explore some of the other areas near Three Forks featuring a variety of habitats, including sage/grassland and riparian, so anything from waterfowl to sparrows is possible. **Meet in Three Forks. Contact leader for details. 4 car and 12-person limit.**

Sunday, May 26: North Cottonwood Canyon

Leader: Woody Martyn 406-224-1476 woodymartyn@hotmail.com

(4-5 hours; moderate walking with some rocky terrain; 5 miles total)

This is an opportunity to stretch your legs and look for some early arriving migrants in the Bridger foothills north of Bozeman. North Cottonwood has a mix of riparian habitat, mature north facing conifers, and relatively dry open south facing hillsides. We'll be looking for species such as Western Tanager, MacGillivray's Warbler, Calliope Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, and grassland birds. Raptors frequent the open country along the first mile of the trail.

Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM. 8-person limit.

Wednesday, May 29: Sourdough Nature Trail

Leader: Don Profota 406-579-3200 dprofota@gmail.com

(3-4 hours; easy walking)

Enjoy a weekday morning stroll following Sourdough Creek during the peak of migration and early breeding season. We should see and hear a wide variety of flycatchers, thrushes and warblers. During this time of the migration there are often some surprises! Some of the neotropical birds nesting here are Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, and Black-headed Grosbeak. **Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM 8-person limit.**

May 31-June 2: Please contact Montana Audubon (406) 443-3949 or see www.mtaudubon.org for information about the **Montana Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky Birding Festival being held in Helena.**



Rock Wren. Photo: Terri Narotzky

Saturday, June 1: Glen Lake Rotary Park

Leader: Brian Thorpe 406-581-8544 thorpe_22@hotmail.com

(3-4 hour trip; easy walking; at most two miles)

There are many possibilities at this local birding hotspot. Over 180 bird species have been seen in this recreation area. With a pond, riparian habitat, limited grassland, and mature cottonwoods we hope to see a good diversity of what Gallatin Valley has to offer during peak breeding season. Species may include flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, several warblers, Lazuli Bunting, and Black Headed Grosbeak.

Meet at Glen Lake Rotary Park parking lot at 7:00 AM. 8-person limit.

Sunday, June 2: Shields Valley Driving Tour

Leader: George and Valerie Nixon 406-219-6169 or 406-219-6170 hawkowl526@gmail.com

(Options for half to full day)

The Shields Valley is home to an impressive diversity. When we leave Clyde Park, we will check some backroads and the riparian corridor along Highway 89 for nesting species as well as any migrants passing through. They should be out in force. We will also visit two separate marshes on the tour in search of Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, and Sora. One of the highlights will be the visit to Cottonwood Reservoir which can host an impressive variety of migrant shorebirds and waterfowl including displaying Western and Eared Grebes. The nearby sagebrush environs offer a good chance to study Brewer's Sparrow and Sage Thrashers. Finally, we will head up the Shields River Valley drainage to explore some coniferous and montane riparian habitats to round out the experience!

Meet at the Clyde Park Post Office parking lot at 7:30 AM for car-pooling, 4 vehicle and 15-person limit.

Spring Birding Series continued...

Saturday, June 8: Chestnut Mountain

Leader: Andrew Guttenberg 406-451-5427 afgutte@hotmail.com

(1/2-day; hike of moderate difficulty, 4 miles out and back)

This trail climbs the north slopes of Chestnut Mountain, from Rocky Creek to the back side of Frog Rock. A wide diversity of birds breed here including several species of woodpeckers, flycatchers, and finches, including Olive-sided Flycatcher and Cassin's Finch. The cool recesses harbor Swainson's Thrush and MacGillivray's Warbler; and this may be the best local spot to find Ovenbirds. **Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM. 8-person limit.**

Sunday, June 9: Little Bear Road

Leader: John Parker 406-586-5863 conundrumjp@gmail.com

(1/2 day trip; 4 miles easy walking on forest roads)

