



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, October 14 at Hope Lutheran Church

The Wild, Wonderful World of Beetles with Frank Etzler



Frank Etzler. Photo courtesy of author.

Beetles are everywhere! This talk will introduce you to the wild and wonderful world of beetles (Order Coleoptera). We'll explore aspects of beetles that make them so diverse, including ranges in their size, behaviors, and life cycles that approach

the bizarre! We'll also touch upon impacts beetles have on human society, from mythology to music to plain old pests. You'll leave with a new appreciation and understanding of the wonderful insects we call beetles.

Frank Etzler is the Natural Resource Section Manager and State Survey Coordinator for the Montana Department of Agriculture. Before joining the Department of Agriculture, he



Goliath Beetle. Photo: worldanimalfoundation.org.

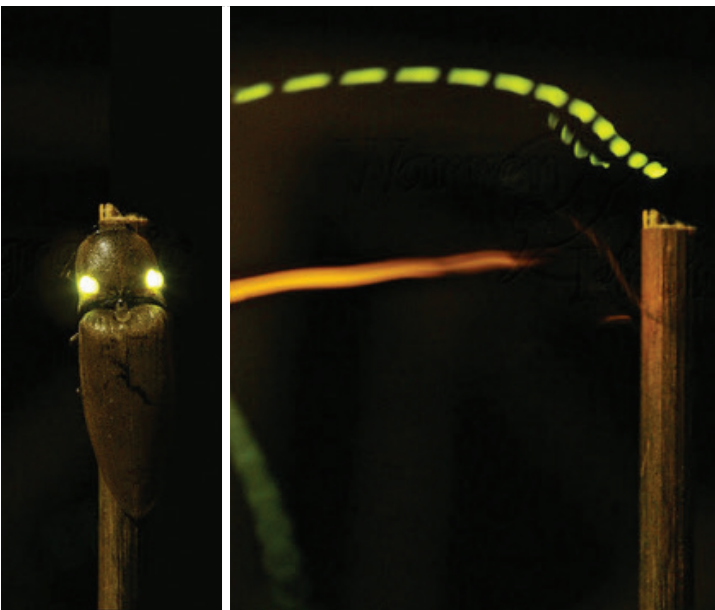
did his graduate studies and taught courses at Montana State University in Bozeman and Postdoctoral studies at Clemson University. He is an Entomologist and specializes in beetles, particularly those commonly known as click-beetles, and has 19 publications. He has been with the Montana Department of Agriculture since December 2020. He has been fortunate enough to have visited all 56 Montana counties.

To attend virtually, please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4828122025959617120> 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). A social begins at 6:30 PM; the program begins at 7:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable cups.

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

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@sacajaweaaudubon.org.



Left: Luminous click Beetle. Right: Luminous click beetle take-off flight path. Photos: Warren Photographic

MESSAGE *from* SAS PRESIDENT, CHRIS NIXON



Now that we are officially into fall, learn how you can save yourself time and energy and greatly help out birds and the insects they depend upon by reading the Garden Buzz article on page 10.

While there are good uses for plastics, far too many are wasteful, unnecessary, and downright harmful. Read about one easy action we can take to cut back on the amount of plastics we use and thus cut down on the harmful microplastics we unwittingly inflict on the environment, wildlife, and our own bodies. See page 9.

How can you help protect the local bear population? By preventing them from being drawn into town and harm's way in their search for high calorie food scraps and birdseed. See page 3.

Who's counting calories....LOL....not the bears? But...save the high calorie intake for members of SAS during our monthly meeting. Please consider signing up to provide treats at one of our upcoming monthly meetings! In fact, we are still in search of a new Hospitality Chair to help coordinate the treats for our monthly meetings. See that article page 11. Could you be the hostess/host with the mostest? And if you are counting calories....once a month at the SAS meeting is a good time to make a rare exception. Just so you are not a bear!

