

MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

April 2019 VOL. 53 ISSUE 3

<https://www.murieaudubon.org> | Facebook@MurieAudubonSociety

Natrona County

*Mustangs
go to the
Tetons*

Our Science Stories
April, 12 at 7 pm
Izaak Walton League Clubhouse



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 12th Mustangs Go To The Tetons
7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

Apr 12 Voting on proposed Constitution
7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

SPECIAL FEATURES

Kid's Corner pg 2
Turkey Vulture

Sage Grouse Lek pg 4
Counting Sage Grouse

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES



I have some very important information to share with you all this month. At our general meeting on April 12th, 2019, the board will be presenting an updated constitution and bylaws for your approval. The board and the constitution committee have been diligently working since October to update the nearly 20-year-old documents. Some of the more significant changes include the ability for electronic voting and the definition of our membership. For example, "Friends of Murie" currently holds no voting power according to the outdated constitution. The new constitution creates 2 categories of membership; Murie Audubon Society Members and National Audubon Society Members. People can choose to be Murie Audubon Society members and still be able to actively vote, without becoming National Audubon members and vice-a-verse.

The board has also been working on improving the habitat at the Piggery, the property next to Morad Park. Birds and other species have been heavily impacted by the off-leash dog park. We are analyzing the costs and impacts of installing a fence along the property line. Future projects include planting native species and informational kiosks for people walking along the Platte River Parkway Trail. If you are a fencing expert (not the sword fighting kind), we could certainly use your input. A draft of the constitution is posted on the Murie Audubon Website for your viewing.

Thanks, everyone, and here's to a fabulous spring!