Beginning at the lower end, this road passes through some cottonwood riparian and open grassland hillsides. Then the road winds through aspen glades before moving into the conifer forest. After three miles the road eventually arrives at the mouth of Big Bear Canyon. Time permitting, we'll then walk a mile up the canyon trail. Most of the foothill transition zone birds can be expected on this trip, including woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows, and warblers. **Meet at the rear parking lot behind the Jump at Cottonwood Road and Highway 191 at 7:30 AM. 8-person limit.**

Wednesday, June 12: Triple Tree Trail

Leader: Woody Martyn 406-224-1476 woodymartyn@hotmail.com

(5-hour trip; moderately strenuous climbing 500 ft, 4 miles)

As this trail climbs the hillside, it passes through a number of habitats, and transitional edges between them. At the bottom of the mountain, grassland quickly gives way to brushy deciduous habitat as the trail crosses Limestone Creek, where Ruffed Grouse, Calliope Hummingbirds, and Lazuli Buntings are some of the birds to expect. The trail then ascends through Douglas fir and lodgepole pine forests with a wide variety of nesting birds, including Cassin's Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, and Western Tanager. This trip features perhaps the greatest diversity of any short hike in the Gallatin Valley. **Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM. 8-person limit.**

Saturday, June 15: Mission Creek

Leader: Robin Wolcott 406-581-5418 pajaros@wewolcotts.com
email preferred

(Until mid-late afternoon; mostly driving with light walking on roads)

In the rolling prairie just east of Livingston we will seek McCown's Longspur and Long-billed Curlew. Along Little Mission Creek we will watch for riparian species, then search for residents of the spruce/fir forest. On our return along Mission Creek, we could find a Cordilleran Flycatcher or a Golden Eagle. Over 130 species have been seen along this route including Sprague's Pipit, Upland Sandpiper, and Green-tailed Towhee. Spectacular views, abundant wild flowers, and wildlife make the trip through the northern foothills of the Absaroka Mountains a trip to remember. **After leaving Bozeman, we will reconvene at Albertson's parking lot in Livingston at 7:30 AM and then leave from there at 7:45 AM. Car-pooling is essential. 4 vehicle and 14-person limit.**

Sunday, June 16: Spanish Creek

Leader: Tim Preso 406-600-3302 presofamily@msn.com

(Until mid-afternoon; moderate walking on forest trail, with several hundred foot elevation gain)

This trip follows Spanish Creek through the Flying D Ranch, to the edge of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. We will spend most of the morning birding along the road focusing on the grasslands and forest edges. Once at the trailhead there is a juxtaposition of habitats which support an interesting mix of birds. In one direction the trail borders the wet willow riparian area along Spanish Creek, while going in the other direction the trail climbs through dry open slopes. **Meet at the rear parking lot behind the Jump at Cottonwood Road and Highway 191 at 7:30 AM. 10 person or 4 cars limit.**

Saturday, June 22: Jackson Creek

Leader: Lou Ann Harris 406-600-3585 montlou311@gmail.com

(4-5 hour trip; moderately strenuous walking on forest road 4 miles)

Located near Bozeman Pass, this area features a surprising mix of habitats and birds. We will begin this walk by passing through wet meadows and grasslands, and then follow Jackson Creek into higher elevation conifer forests. This is the beginning of peak breeding season, so most of the birds should be singing and displaying at their best. Over 40 species of birds can be found along this short run of the creek, beginning with cranes and swallows in the open country. As you work your way up the creek, several species of warblers inhabit the willows on one side of the road, while on the dry slopes an entirely different set of birds can be found. Once in the upper forest, some higher elevation birds will begin to make their presence known. **Meet at Museum of the Rockies at 6:45 AM. 8-person limit.**

Sunday, June 23: Bridger Foothills

Leader: Vicki Saab 406-581-7829 victoriaannsaab@gmail.com

(1/2-day trip; easy to moderate off trail walking)

We will spend the morning exploring the burn within the 2020 Bridger Foothills Fire perimeter. This is an opportunity to visit a recent burn and learn about post-fire ecology, including bird responses and relationships to forest fires and burned landscapes. Notably, Black-backed Woodpeckers and other woodpeckers are known to rapidly return to recent burns to feast on the insect life unique to this fascinating change in the ecosystem. Join us to find out what other pioneering birds and plant life can be found in such a recently burned forest. **Meet at Story Mill Community Park, 698 Bridger Dr. Bozeman at 6:45 AM. 10-person limit.**

