

MURIE AUDUBON'S  
PLAINS & PEAKS

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Public Lands Heritage: The  
Ferris Mountains

Friday March 8th, 2019

7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar 8th** *The Ferris Mountains*

7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

SPECIAL FEATURES

*Kid's Corner* pg 2

*House Sparrow*

*Bird Feeder Part IV* pg 4

*Torpedo Bird Feeder*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES



Happy March ~

I'm writing to you all in the back of a school bus. Yes, the back. I'm not sure why as a kid, the "cool kids" always sat in the back. It's quite possibly the most uncomfortable location on the bus; it bouncy, hot, and smelly. I'm sitting on the left behind Starburst wrappers and film from hot Cheetos. Though the inside of the bus remains much to be desired, the view couldn't be more perfect. There are moose, elk, trumpeter swans, bald eagles, bison, fox, and coyotes. Happy teenagers who have become new friends, who gained confidence as scientists, and who have fallen in love with Grand Teton National Park in winter, surround me. Yes, you've guessed it, I'm returning from Teton Science School. This is my purpose.

Speaking of purpose, how does Murie fulfill its purpose during winter months? February and March in Wyoming test our resilience. Are we actively educating? Are we accomplishing our conservation mission? I believe the answer to these questions is yes. Murie Audubon Society helped with the financial burden of this trip. I'm happy to report that through Murie, those smelly, happy teenagers are on fire for conservation. They understand complex environmental issues like feeding programs on wildlife refuges and they have skills to design experiments to investigate snow, birds, trees and habitats.

Through these winter months, groups have been working on updating our constitution and website. We also have groups of people working on ways to conserve bird habitat at the Piggery near Morad Park. Audubon Rockies is hosting some events to increase awareness and funds for conservation education in our area. We should be proud of our efforts so far this year. Thanks everyone, for all you do to meet our mission.

Jenny Edwards

## KIDS CORNER



### HOUSE SPARROW

House Sparrows are distributed almost worldwide, excluding the polar regions. Their introduction into North America occurred in 1851, when a group of 100 birds from England was released in Brooklyn, New York. In North America House Sparrows prefer areas that have been modified by humans, including farms, residential areas, and urban areas. They are absent from uninhabited woodlands, deserts, forests, and grasslands. A wild House Sparrow lived to be 13 years and 4 months old, though most will live for only several years.

[http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Passer\\_domesticus/](http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Passer_domesticus/)

## MURIE AUDUBON PROGRAM PRESENTS



### Public Lands Heritage: The Ferris Mountains

Friday March 8th, 2019  
7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

## PUBLIC LANDS HERITAGE: THE FERRIS MOUNTAINS

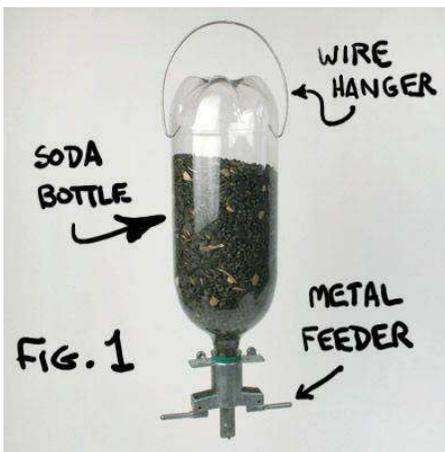
Murie Audubon Society will host a recently produced 27-minute documentary titled "Public Lands Heritage: The Ferris Mountains", about the Ferris Mountains Wilderness Study Area in Carbon County, on Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. The video will be shown at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse located at 4205 Fort Caspar Road. Following the video, presenter Reid Miller of the Bureau of Land Management will describe the use of trail cameras in producing the documentary, and will show several wildlife clips from cameras placed near an active beaver pond. He will test our hearing skills with a fun exercise to identify birds from their songs alone, as recorded by several trail cameras in the Cherry Creek watershed, on the north aspect of the Ferris Range. This colorful presentation is intended for viewers of all ages, and as always, is free to everyone! See you there!

Bruce Walgren

## TORPEDO BIRD FEEDER

My latest bird feeder utilizes parts you can find in stores or from the Internet. My wife, Susan, has a few of these hanging in the yard, but they tend to empty out quite fast, are difficult to refill, and over time, neglected. If not hung high enough, the deer will come up and clean them out in a few minutes.

Figure 1. shows the basic components. You get a wire hanger, a well constructed metal feeder that can take a lot of abuse, and you supply the soda bottle. After filling with seed, you simply screw the feeder into the bottle and hang wherever. Like I said, it's very hard to refill this thing without a funnel. If the feed has any twigs or other debris, it becomes even more difficult to fill or gets clogged as the birds feed. The plus side is you get to recycle a plastic bottle and make even more house sparrows happy to find a free meal.



After my last over priced feeder was destroyed by hailstones the size of golf balls, my brain went into over drive. Looking at figure 1., I was thinking to myself, "too bad there is no way to make the soda bottle easier to refill, like some sort of screw cap."



Then, like switching on a light bulb, I came up with the next idea, figure 2. What if I could cut the bottle in half and add a cap? What if the bottle was longer as well? Looking at the scrap 4" PVC pipe, I decided to try cutting the bottle in half and add the PVC pipe to join the halves. Just by chance, the PVC pipe fits perfectly!



I present to you, Figure 3. My latest invention. I call it the "Torpedo Feeder". Figure 3. (photo actually) shows the results. You can cut the PVC to any length you like. Just think, a ten foot long bird feeder! This one is about 30" long and can hold a lot of seed. The bottom section can be joined to the PVC with screws and sealed with duct tape. I used a couple of tie wraps. Just remove the top wire and cap, and it becomes very easy to refill. Whenever it starts to wear out, just replace the bottle and you are back in business. Cheap and a win-win for the planet and your pocket book.

The last photo is the feeder in action. Small birds have no problem feeding from it and I have observed Blue Jays gulping down seed from this feeder. It takes about week for twenty sparrows to empty this feeder. So far, the larger birds like Magpies and doves will not land on the small perches. There are other versions of soda bottle feeders, but this one is my first choice as it is all metal parts and easy to repair. My next installment, a variation of the Torpedo Feeder.

- Harry, reporting from the Martin Bird Feeder Research & Development Testing Grounds in Casper Wyoming.



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Your generous donations support:

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~~~~~ All of your funds are used locally here in Wyoming ~~~~~

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## MAS VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Murie Audubon Society is to instill  
a passion for nature in present and future  
generations through awareness, enjoyment,  
understanding, appreciation, conservation, and  
advocacy.

## MAS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Murie Audubon Society is to  
promote the conservation of birds and other  
wildlife through education and enhancement  
of natural habitats, understanding,  
appreciation, conservation, and advocacy.

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