Speaking of monthly meetings, don't miss our upcoming membership meeting on Monday, October 14th as Frank Etzler, Entomologist with the Montana Department of Agriculture, informs us about the host of amazing beetle species that inhabit Montana, and possibly your yard. You will be learning about some of the myriad of insects that you could be protecting by reading the first article I mentioned above in paragraph one.

So, like everything in nature, this message has come full circle. We hope to see you at the next membership meeting and at the numerous other SAS activities going on this month - but, you've got to read the newsletter to find out what else you don't want to miss, like Raptor Fest, Wetland Halloween, and our Bloodcurling Botany Trivia Night!

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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A bear has gone through trash that was left outside and unsecured in a Bozeman neighborhood. Photo: Mikaela Howie

Birds and Bears

By Mikaela Howie

Autumn is here which means the leaves are changing colors, the birds have or are heading south, and the bears are furiously putting on calories. In the Bozeman area, bears have already been wandering through our neighborhoods and along our town trail system as they seek out high caloric foods. During this intense season, it is especially important to remove any attractants that could lead bears to your yard.... remember they have a great sense of smell. This necessitates being extra careful to store trash in your garage or wait to take it outside until trash day, as well as cleaning up your outdoor grills directly after use.

For us birders, it means taking down our bird feeders, just for the season. Bird food is naturally high in calories and therefore bears love it just the same as our bird friends. We may not enjoy taking down our birdfeeders, but living in bear country comes with some responsibilities.

Once the snow flies and bears have hibernated for the season, it is not only safe to bring your feeders back out, but also the most beneficial time to offer food alternatives. The best way to care for our birds is to help preserve our natural areas and support native landscaping throughout our public spaces and in your own yard.



Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus* © Tim Emmerzaal Macaulay Library

October Big Day

Your 10 minutes are valuable

Taking 10 minutes to look and listen, no matter where you are on October 12th makes a big impact on bird research. October Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone.

Enter what you see and hear on the eBird website or the eBird Mobile app and Merlin Bird ID app. Please enter your checklists no later than October 15 to be included in the results announcement.

Last October, nearly 35,000 people from 185 countries submitted 80,000 checklists with eBird, demonstrating the power of birds to bring people together.

On October 12, follow bird reports from more than 180 countries in real-time on the October Big Day page. <https://ebird.org/octoberbigday>

Explore *Birds of the World* with FREE ACCESS online starting 8am ET Friday, October 11th through 9am ET Monday, October 14th.

Details and a link to the free eBird Essentials course can be found here: <https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-12-oct-2024>

HELP PREVENT BIRD DEATHS FROM WINDOW COLLISIONS

Resources to help ensure a safer Fall Migration!

Support the Bird-Safe Buildings Act: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/window-strikes-are-even-deadlier-birds-we-thought>

Pinstripe your Windows: <https://sacajaweaudubon.org/make-your-windows-bird-safe-by-pinstriping/>

Stop by the SAS Table at Raptor Fest to learn more
Background image: Thrush. Photo: SAS Website



SACAJAWEA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY

INDRELAND AUDUBON WETLAND PRESERVE

UPDATE: OCTOBER 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.

THE END-OF-SEASON BUSY BEAVER FALL RENDEZVOUS



The end-of-season Busy Beaver Fall Rendezvous will be on October 19th from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the IAWP.

Experienced and new Busy Beavers alike are welcomed to the last big work party of the 2024 field season. We will get the wetland ready for winter and then adjourn to the Kingfisher Pavilion for a

volunteer appreciation party. Link to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/bbrendezvous24>

Occasional wetland volunteer work as well as Busy Beaver training and workshops will still be happening through the winter season!

Want to make a difference?

Join the Busy Beavers Volunteer Corp and get involved in our ongoing efforts to protect and enhance this unique urban wetland. Whether you're passionate about wildlife, conservation, or community, there's a place for you at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve. For more information visit the website www.bozemanwetlands.org or email emman@bozemanwetlands.org.