Friday, June 28: Beaver Ponds Trail Yellowstone National Park

Leader: John Parker 406-586-5863 birdsightings@sacajaweaudubon.org

(Full day trip-12 hours; moderately strenuous hiking)

Once we arrive in Mammoth, we will be hiking the 5-mile Beaver Ponds Trail. The diversity of habitats along the Beaver Ponds Trail is unmatched by any other trail of such short length in Yellowstone. The Beaver Ponds Trail features a wide variety of birdlife including grouse, woodpeckers, and many sparrows as it passes through open forests, sagelands, and skirts several small ponds. If time allows, we will cover other locations on the northern range that are close to Mammoth. **Meet at the Museum of the Rockies at 6:15 AM. 8-person limit.**

Sunday, June 30: Rocky Mountain Rd Bluebird Trail

Leaders: Janne Hayward 406-587-6124 jannehayward@gmail.com
and Lou Ann Harris 406-600-3585 montlou311@gmail.com

(1/2 day)

Get up close and personal with Mountain Bluebirds. Join blue-birders Janne Hayward and Lou Ann Harris, as they check bluebird nest boxes and band adults and nestlings along Rocky Mountain Road. This is a rare opportunity to get an inside look at the lives of these amazing birds, including nest building, egg laying and raising young. **Meet at 8:30 AM at the north end of the Target parking lot. 8-person limit.**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 2-3: Give Big Gallatin Valley**
- May 3– June 30: IAWP Bird Walks** *(Fridays & Sundays)*
- May 5: Cleanup day at IAWP**
- May 8: IBA Survey Missouri Headwaters State Park**
- May 9: Story Mill Community Park bird walk**
- May 11: World Migratory Bird Day**
- May 13: SAS ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK & BOARD ELECTIONS**
- May 16: Story Mill Community Park bird walk**
- May 18 – June 25: Birdathon** *(Pick a day!)*
- May 21: Trivia Night at Lockhorn Cider House**
- May 23: Story Mill Community Park bird walk**
- May 30: Story Mill Community Park bird walk**
- May 31–June 2: Wings Across the Big Sky, Helena**
- June 6: Story Mill Community Park bird walk**
- June 7–9: Red Rock Lakes NWR Trip**
- June 12: IBA survey Missouri Headwaters State Park**
- June 18: Trivia Night at Lockhorn Cider House**
- June 25 – August 3: Wetland Naturalist Course**
- June 27: Birdathon Awards Party**
- July 5–7: Lightining Creek Tour**
- July 10: Garden Tour**
- July 13: Grow Your Garden for the Birds workshop**
- July 16: Trivia Night at Lockhorn Cider House**
- July 19–21: IAWP Bioblitz**
- July 22 & 24: SAS at Bozeman Public Library**
- August 20: Trivia Night at Lockhorn Cider House**

SAS SPONSORS OUTSIDE BOZEMAN RADIO!



Leslie Gaines sits down with Doug Smith and John Marzluff for a great discussion about Common Ravens and other birds in Yellowstone National Park featured in the recently released book, *Yellowstone Birds: Diversity and Abundance in the World's First National Park*.

Tune in on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/show/3Vj5NPN7OWdGm8WtLJIAog> or head to <https://outsidebozeman.com/company/newsletters> to receive an update when the episode goes live in May.

You can **support SAS by buying *Yellowstone Birds*** through this link: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/sl_ycBsFcuSppoOyjr7vuBXmA

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY BIRDING FESTIVAL

FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHT

Lake Helena WMA- Canoe/Kayak

This field trip will consist of a relatively short walk that will encounter shrub passerines – including Savannah Sparrow - and associated species. We will then embark in canoes and/ or kayaks for several hours enjoying marshland, cattail, and sandbar/mudflat habitats.

There will be a wide variety of waterfowl, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Sora, Virginia Rail, White-faced Ibis, gulls and terns, possibly including Black Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls. Participants are encouraged to bring their own canoes/ kayaks and PFDs. This trip is offered on both Saturday and Sunday- but space is limited, so register today!

