

MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

April 2020 VOL. 54 ISSUE 4

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September MAS Program- Elections

7pm at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 4205 Fort Caspar Road

April 11 Goldeneye Field Trip

9:30 AM, Goldeneye Reservoir

SPECIAL FEATURES

Eroding Bird Protections pg 2

What Can We Do?

Educational Resources pg 4

Audubon Rockies Resources

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES



Welcome, Spring!

It is a great time to be a birder. While many people are complaining of boredom on social media, we can be entertained by simply looking out our windows, going for walks, and enjoying social distancing while observing spring migration.

We have canceled our general meetings for the rest of the year, and we'll hold elections in September. We value all of our members' safety and feel it is extremely important to do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

I also want to ensure our members' safety by encouraging social connections between us. Join our Facebook group, check out the website, join the new Wyoming Birds listserv. All of these are options we can use to safely check-in with each other and the birds. I am a new member of the Wyoming Birds listserv; despite simply lurking, for now, I've gotten quite a bit of joy from hearing about birds others in my area are seeing.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything during this uncertain time. I suddenly have a bit of free time.

Stay Well!

Jenny Edwards
MAS President

ERODING BIRD PROTECTIONS

Most of us have heard about the attempts to reduce the protections for birds. I had thought that there would be a little easing of the rules, but the main protections are in an international treaty, so it wouldn't amount to much. The Economist (a respected, conservative, business friendly British magazine) had an article on the "other war on migrants" (Feb 22-28, 2020, page 34) that changed my view. Under the proposed easing of protections, harming birds would not be penalized if the action is incidental to a business action. One example is if a bridge is being washed, and Cliff Swallow nests are in the way (the article says swallows, but we know it is Cliff Swallows that nest under bridges), then killing the young swallows would not be penalized because the intent was to wash the bridge, not kill the next generation of insect eating swallows. The fact that waiting a month would allow the bridge washing without killing the swallows is not a valid point because any possible restriction on business is more important than a bunch of birds. For information on what we can do, visit the web sites of American Bird Conservancy (Get Involved tab) or the National Audubon Society (Take Action tab).

Stacey Scott

MURIE AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

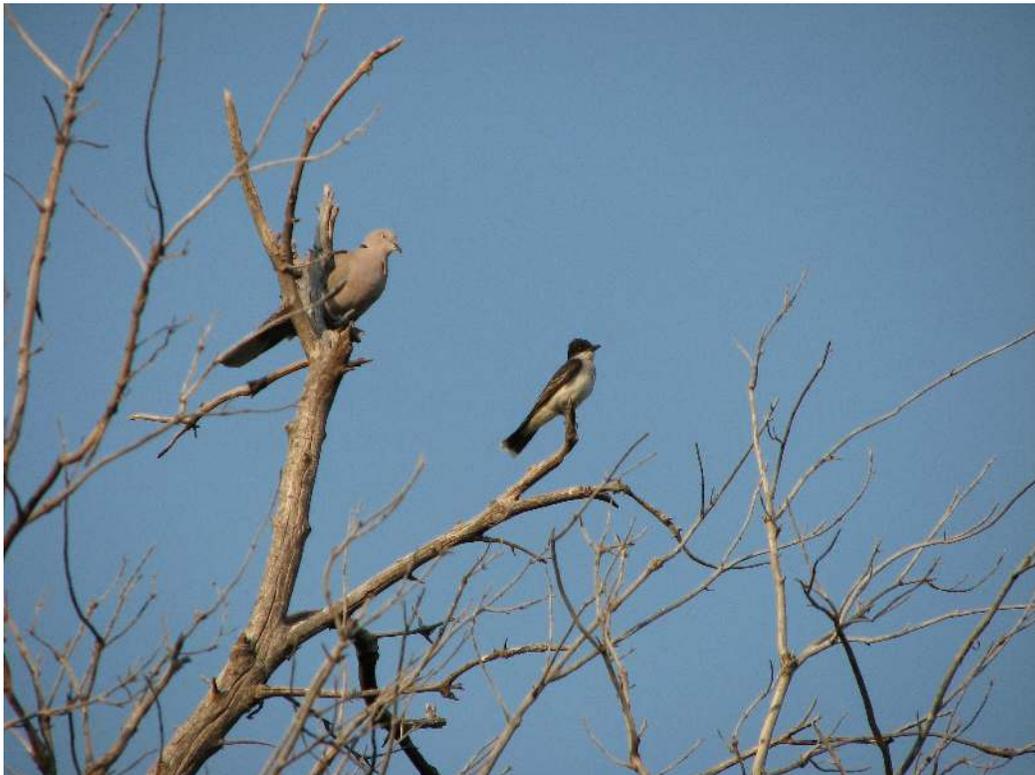
With the Covid-19 situation, field trips cannot be run the way they were before. Practicing social distancing is really important to slowing down this epidemic, so we can no longer car pool. We can still go birding, but we need to keep our distance which will make pointing out birds much more difficult. I still would like to lead field trips, but will have to rethink what sort of trips will work. Right now, I don't think that the planned field trip to Goshen Hole is viable, but I don't know what it will be like by the middle of May. I also would like to have the June one to listen for the Flammulated Owl. That might be easier because it will be easier stay 6 feet apart. My advice is to look at the Murie website and I will post what we plan to do. I will also post any field trips on wyobirds at Google Groups, or you can email me (listed on the Murie website under Contact Us) or call me at 262-0055 and I can notify you.