Bat Box Crew at Busy Beavers Rendezvous 2023.
Photo: Emma Narotzky

October Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve Trivia Night



Creeping Oregon-grape - Berberis repens
Photo: Emma Narotzky

Bloodcurdling Botany – Plants: from the Palatable to the Poisonous with Bryce Pease and Hannah Cantu of Confluence Consulting.

Discover which berries at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve (IAWP) and throughout Montana are snackable and which plants you should avoid all together. There is even one plant at the IAWP for which there is no antidote if ingested. Can you guess what it is?

Tuesday, October 15

5:30 PM – Sign-in | 6:30 PM – Trivia begins

Prizes: Highest Team Score • Best Team Name • Best Doodles on the Answer Sheets

Lockhorn Cider House – 21 S. Wallace, Bozeman

Support education at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve

IAWP Trivia is on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Lockhorn Cider House!

Wetland Halloween

Join us **Tuesday, October 22nd from 5:00pm - 8:00pm** on the berm at the IAWP for a spooky celebration of our fall wildlife!

Gather to watch the crows, ravens, and magpies come in to roost in the trees at the wetland, one of their favored roosting spots in the fall, and watch for the beavers to become active before dusk.

Bring your own folding chair, binoculars, and beverage of choice or a thermos for hot cocoa.

Prime corvid-viewing time will be between 5:30 and 7:30 (sunset at 6:25 pm). If you arrive with daylight to spare, visit our activity table where you can win small prizes by answering trivia questions about some of Montana's spooky animals."



Common Raven. Photo: Mick Thompson



Get Ready to Count Feeder Birds for Science

Project FeederWatch season **begins November 1 and runs through April 30.**

You can contribute to this Citizen Science project with the Cornell Lab by counting birds that come to your feeders or to your yard. The time you spend is up to you. Count as often as once a week. Counting less often is fine. Even if you only count once all season, your data is valuable.

See the website, <https://feederwatch.org/about/how-to-participate> for helpful resources, including ID help, tips for making observations, how to enter your counts and the FeederWatch Handbook.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 5–6: Bridger Raptor Fest**
- October 12: October Big Day**
- October 16: SAS Book Club**
- October 19: Busy Beaver Rendezvous**
- October 22: IAWP Halloween**
- November 1st: Project Feederwatch Begins** (through April 30, 2025)
- November 11: SAS Monthly Program** with Research Ornithologist Kate Stone
- November 13: Science Inquiry Series** – The Human-dominated “Anthropocene” Era Impacts on Wildlife with Dr. Joanna Lambert
- December 9: HOLIDAY PROGRAM** with wildlife photographer Tom Murphy



2024 BRIDGER RAPTOR MIGRATION PROJECT UPDATE: RAPTOR COUNTS THUS FAR ARE SHOWING STRONG NUMBERS!

by Steve Hoffman



Folks on Bridger lookout. Photo: Rosemary D'Andrea

We are now in the midst of our 33rd consecutive full-season of scientific counts of migrating birds of prey, and we are excited to provide everyone a brief update on the 2024 count results thus far. Every year these counts begin on 27 August and conclude on 31 October. This long-term raptor population monitoring project is a partnership between Sacajawea Audubon Society and HawkWatch International. The chief goal of this important work is to assess long-term trends of 17 raptor species that use the Bridger Ridge to migrate from their breeding grounds located in the Pacific Northwest, western Canada and Alaska, to spend the non-breeding period in a warmer climate where prey is readily available.

The first 21 days of our migrant raptor counts atop Bridger Bowl Ski Area are now complete (through September 16th). Our three dedicated volunteer observers - Alicia Wilson, Adam Brown & Rosemary D'Andrea - are doing a fabulous job for us, diligently detecting, identifying and recording all migrating raptors from 10am to 6pm daily. We are most grateful for their outstanding work and valuable expertise!

We are pleased to report that the numbers for many raptor species are showing a very strong start!! The only glitch thus far has been a few days of poor air quality from the 7th-11th of September due to a large number of wildfires throughout western Montana & Idaho. Fortunately, a strong storm on September 12th brought substantial rainfall, dissipating the heavy smoke and greatly reducing the wildfire danger throughout the region.