WINGS ACROSS THE BIG SKY- REGISTER TODAY!

Join birders from across the country from May 31- June 2 in Helena, MT for the annual **Wings Across the Big Sky Birding Festival**, hosted by Montana Audubon and local partner Last Chance Audubon Society. The weekend features your choice of 20+ birding trips, two dinner banquets, a keynote presentation, and more! Field trip spaces are limited and are filling fast, so sign up now for best selection.



Find more festival info, and register online, on Montana Audubon's website: <https://mtaudubon.org/events/wings/>

World Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 11th

This year's theme 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.

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.

IAWP Bird Walk

8:00 – 10:10 AM Meet at Café M (777 East Main)

We will take a short walk to the Preserve. Bring your binocs! All birding abilities welcome.

See which birds have moved back for the spring and be alert for the insects that serve as their food.

Family Activities

**10:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Bozeman Public Library,
front lawn***

- Play the **Great Migration Challenge Game**
- See **how far one of Bozeman's American Kestrel fledglings traveled** and learn about the Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Project
- Learn how you can **protect birds while protecting insects**

- Tackle **Featured Species Trivia Board**
- Pick up your own magnifying glass and **search for insects on the library lawn.**

**In the occurrence of inclement weather, activities will be moved into the Community Room from 12:30-1:30 PM.*



FLOCK TOGETHER AND REGISTER YOUR BIRDATHON TEAM

Sacajawea Audubon Society's 2024 Birdathon:

Saturday, May 18 to Tuesday, June 25

Birdathon Awards Party:

Thursday, June 27 at 7:00 PM at the IAWP pavilion

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 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 at www.sacajaweaaudubon.org.

Want to join a team, or need help setting up a team? Email Loreene Reid at Loreene@sacajaweaaudubon.org or call 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.

If you would like the experience of **joining a team led by a local expert**, check out the possibilities and register here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/lhNHZYymcE569sUye1qSSw



Yellow-headed Blackbird Photo: Ken Sinay

As more teams are being formed, these teams are already gearing up, and you can donate through these links:

TEAM: HOTSPOTTERS LEADER: PAULETTE EPPLE
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/1NCAbfpKMm9eRSM9D9SFBw

TEAM: BIRDS ON THE BRAIN LEADER: CHERIE BARTH
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/2bpvi0SUyjpjSANTG1zQ

TEAM: BERM BUMS LEADER: EMMA NAROTZKY
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/Fs83c3UNP1rXGAikBxRTVw

TEAM: CAN YOU SPARROW DIME OR TWO LEADER: ERNA SMEETS
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/NKxzJaX_oEjXPQIuUw2oQ

TEAM: RED ROCKING THE DAWN CHORUS LEADER: LOREENE REID
https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/438bchDdCqXynQG01VRC1w

MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK IBA SURVEYS

Wednesday, May 8 & Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Join one or both of these Important Bird Area (IBA) surveys and use your birding skills to help monitor our local IBAs.

For more information and to join the Headwaters surveys, contact Martha Collins marthcoll54@gmail.com | 406 579-0506



Martha Collins scans for birds. Photo: Lou Ann Harris



Ospreys. Photo: Lou Ann Harris

GARDEN BUZZ - INVITE HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR YARD

By Lou Ann Harris

We can all agree on how magical and beautiful hummingbirds are. Southwest Montana hosts several species including Calliope, Rufous and Broad-tailed. Hummingbirds require perches, flowers, water & insects to survive and thrive. Maintaining their high-metabolism lifestyle means they must eat every 10 to 15 minutes and visit between 1,000 and 2,000 flowers per day! Hummingbirds also need protein from pollen and insects.

Here are tips for inviting hummingbirds to your yard:

Plants

- Plant a variety of nectar-rich plants - Dropmore Honeysuckle, Bee Balm, Firecracker Penstemon, Golden Currant, Blue Salvia, Delphinium, Giant Hyssop
- Use native plants. They support a greater concentration of insects and spiders, which are an important hummingbird food source.
- Group similar plants together and choose species with different blooming times, so there will be a steady supply of flowers from spring to fall.