Jenny Edwards

KIDS CORNER

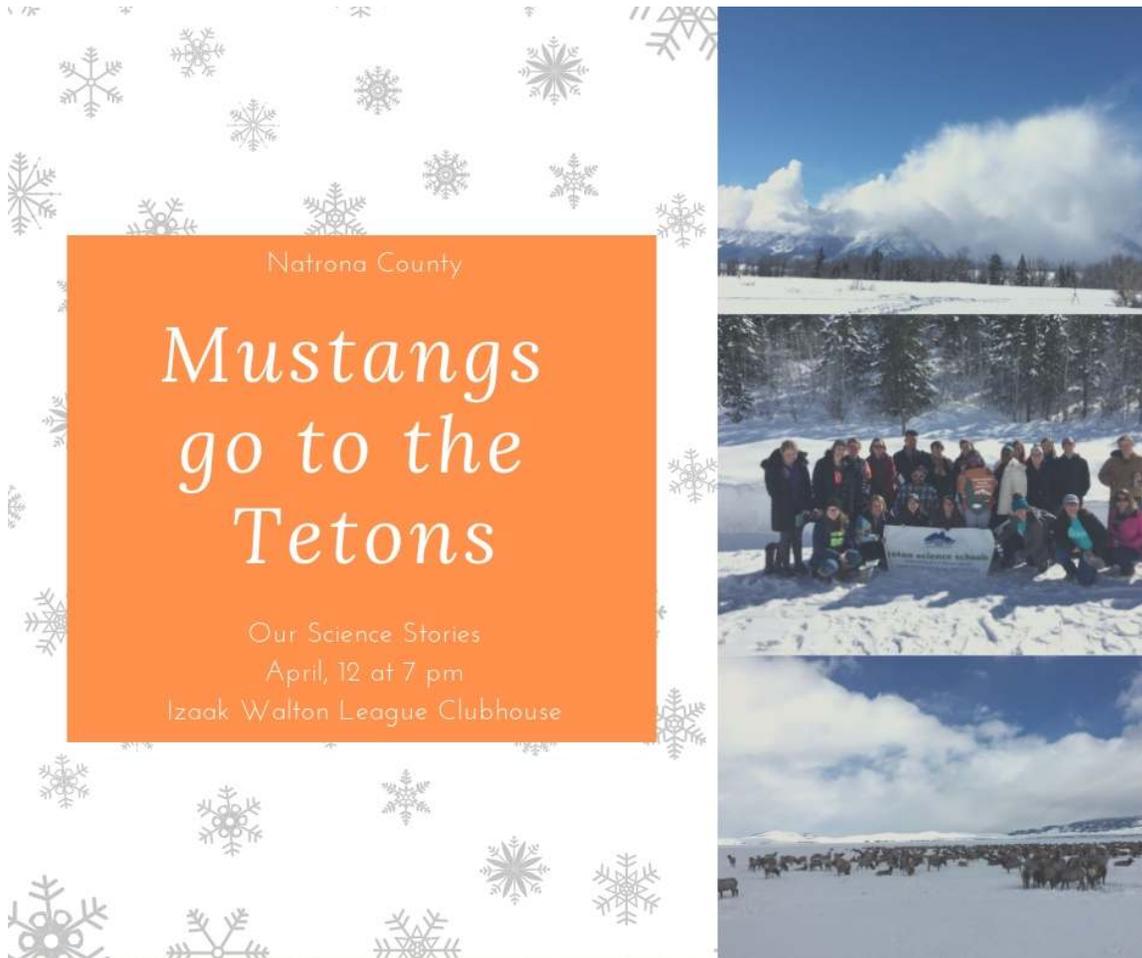


TURKEY VULTURE

The Turkey Vulture is a large soaring bird that feeds on carrion (the dead and rotting body of an animal). It's recognized by the featherless red head, white bill, large brown-black body and yellow feet. They can be easily spotted along roadways displaying their long wingspan and smooth soaring flight. While soaring it holds the wings slightly up in a V-shape. The wingspan extends to 170-178 cm (67-70 in). The Turkey Vulture does not build a nest - they lay eggs directly on the ground. They can fly low to the ground to pick up the scent of dead animals. A Turkey Vulture live up to 20 years in the wild. People mistakenly call turkey vultures, buzzards, which is the British name for certain hawks. They arrive in Casper early April and leave around late October.

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/turkey_vulture_k6.html

MURIE AUDUBON PROGRAM PRESENTS



MUSTANGS GO TO THE MOUNTAINS

We will have a host of presenters on hand for the April 12 program. Twenty students and three teachers (Jenny Edwards, Dustin Arellano, and Sarah Burger) from Natrona County High School attended a session of the Teton Science School over Presidents Day weekend in February. The students, ranging in age from freshmen to seniors, are all members of the Natrona County High School Science Club. Individual or groups of students conducted their own science experiments while in the Tetons. The students will be sharing the things they learned, plus sprinkling in funny stories, and life lessons.

The group also travelled to the National Elk Refuge where methods for managing wildlife and determining carrying capacity were discussed.

Prior to the trip, the group worked to raise money to attend the Teton Science School; Murie Audubon also helped finance this educational endeavor.

Please join us on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 7 pm at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse at 4205 Fort Caspar Road for this program. As always, the program is free and open to the public! See you there!
Bruce Walgren Program Chair

SAGE-GROUSE STRUTTING



I will be counting 2 or 3 Sage-grouse Leks in April and early May. Each Lek needs to be counted 3 times starting about half an hour before sunrise and after April 10. This results in 2 counts each week for 3 or 4 weeks. There is room for several people on each trip, and I like to have company for these outings. It is hard to schedule the trips too far in advance because the roads are two-track ranch roads and need to be either dry or really frozen. If you are interested, please call me at 262-0055 before 8:30 PM (I go to bed early) so I can put you on the list. Stacey Scott

BIRD BANDING 2019!



I am including the banding dates for 3 of our 4 stations in Wyoming. We are in need of volunteers this year, and if anyone is seriously interested in helping, we will do an early training session. Set up for stations is currently, TBD. As always, our bird banding stations are open to the general public to come and watch.



Edness K. Wilkins State Park: 6/4, 6/11, 6/25, 7/2, 7/16, 7/23, 8/6

Bart Rea Cabin: 6/6, 6/13, 6/27, 7/1, 7/18, 7/25, 8/5

Lindzey Ranch (Laramie): 6/7, 6/14, 6/29, 7/8, 7/19, 7/24, 8/8

Keyhole State Park: Visit our website for more information!

Enjoy your spring!

Zach Hutchinson
Community Naturalist
c: 307.247.0700

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EXPO

Spring is upon us! And with spring, comes spring activities. This year, Audubon Rockies needs help operating bird-related activities for the Game & Fish Expo from May 9th - 11th. If anyone has interest in volunteering for one or more of those days (or even a partial day), we would love to have you! Jacelyn, Dusty, or Zach will be there each day.

If you are interested, please contact me ASAP and we will get you registered as a volunteer! Please note, you must pass a background check to volunteer.

Zach Hutchinson
Community Naturalist
c: 307.247.0700

TOM CADE, SAVIOR OF THE PEREGRINE FALCON, DIES AT 91

On a spring day in 1980, Dr. Tom Cade climbed into a Peregrine Falcon nest box on top of a release tower in Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. Just a couple of years earlier, Tom's team of biologists and falconers had bred, raised, and released the falcon pair that now raised their own family on this tower. These two birds were part of a nationwide recovery program for the species.

Peregrine Falcon populations had declined drastically in the 1950s and '60s due to the widespread use of DDT – a pesticide that interfered with calcium metabolism and caused birds to lay very thin-shelled eggs that would crack during incubation. By 1970, Peregrine Falcons were extinct in the eastern United States and fewer than 40 pairs were estimated to remain in the west. Dr. Cade, an ornithologist and lifelong falconer, was acutely aware of this decline and worked with others across the nation to ban the use of DDT and develop a recovery plan for our nation's fastest animal.