The total count now stands at 945 migrant raptors of 16 species. Impressive numbers of Cooper's Hawks (250), Sharp-

shinned Hawks (150), Red-tailed Hawks (89), American Kestrels (81), and especially Broad-winged Hawks (179) have been tallied so far, suggesting that these species had a successful 2024 breeding season. The Broad-winged Hawk count is particularly remarkable, since our highest full-season count in the 33-year history of the project has been 81 individuals recorded in 2023.

At this point we have no idea what could be causing this dramatic increase. The Broad-winged Hawk is primarily a species that inhabits the closed-canopy forests of eastern North America. However, a thin portion of its nesting range extends into northern Alberta and possibly northeastern British Columbia. Interestingly, this species typically spends the winter in South America. On September 15th, 110 Broad-winged Hawks were counted migrating south along Bridger Ridge, a truly amazing one-day tally for this species! The winds were from the East all day, likely a prominent factor that may have contributed to the greater numbers of these birds that day. (Typically, winds atop the Bridgers blow from the West.) Due to climate changes affecting the behavior of the jet stream, we are now beginning to see a greater frequency of easterly winds atop the Bridgers, which may result in higher counts of Broad-winged Hawks at our observation site. We shall see if this trend continues!

We sincerely thank Sacajawea Audubon Society members for their continued sponsorship and generous annual financial support for the Bridger Raptor Migration Project. We wish to express our deepest appreciation for the additional



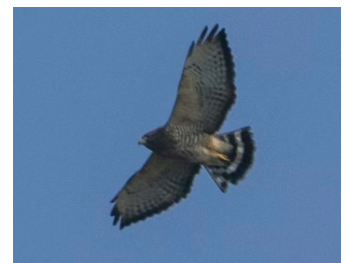
Adult and juvenile Bald Eagle.
Photo: Rosemary D'Andrea



Juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk.
Photo: Rosemary D'Andrea



Juvenile Broad-winged Hawk.
Photo: Rosemary D'Andrea



Adult Broad-winged Hawk.
Photo: Rosemary D'Andrea

critical, generous financial support for the 2024 Bridger raptor count from Bill Simkins & Erna Smeets, Montana Audubon, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society, Gallatin National Forest, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, GCC Trident Cement, Lila Bishop, Nick Bolgiano, Gina Carolan, Lou Ann Harris, Scotty & Carolyn Heppel, Terri Narotzky, Elizabeth Swanson, and many others! We greatly appreciate local volunteer observers Paulette Epple, Beth Madden, John Parker and several others.

RAPTOR VIEWING TIPS FOR THE BRIDGERS

The best overall raptor viewing for a variety of migrant raptors atop the Bridgers is from mid-September through mid-October. The general public is invited to join Adam, Alicia and Rosemary to witness one of nature's most spectacular phenomena as these majestic birds migrate south over the Bridgers!

Additional volunteer observers are always needed to help conduct these counts. For those in good physical condition, it is a 1.5-2 hour hike to the observation point (2,000-ft. elevation gain). Anyone wishing to volunteer please contact Project Coordinator Steve Hoffman at swhoffman0322@gmail.com or call 406-461-5714. Folks are welcome to visit www.hawkcount.org or www.sacajaweaudubon.org to obtain daily count totals. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Bridger Lookout this season.



Rosemary, Adam and Alicia, 2024 Bridger counters.
Photo: Steve Hoffman

Follow the observations of the Bridger Counters on the Bridger Raptor Blog at <https://sacajaweaudubon.org/bridger-raptor-count-blog/>

SUPPORT THE BRIDGER MOUNTAIN RAPTOR SURVEY:



ENTER TO WIN

ONE OF TWO SEASON SKI PASSES!



Sharp-shinned Hawk at Bridger.

Photo: Kyle Dudgeon

to raffle off *two Bridger Bowl Ski Area Season Passes, valued at \$1060 each.*

The data collected from this survey is essential for tracking population trends of Golden Eagles and other raptors, helping to shape conservation efforts. The funds raised from this raffle will cover approximately one-quarter of the project's \$20,000 budget.