Feeders

- Hang a nectar feeder - place near the flowers, preferably in the shade. Change the sugar water regularly, before it gets cloudy. Clean with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water once per week. Rinse thoroughly before refilling.
- Easy nectar recipe - 1 part granulated white sugar, 4 parts boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners or red dye.



Calliope Hummingbird. Photo: Syler Peralta-Ramos/ Audubon Photography Awards

Water

- Add a water feature like a fountain, or a mister. Hummingbirds love to bathe!

Remember To:

- Avoid pesticides.
- Keep cats inside - they like to catch hummingbirds.
- Encourage your neighbors to make their yards hummingbird-friendly.
- Calliope Hummingbirds typically start showing up around Bozeman the first week of May, so it's a good idea to put out your feeders a week or so before then.

Source: National Audubon Society, Tucson Audubon Society



Photo courtesy of Kareen Erbe.

GARDEN TOUR

July 10 at 6:30pm

Our Garden Tour this year will be at **Broken Ground's yard and garden** in northeast Bozeman. The garden serves as a **cold climate permaculture demonstration site**, as well as a **bird-friendly landscape**. A variety of drought-tolerant plants include native and non-native species. The yard includes a pollinator garden and a food forest of fruit trees and berry bushes. The food forest is a good example of a multi-layered forest that provides excellent habitat for birds while yielding year-round fruit for the family owners.

Maximum Participants: 20

For more information and to register, contact Vicki Saab victoriaannsaab@gmail.com or Paulette Epple bigskyepples@msn.com.

Spectacular Tours in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem!



Photo courtesy of Ken Sinay

NEW! Birding River Safaris!

Observe riparian birds and wildlife on their terms!

Birding River Safaris explore the Madison River at the Headwaters of the Missouri. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Secure and comfortable non-motorized boat with sturdy deck chairs.

Available: May, June, and Early July

Duration: 4–5 hour boat tour

Cost: \$95 per person for SAS members / \$135 Non-members

Professional Guide: Ken Sinay

Registration: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/X3dRDal3kqmfSEyKyX2N0g

For questions contact Ken by phone at 406-539-7359 or email ken@yellowstonenow.com



Photo courtesy of Crosscut Mountain Sports Center

Lightning Creek's Deep Nature

Explore the Natural History of Lightning Creek in the Taylor Fork drainage of the Madison Range.

Guide: Vicki Saab & other specialist instructors

Dates: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, July 5, 6, & 7, 2024

Registration and information: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/P8o29ekZMZ3ZkJRp8x0vyA

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. This remote space is only accessible through a trail easement allowing public hiking through the property to alpine areas. This 640-acre section of land features wildlife habitats, including wetlands, meadows, riparian areas, sagebrush, and high-elevation coniferous forest. Additionally, the property includes a valuable habitat for species such as Westslope Cutthroat Trout, elk, and Grizzly Bears."

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Adventure

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*

Register: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/QtyPHhLgSFYFiKHTWZ8jxw

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 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. This diverse, wetland-prairie-sagebrush-montane environment gives Red Rock Lakes its unique character. Nesting

wetland and prairie birds (120+ species) are abundant throughout the Refuge at this time of year.

Red Rock Lakes NWR 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 the majestic swan, another 230 bird species have been identified within the refuge, including: Long-billed Curlew and Short-eared Owl. Moose and other large mammals are possible.

For more information, email Steve Hoffman at Steve@merlinbirding.com or call 406-461-5714. Registration will be on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.



Trumpeter Swan. Photo: Kyle Moon

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

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

5:30 - 7:00 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.



Chipping Sparrow. Photo: Terri Narotzky

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 the birds 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.

GROW YOUR GARDEN FOR THE BIRDS!

Join Sacajawea Audubon Society and the City of Bozeman for a **free workshop on Landscaping for Birds on July 13, 9:00 - 10:30 AM at the Story Mill Community Center** (600 Bridger Canyon Drive). Learn about the best plants and landscaping practices for making your yard a welcoming haven for songbirds, pollinators, and other wildlife. Attend a half-hour presentation in the Story Mill Community Center and then take a short walk to the Plants for Birds Demonstration Garden in Story Mill Park. You will learn landscaping tips and see first-hand the top plants for our area that attract birds and provide them with what they need to thrive in our communities.

