

MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

May 2021 VOL. 55 ISSUE 4

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20, MAS Program

Burrowing Owls, 7 pm via Zoom

May 22, Field Trip, Lake DeSmet

7 am, Game & Fish

SPECIAL FEATURES

Kid's Corner pg 3

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Secretary's Report pg 7

MAS April BOD Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FIELD NOTES



Happy Spring, Everyone~

It is always busy this time of year, which we are all thankful for. Murie has a few projects and volunteer opportunities that I'd like to discuss. May is typically our last meeting of the year. We are hoping to ease back to some sort of normalcy next year, and begin meeting in person again. We have noticed that Friday evenings aren't the best meeting time for families, children, and students and we'd like some feedback on when would be the best meeting time. If you have feedback, a survey will be e-mailed and posted on our website. We are also seeking information on potential meeting locations.

We have had money set aside for several years now to design and build a bird blind at Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. We have approval from the state park officials to build something sustainable, from natural materials. Some ideas we were thinking about include a teepee-like structure or wattle weaving. We are looking for volunteers to help build the structure and we were wondering if this would be a good eagle scout project. Let us know if anyone has any ideas.

Speaking of scouts, Murie is partnering with both boys and girls scout troops for helping them earn nature badges. The girl scouts are hosting a "wonders of wildlife" workshop on June 12th. If you'd like to volunteer to help with a booth or if you know of a girl scout, contact Sarah Burger.

Finally, we'd love to see you at one of our field trips that Stacey has organized. Check out his field trip list. And I'd like to formally invite you to the Murie Audubon Society Picnic on August 10th, at 5:30 pm. We will have a shelter reserved and chicken will be provided. Bring a side dish to share. More information will come out on our social media channels.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all at some of our summer events!

Jenny Edwards

MAS President

KID'S CORNER



The broad-tailed hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) is a medium-sized hummingbird species found in highland regions from western United States and Western Canada to Mexico and Guatemala. Medium in size, the broad-tailed hummingbird is 4 inches (10 cm) in length and possesses an overall wingspan of 5.25 inches (13.3 cm). Weighing around 3.6 grams (0.13 oz), the female tends to be slightly larger than the male. Adults of both gender show an iridescent green back, white eye ring and a rounded black tail projecting beyond their wing tips, from which their name was inspired. This species shows sexual dimorphism, which means that male and female have different characteristics. The male possesses a characteristic bright rose-red gorget. An identification characteristic is the white eye ring. The female can be distinguished from the male by her paler coloration, cinnamon flanks, and spotted cheeks absent in the male.

Taken From: https://kids.kiddle.co/Broad-tailed_hummingbird



MAS MARCH PROGRAM PRESENTS

MIGRATION OF WYOMING'S BURROWING OWLS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA



We are pleased to announce the May 20, 2021 program. The presentation itself is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Werner Wildlife Museum, and Murie Audubon Society.

Andrea Orabona is the statewide Nongame Bird Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Nongame Program based in Lander and will be presenting the Zoom meeting. She is collaborating on this project with colleague Dr. Courtney Conway from the University of Idaho and his research partners from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Recent developments in solar-powered GPS technology in the form of smaller transmitters are helping researchers collect data on the elusive seasonal migration and winter ranges of Burrowing Owls that nest in Wyoming during the summer months. In the past few years, researchers have placed satellite transmitters on Burrowing Owls in western states. Unfortunately, many of those have died or their transmitters have stopped sending locations. Owls outfitted with the new transmitters from

Wyoming, along with other owls from western states and Canadian provinces, will add new data and hopefully new understating about these mysterious little birds.

The Burrowing Owl is classified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wyoming, making this full annual cycle conservation project extremely important. Andrea will discuss the need for this work, project objectives and methods, and results of Burrowing Owl migration thus far.

Werner Wildlife Museum will host this Zoom meeting as part of their Wildlife Study Series. The Werner programs are normally held at the Werner Wildlife on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Due to social distancing precautions, this program will appear via Zoom on Thursday May 20, 2021.

To Join this Zoom Meeting click on this link:

<https://caspercollege.zoom.us/j/96003724591?pwd=eVhDOU9TMTlyRWpOM0IPTmRaTUZIZz09>

Bruce Walgren



Above photo taken from: https://kids.kiddle.co/Image:Athene_cunicularia_20110524_02.jpg

Last page photo by Sheila Brown via [Burrowing-owl-at-night-portrait](#)

MAS FIELD TRIPS - REVISED

Setting up Field Trips well in advance means that there can be changes. I will put out an email on WYOBIRDS when I know about a change more than a day in advance. There is also the chance that we can announce changes on the Murie Website and on the Facebook page, but that is not a sure thing. The best thing would be to call me at 262-0055, or email me at hustace@gmail.com (I try to look at email every morning). Call me if you don't get a prompt reply to email. Birding is fun, but not as much in bad weather, so we will cancel trips if the weather is bad. The June trips require completely dry roads, so they are even more dependent on good weather. Below is the schedule as of the end of April.