Tickets are just \$10 each, or you can get 6 for \$50.

Every ticket you purchase helps to better understand and safeguard the future of these majestic birds. Get your raffle tickets today and support the ongoing work of the Bridger Mountain Raptor Survey!

A big thank you to Bridger Bowl Ski Area for their continued support of the Bridger Mountain Raptor Survey.

Purchase raffle tickets at SAS program meetings and Trivia nights, or request tickets online at:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/Q0pL3HYUgMa_wF7Oodow5hg



2024 -- The “Knock Out Burdock” Campaign Expands

By Paulette Epple

Sacajawea Audubon Society continued its campaign to “Knock Out Burdock” this year with over 50 volunteers devoting their time to removing burdock seed stalks and burs from our parks, trails, favorite birding hotspots, and neighborhoods. August is the month to cut burdock before the invasive, non-native plant spreads its seeds either in place, or by ‘hitchhiking’ with its prickly burs on the fur of dogs, deer, bear, or other animals. This year’s haul of plants and burs filled more than 10 truckloads! More than a TON of burs were removed from the environment!

Why do we put so much effort into this project, you may ask. It’s because BURDOCK KILLS BIRDS! Not

purposefully, like a Venus fly trap kills insects, but incidentally, by entangling birds in their Velcro-like burs until the birds become exhausted and die. This year’s efforts were too late for two black-capped chickadees that we found hanging dead in burdock. Burdock can even be deadly to bats and insects. This year we found a Police Car Moth -a strikingly beautiful diurnal moth- caught in a bur and dying.



An entangled Police Car Moth.
Photo: Paulette Epple

Though this project started small, it has now grown to include burdock control in over 70 locations! This year’s burdock cutting efforts included: three SAS-led work parties; an impromptu neighborhood group that scoured Bozeman’s northside alleys, yards, and vacant lots for burdock, removing the plants and educating homeowners as they went; and a group that hiked up Bear Trap Canyon, cutting plants and hauling bags of burs out a full mile!

Even private landowners are joining in to banish burdock from the wild for the sake of birds and bats! For the past three years, SAS member and educator Ashley Martens has educated and led groups of people in knocking out burdock along South Cottonwood Creek at Bodhi Farms. This season, a group of wedding-goers from all over the country participated in cutting



Amy Hoitsma tackles a huge patch.
Photo: Paulette Epple

burdock as part of a carbon-offset project before the festivities. The Bodhi Farms team finished off the project, resulting in hundreds of bur-filled burdock stalks removed from the riparian corridor.

Cutting burdock is hot, hard work and not for the faint of heart, but we had volunteers from 5 to 70+ years old helping with the effort. Thanks to these volunteers, hundreds of thousands of burdock seeds will not propagate, entangle birds, or spread by being caught in the fur of wildlife and dogs. THANK YOU—to every one of you: Jennifer Abbott, Evette Allison, John Ansley, Susan Bilo, Noah ten Broek, Gina Carolan, Dan Carty, David Cole, Cathy Costakis, Chandler Dayton, Jason Delmue, Andy Epple, Paulette Epple, Adira Groundwater (age 7), Yalda

Groundwater (age 5), Lou Ann Harris, Aeryn Heidemann, Carl Hellyer, Robin Hellyer, Jeb Himsl, Rebecca Himsl, Deborah Hines, Amy Hoitsma, Peter Husby, Danielle Jones, Peggy Kimmet, Ron Kimmet, Bill Klenn, Barbara Lantz, Beth Madden, Jennifer Madgic, Adam Mahkluf, Ashley Martens, Kristine McVey, Peggy Osborne, John Parker, Anne Ready, Richard Ready, Vicki Saab, Dave Souveleski, Cathy Stamm, Emily Talago, Jamie Warshowsky, Janet Winnie, “Katherine” (whose last name we didn’t get!) and Bodhi Farms guests and employees. THE BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE THANK YOU!