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 - 11AM 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



American Goldfinch on Rudbeckia laciniata. Photo: Mathew Malwitz

Workshop is free. Preregistration is required. 15 person limit.

Register: <https://secure.rec1.com/MT/bozeman-mt/catalog>
Select recreation programs, then outdoor programming.



BIRD NOTES

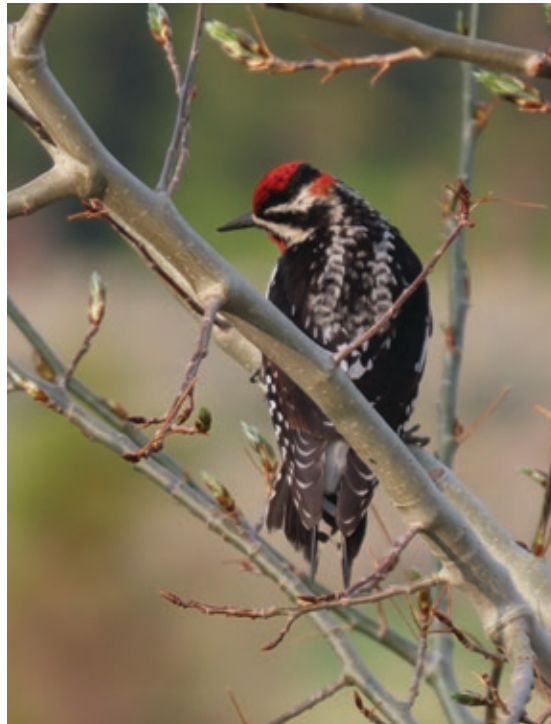
..... by John Parker

As far as the birds were concerned, spring arrived right on schedule this year. During early March, Mountain Bluebirds, Sandhill Cranes and Ring-billed Gulls were the first migrants, other than waterfowl, to arrive in numbers. The bluebirds were first to arrive during the first week or two of March, the second to third week of the month saw the cranes and gulls arrive. The first sizeable flock of **Mountain Bluebirds** reported this year were the 7-8 birds that Mary and John Griffith found northeast of Belgrade on March 16th.

Not far behind these first arrivals, sometime around the first of April, Tree Swallows appeared. Lou Ann Harris caught the first small wave of **Tree Swallows** when she spotted four at the Story Mill Park on April 2nd.

One of the underappreciated spots for birding in southwest Montana is the Gardiner Basin north of Yellowstone National Park. The topography of the area funnels the movement of birds into the basin during both spring and fall migrations. In the spring, birds moving north over the Yellowstone Plateau suddenly drop into an area of snow free ground, with less extreme weather. The town of Gardiner's trees provide both a place to forage and find cover. Katy Duffy and Howard Weinberg, who live in Gardiner, consistently have early spring migrants or, in the case of fall migration, lingering birds. This spring has been no exception. One of the first migrants to pass through their yard this year was a **Spotted Towhee** on March 27th. On April 1st our area's first **Red-naped Sapsucker** made an appearance in their yard. Then April 7th brought two more firsts of the year for this area, when both a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and a **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited the yard. All of these birds were about two to three weeks earlier than the expected first arrival dates.

March is also the time to start watching the early arriving waterfowl for unusual species. This past March there were reports of three **Eurasian Wigeon**. The first Eurasian Wigeon



Red-naped Sapsucker. Photo: Terri Narotzky

was seen March 20th at Cottonwood Reservoir by Vic Fesolowitz, the second was the bird seen by Caleb Lashway and Gary Swant at Ennis Lake, and finally on March 30th Jimmy Leblow saw one at Central Park Pond. Vic also found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Harrison Reservoir on March 24th.

Arguably, March is the premier month of the year to be out listening for owls. A pleasant evening spent out anywhere in the nearby mountains is likely to be rewarding. Even right in town can be good as Brent Miller found out on the night of March 15th, when he heard a **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** calling at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. On the night of March 12th John Bishop hit the trifecta while owling in Big Sky. **Northern Pygmy Owl, Boreal Owls, and Northern Saw-whet Owls** were all calling that

evening. Five days later Dave Benes went to the same area and heard the same three species of owls.