I will lead the trip to Goldeneye on Saturday April 11, but we will meet at 9:30 AM at Goldeneye Reservoir. We will try to practice social distancing, so bring your own optics.

Sage-Grouse Strutting - Stacey Scott

Due to Covid-19, I am no longer able to take other people out to watch the Sage-Grouse Strutting. There just isn't anyway to ethically take non-family in a pickup for a couple of hours. I enjoy the company of other people while watching one of the great spectacles of nature, so I am really disappointed. If social distancing is no longer required before I quit counting the grouse, I will post it on the Murie website. Since over 99% of the US survived the 1918 flu epidemic, I hope to be counting Sage-Grouse next year.

Stacey Scott



AUDUBON ROCKIES INFORMATION



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: Either you're homebound with kids yourselves (and are struggling!) or know of others who are (and are struggling!!). This is an opportunity for the Audubon network to help our neighbors, while building a connection/appreciation for the natural world. Here are some resources that you are welcome to share on your chapter's social media sites, webpages, and newsletters. And if you have resources to share with us, please do so!!

- Printable [Nature Bingo](#) and [Scavenger Hunt](#) activities
- [Audubon Adventures](#)
- This is BRAND NEW (launched March 2020): [Audubon for Kids!](#)
- **Sagebrush steppe habitat flashcards** ([click here to download](#)): You'll find plants, the animals that eat the plants, the animals that eat those animals, and then the clean-up crews that recycle the living matter to make it available to start the cycle again.
- **Rockie's Sagebrush Adventures!** This [online illustrated book](#) follows a Burrowing Owl and her friends as they discover what life in the sagebrush is all about.
- **Sagebrush Ecosystem Poster and Lesson Plan** ([click here to download](#)): Through this free lesson plan and poster, students will discover the plants and animals of the sagebrush ecosystem. Students can take it further by researching a habitat and creating a poster depicting the plants and animals that live there. Students will then draw parallels between the habitats, what animals need to survive, and their place the food web.

Thank you for all you each do for birds, our natural world, and for our communities. I sincerely hope you're doing well and take care of yourselves during this extremely unusual time...

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can ever be of any assistance. Email and cell are the best avenues.

Warmest regards from Fort Collins,
Daly

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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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Those who have not paid in one year or more should see "Exp:" and a date of expiration on your mailing label, on the same line as your name. You will only receive one more issue after the expiration date. If you feel this is in error, please contact Harry Martin 307-258-1255 to update details.

Please be patient if you have renewed your membership. It could take up to 60 days for the renewal to be updated in our database. A good reason to renew before your expiration date.

ABOUT MURIE AUDUBON

Please See: <https://murieaudubon.org/about/>

E-Mail: murie@murieaudubon.org

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