Rebecca and Jeb Himsl, Gina Carolan and Andy Epple working on the Gallagator Trail. Photo: Paulette Epple

Help to Reduce Plastic in Our Environment, Our Birds and Our Bodies!

By Anne Ready, Gallatin Valley Earth Day

More and more evidence is emerging that microplastics are causing great harm to our environment, wildlife and us! Microplastics are being found in the atmosphere, in our hydrologic cycle (on snowflakes), on land (in the dust), and in our oceans and local waterways. They are present in every part of the food web.

This problem has emerged because we use a staggering amount of single-use plastics each year, which does not biodegrade. Instead, it breaks up into small pieces: *microplastics*.

Most of it is not recycled or not able to be recycled. 950 million tons are shipped overseas annually to be recycled but, in countries like Thailand, up to 80% of this plastic ends up in the ocean instead. These microplastics then end up throughout our environment, including our local rivers. Adventure Scientists, a local Bozeman group, found that in a pilot survey of five sites along the Gallatin River, microplastic particles were found in every sample, some in startlingly high numbers.

How is plastic pollution affecting birds?

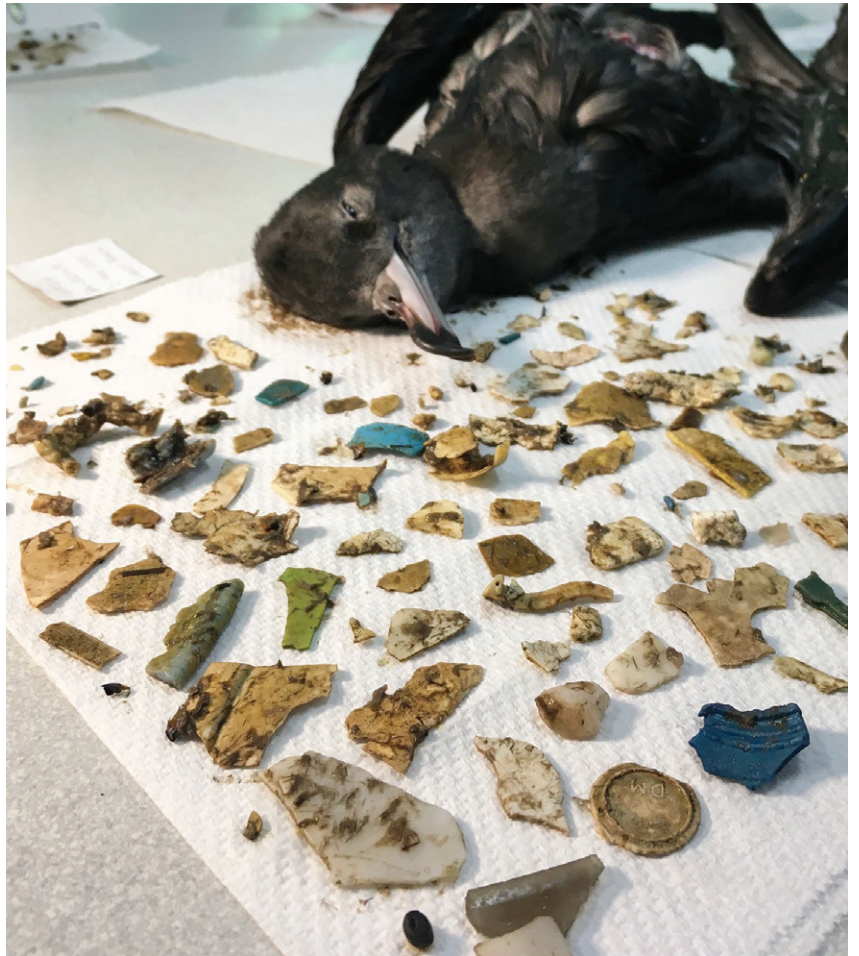
According to Cornell Ornithological Labs, at least 80 seabird species ingest plastic, mistaking it for food. By 2050, scientists estimate that 99% of seabird species will have eaten plastic. Scientists have now described a new disease for Flesh-footed Shearwaters: plasticosis. This disease is marked by severe stomach damage from eating little bits of plastic.