In saving the Peregrine, Tom co-founded a non-profit conservation organization to effectively manage the financial support being offered by the public. Called The Peregrine Fund, this organization grew to become much more than he originally envisioned, and over the past five decades has worked with more than 100 species in 65 countries worldwide. Many species such as the Mauritius Kestrel, Northern Aplomado Falcon, several species of Asian Vultures, California Condor, and more are thriving today because of work The Peregrine Fund and its many partners have undertaken.

He died on February 5, 2019.

<http://www.peregrinefund.org/news-release/352>

HELP SUPPORT MURIE AUDUBOND SOCIETY CHAPTER BECOME A 'FRIEND' OF MURIE AUDUBON

The annual cost of being an individual or family 'Friend' is a donation of \$10 or more.

Benefits include:

* Free monthly programs * Field trips * Monthly subscription to Plains and Peaks newsletter

Your generous donations support:

* MurieAudubon.org - our website * Local conservation efforts * Local Environmental Education
* WYOBIRDS email list server * Audubon Adventures * Annual Banquet

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

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$10 One Year \_\_\_\_\_
- Audubon Adventures (\$46.65 per classroom) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Please Designate) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  New Member  Change  Correction  Update  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Not shared with anyone - honest!)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (Again, not shared with anyone)

Please check:

- I want the Plains & Peaks newsletter delivered to the above address.
- I want to save a tree and postage. DO NOT SEND ME SNAIL MAIL! I will download a digital copy of the Plains & Peaks Newsletter from <https://MurieAudubon.org> ☺

Please make checks payable to:  
Murie Audubon Society  
PO Box 2112  
Casper, WY 82602

Thank you for your support!

### MAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**—Jenny Edwards (307-259-9956)  
jenny5526@myncsd.org  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**—Larry Keffer (259-9778)  
keffer2005@yahoo.com  
**RECORDING SECRETARY**—Kim Grant,  
kimgrant5000@gmail.com  
**TREASURER**—Stacey Scott (262-0055),  
hustace@gmail.com  
**PROGRAM CHAIR**—Bruce Walgren  
**CIRCULATION/MEMBERSHIP RECORDS**—Jan Whitely  
(237-7709), janw@tribcsp.com  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**—Harry Martin (258-1255),  
harry@harrymartincartoons.com  
**EDUCATION CHAIR**—Vacant  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**—Casey Leary, (247-3470),  
casefish6@msn.com  
**WEBSITE**—Harry Martin, (258-1255),  
harry@harrymartincartoons.com  
**HOSPITALITY CHAIR**—Kathy Haden (259-2165),  
KathyaKnapp@hotmail.com; Nancy Stichert (265-0144),  
nstichert@teglerinsurance.com  
**PUBLICITY CHAIR**—Jenny Edwards,  
jenny5526@myncsd.org  
**FIELD TRIP CHAIR**—Sarah Baird, sbaird75@yahoo.com  
**BANQUET CHAIR**—VACANT  
**EMERITUS**—Bart Rea (234-6282), bdrea@tribscsp.com  
**PAST PRESIDENT**—Zach Hutchinson (307-247-0700)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Term Expires 2018

Bob Yonts, (473-3045), bbyonts@juno.com, Rose-Mary  
King, Chris Michelson (234-8726), michelsonce@aol.com

#### Term Expires 2019

Jenny Edwards, jenny5526@myncsd.org  
Tiffany Leary  
Luis Alza  
Kelly Keenan  
Harry Martin  
Sarah Baird

### 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.

### AUDUBON ROCKIES - REGIONAL OFFICE OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Regional Office:** 106 N. College Ave., Suite 1, Fort Collins, CO  
80524. Phone: 970-416-6931 (Contact number for staff)  
**Regional Community Naturalists,** 410 McKean Rd., Moorcroft  
WY 82721, Phone: 307-756-3149.  
Dusty Downey—Cell: 504-453-4124, ddowney@audubon.org,  
Jacelyn Downey—Cell: 504-453-4139, jdowney@audubon.org;  
**Casper Community Naturalist**—Zach Hutchinson  
—Cell: 307-267-7560; zhutchinson@audubon.org

Allison Holloran - Executive Director of Audubon Rockies  
Region, aholloran@audubon.org  
John Kloster-Prew, Development Director  
Daly Edmunds, Regional Policy Coordinator  
Abby Burk, WRAN Coordinator Jamie Weiss, Habitat Heroes  
Coordinator  
Mandi Casolo, Office Assistant  
**Audubon Rockies website** - <http://www.rockies.audubon.org>  
**Facebook** under Audubon Rockies



### 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.

### NOTICE TO FRIENDS OF MURIE NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

Those who have not paid in one year or more should see “Expired” and a date of expiration on your mailing label, on the same line as your name. You will only receive one more issue after this one. If you feel this is in error, please contact Harry Martin (258-1255) to update details.

Murie Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2112  
Casper, WY 80602

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 165  
CASPER, WY 82602

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