In Dave's notes about the owls that evening, he wrote "Owl songs were voluntary, and no playback was used." This is an important point for birders to remember. This is especially important near roads, developed areas, or areas that might be regularly visited by other birders. Owls can be quite sensitive to disturbance, and frequent playback can interfere with owls or any bird's breeding behavior and expose them to predation. Sometimes just letting a bird's behaviors occur naturally can be the most rewarding.

As we move into the period of peak migration and breeding season, think about what you can do to make birds' lives less stressful. **The Birding Code of Ethics** developed by the American Birding Association can be found on the SAS website, under the Birding Hotspots heading or at: <https://sacajaweaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ABA-Code-of-Ethicw.pdf>



Black-capped Chickadee feeds on a deer carcass. Photo: Justin Haag, Nebraskaland Magazine

MAY IAWP TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday, May 21
5:30 PM – Sign-in
6:30 PM – Trivia begins

Lockhorn Cider House
(21 S. Wallace, Bozeman)

The theme for May Trivia night is: **Life, Death and Chickadees** with Cedar Mathers-Winn. Sign-in begins at 5:30 PM. Grab a

drink, mingle with other trivia-goers and find your seat. IAWP Trivia begins at 6:30 PM and runs approximately one hour.

Monthly Trivia will continue with different themes throughout the summer on the third Tuesday of each month. Check the SAS website <https://sacajaweaudubon.org/> and Facebook page [@SacajaweaAudubonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/SacajaweaAudubonSociety) for updates.

STORY MILL COMMUNITY PARK BIRD WALKS!



Snipe. Photo: Doug McSpadden

Thursdays—May 9, May 16, May 23, May 30, & June 6

8-9:30 AM

This spring, Sacajawea Audubon Society is again partnering with the City of Bozeman to offer **free guided bird walks at the Story Mill Community**

Park. Explore the nature sanctuary within the park, visit the viewing blind at the bird feeding station, and enjoy the many bird species that call the Story Mill area home.

Meet in front of the Story Mill Community Center off of Bridger Canyon Drive at 8am. If possible, bring binoculars for a unique birding experience.

Participation is free. Preregistration is required. Visit: <https://secure.rec1.com/MT/bozeman-mt/catalog>. Select recreation programs, then outdoor programming.

KIDS! MEET US AT THE LIBRARY

Mon July 22 & Wed July 24 at 1:30 PM

SAS will provide two programs for the Bozeman Public Library **Summer Learning Experience for kids ages 3-11** and their caregivers on the Library Front Plaza (Community Room in case of bad weather)

Learn to migrate like a bird, solve puzzles like a crow, and examine zoological specimens!



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** \$ _____
 - Bridger Raptor Study Wetland Campaign
 - Story Mill Park Bird Feeding Station 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!

MAY '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.

Change of Address: If you have a change of address or are away, please notify 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

GIVE BIG For Raptors on May 2-3!

Erna Smeets and Bill Simkins invite all supporters to join them to reach our \$ 20,000 funding goal for the 2024 Bridger Raptor Count season.

Bill and Erna will contribute \$5,000 to encourage Bozeman-area conservation-minded supporters to give generously to raise the additional \$15,000. This challenge will end at the close of GIVE BIG.

Support this critical funding for the longest running Golden Eagle count in the lower 48 states. All donations to SAS through GIVE BIG on May 2-3 will assure that the Raptor study will continue for 2024.

You have three ways to give:

1. **Send a check** with "Bridger Raptor Count" on the memo line to: *Sacajawea Audubon Society, PO Box 1711, Bozeman, 59771*
2. **give online** at our SAS website <https://sacajaweaudubon.org>; or
3. **donate through GiveBig on May 2-3!** https://www.givebiggv.org/donate?campaign_id=203631

Amplify your support! Visit GIVE BIG GALLATIN VALLEY'S Prize page to learn how your donations could help SAS win additional prize funding. <https://www.givebiggv.org/prizes>



Golden Eagle. Photo: David Brandes