How are microplastics affecting our health?

All plastic eventually breaks up into microplastics, and these particles become so small that they can be absorbed in the human body. Scientists have found microplastics in human lung, intestine, blood, testicles, breast milk, and most recently in the human brain—this last one in sizable quantities. Once in the body, the plasticizing chemicals in the particles leach directly into human tissue. Scientists think these chemicals are associated with obesity, diabetes, autism, ADHD, dementia, cancer, and many other chronic disorders.

How can we help?

Everyone can try to limit their use of single-use plastics where feasible. If you live within the city limits of Bozeman, you



Flesh-footed Shearwater necropsy with ingested plastic. Photo: Silke Stuckenbrock

can help reduce the amount of single use plastics, by voting “YES” on the Bozeman Plastic Ordinance (BPO) on this November’s ballot.

If passed, the BPO will take effect May 1, 2025, and will prohibit businesses within Bozeman city limits from selling or distributing single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam (e.g., food containers). The BPO will also limit plastic straws and beverage stirrers; items such as these will be available only by request.

Note: Where states and/or cities have limited single-use plastic bags, plastic bag pollution drops on average by 300 bags per person/year. In sum, everyone wins—and Bozeman can win, too.

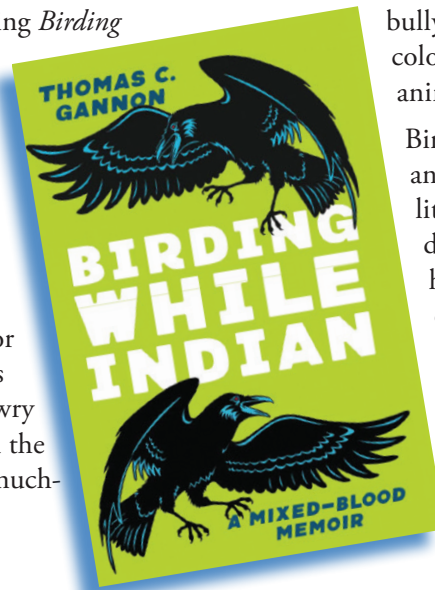
For more information and links to scientific reporting, visit www.mtplasticfree.com

SAS Book Club News for October

On October 16th we will be discussing *Birding While Indian: A Mixed-Blood Memoir* by Thomas C. Gannon.

Mr. Gannon is an associate professor of English and ethnic studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a lifelong birder and inhabitant of the Great Plains. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. "Since time immemorial, Native people have looked for signs from avian beings, and here, Thomas Gannon carries on those traditions in his wry chronicles about growing up and living on the Great Plains. This is a much-needed and much-appreciated addition to Native literature."

This book spans more than fifty years of childhood walks and adult road trips to deliver, via a compendium of birds recorded and revered, the author's life as a part-Lakota inhabitant of the Great Plains. Great Horned Owl, Sandhill Crane, Dickcissel: such species form a kind of rosary, a corrective to the rosaries that evoke Gannon's traumatic time in an Indian boarding school in South Dakota, his mother's devastation at racist



bullying from co-workers, and the violent erasure colonialism demanded of the people and other animals indigenous to the United States.

Birding has always been Gannon's escape and solace. He later found similar solace in literature, particularly by Native authors. He draws on both throughout this expansive, hilarious, and humane memoir. An acerbic observer—of birds, the environment, the aftershocks of history, and human nature—Gannon navigates his obsession with the ostensibly objective avocation of birding and his identity. The result is a rich reflection notably on one man's life and on the transformative power of building a deeper relationship with the natural world.

Find us **Wednesday, October 16 at Hope Lutheran Church, room 128, from 6:30 to 7:45pm** talking, eating treats and discussing this book. We welcome you to come and see if this book club is something you would enjoy. If you would like to join us virtually call or email, Elisabeth Swanson at (406) 570-8325, elsswa@gmail.com before the meeting.

Garden Buzz: Leave The Leaves

By Lou Ann Harris



Fall Leaves. Photo: Lou Ann Harris

If you care about our wild birds, you should also care about the insects they need to survive and thrive. One essential thing you can do to help insects is to leave the leaves in your yard this fall. Leaf litter provides winter habitat protection for many insects, like the familiar Woolly Bear caterpillar. Most insects overwinter right

where they spent the summer. They count on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. It's really as simple as doing nothing.

TIP #1: If you don't necessarily want leaves all over your yard, you can rake them into garden beds or under your trees. Too many leaves can kill the grass, but on soil they are great for suppressing weeds and retaining moisture. Avoid shredding or mulching the leaves. Leave them whole for the best cover.

TIP #2: Instead of pruning back the dead stems in your garden, leave them for the winter. The seed heads offer food for finches during late fall/early winter. The stems will also hollow out after die-off, and provide cavities for many of our native bees. A small brush pile is another way to provide winter habitat for insects and birds.

TIP #3: Next spring on the first warm day, it's only natural to want to get outside and work in the garden. But if there is still a chance of freezing temperatures and snow, the pollinators won't be ready to emerge yet and need cover. So instead of cleaning up the garden, take a walk and leave the garden to rest a while longer.

For more information on *Leave The Leaves: Winter Habitat Protection*, visit <https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>

Source: *The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation*



Woolly Bear Caterpillar. Photo: Wiki Images

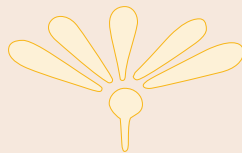
YOU Can Help Welcome and Feed the Flock!

Members are invited to sign up now for Hospitality duties at one or more SAS program meetings.

- **For each Monthly Program Meeting at Hope Lutheran Church:** At least two volunteers are needed to provide treats, arrive at 5:30PM to help arrange the room, and set up the refreshment table.
- **For the Special Holiday Meeting in December:** Greeters, help man SAS table and help sell raffle tickets.
- **At the May Annual Meeting and Sweet & Savory Potluck:** Four people coordinate room set up, with assistance of SAS board members.
- **The important position of Hospitality Chair is currently available!** The chair coordinates monthly volunteers and helps as needed.

For more information and to volunteer contact

sec@sacajaweaaudubon.org



Path Less Taken: Trip to Costa Rica February 8-22, 2025

Bird the less-visited parts of Costa Rica on this all-inclusive two-week journey!

Explore the diverse ecosystems of Costa Rica and discover a world of birding opportunities. Immerse yourself in the local culture and learn about conservation efforts from community leaders. Experience Costa Rica like never before on this unforgettable journey.

Cost: \$4,700, all-inclusive – Includes a pelagic birding trip
A portion of your trip cost goes to support SAS

For more information and to book your trip visit: www.rockingnaturalists.com, COSTA RICA 2025 | Small Group Travel with Roaming Naturalists

SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Individual or Family | January – December 2025

- 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 the 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! include 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! October '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

RAPTOR
FEST 2024
migration celebration

BRIDGER

October 5 & 6
FREE! AND FUN FOR ALL AGES
 Live Birds, Family Activities, Adult Lectures, Nature Hikes
Bridger Bowl - 10 am - 3 pm

Hosts
 Boy Scouts of America
 Bridger Bowl Sustainability
 Crosscut Mountain Sports Center
 Custer Gallatin National Forest
 Montana Audubon
 Montana Science School
 Montana Raptor Conservation Center
 Museum of the Rockies
 Opitcray/Front Range Birding
 Sacajawea Audubon Society
 The Magic Book Series
 Wild Montana
 Yellowstone National Park

Octoberfest
 Saturday 10am - 6pm Live Music!
 Sunday 10am - 3pm
 All Skier Services Open
 Food & Beverages Available

bridgeraptorfest.com
 Photo: Dave Boyden

Please NO DOGS ALLOWED