May 8, Saturday, Goshen Hole, all day, meet at 7:00 AM at Game and Fish (160 miles, 3 hr from Casper)

May 9, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

May 15, Saturday, Cheyenne Big Day (180 miles, 2hr 30min from Casper)

May 16, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

May 21, Bird-a-thon to support Audubon Rockies, all day, call Stacey Scott for more details.

May 22, Lake DeSmet area led by Tina Toth. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Game and Fish parking lot, and we will meet Tina Toth at Lake DeSmet near the Piney Creek exit. Bring lunch and water. (120 miles from Casper, 2 hr from Casper)

May 30, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

June 5, Little Red Creek, Meet at Game and Fish at 7:00 AM to go to Little Red Creek. This could be moved a week earlier or later (28 miles, 50 min)

June 12, Meet at 8:00 PM at the Dirty Shirt Woods to listen for Flammulated Owls. Very dependent on no Thunderstorms (20 miles, 40 minutes)

July 10, Saturday, meet at 10:00 to look for butterflies with Dwaine Wagoner. Where we will meet will be decided later when we know more about the early summer weather.

Aug 10, Picnic at the Centennial Shelter at EKW, bring something to go with the Kentucky Fried Chicken that Audubon will provide. We will shoot for starting at 5:30 PM

Sept 6, Labor Day at 8:00 AM, EKW to look for warblers (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

Stacey Scott

BIRD-A-THON TO SUPPORT AUDUBON ROCKIES

Audubon Rockies is doing a wonderful job, and probably always could use more money. I am going to run a Bird-a-thon on May 21. I am asking for donations for the Wyoming Audubon Naturalists, whose main job is educating people about birds. You can join me for some fun birding, run your own Bird-a-thon and/or donate. Any donation will be gratefully received. You can send donations to Audubon Rockies or the Murie Post Office Box (PO Box 2112, Casper, WY 82602). If you would like a list of what I saw, send me an email at hustace@gmail.com or call me at 262-0055.

Stacey Scott

MURIE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 9, 2021

Murie Audubon Board of Directors meeting minutes for April 9, 2021, held via ZOOM.

Called to order at 6:01 pm by Jenny Edwards.

In attendance: Kim Grant, Jenny Edwards, Luis Alza, Kelly Keenan, Stacey Scott, Bart Rea, Sarah Burger.

Minutes of the March 12, 2021 Zoom meeting: unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report: There were 5 new memberships via PayPal.

New Business: Sarah gave an update on working with the Scout troops. The Boy Scouts have an extensive badge for birding. The student needs to identify 20 species of birds for that portion of the badge. The Girl Scouts do not have a badge for birding but they do have an event planned for June 12 for a wonders of wildlife badge. Murie could partner with them to help the girls achieve this badge.

Background checks are needed to work with the groups when presenting a workshop. Sarah will check to see if they are needed if only participating in a scheduled workshop. Kelly is willing to work with Sarah to help organize but she will be out of town for June 12. The time of the event is 10am-12pm.

If we wanted to set up a workshop we may be able to schedule classroom use at the College or at the Girl Scouts building by Washington Park. Sarah will work with Briana to set up something.

Bart and Stacey will contact EKW to find out about a teepee for a bird blind. This project may align with a Boy Scouts badge. The drip system may be problematic but not if we can install a solar powered system.

Old Business: Kelly showed us a draft for the grant. The BOD suggested adding the mission and vision statement to the application and to clarify that the presentation is for the general meeting, not just the BOD.

Do we want a grant just for the Field Science Summer Camp? To help with transportation costs and tuition for students? Murie could help cover the cost of a Casper College vehicle and driver. Kelly said it typically has about 20 students for one week in June. This may be a great partnership for Murie, it aligns with our Mission statement and would be great marketing for Murie. The camp is posted on Facebook and the NCSD website and will be advertised in the Murie Newsletter. Kelly mentioned having some sort of swag to send home with the kids as a marketing tool, i.e. stickers, t-shirt, ...

Piggery: Zach is still working with the City Manager on the project. Bids have gone out and work may proceed this summer. Bart hopes that a fence has been included on the North side to keep out Walmart trash.

Stacey published a list of dates for field trips.

August picnic will be Tuesday, August 10 at 5:30pm in EKW.

Next Fall Murie will go back to in-person meeting format. We should discuss a meeting day change and ask members for comments on changing to Thursday. We could also look for a different venue.

Spring Clean Up along river is May, 29. Murie could jump in on this and clean up the Piggery property.

Adjourn 6:57pm motioned by Stacey, second by Bart -- unanimous approval.

Submitted by Kimberley Grant Secretary

Addendum: May 04, 2021, motion was made by Kim to fund the grant application submitted by Jessie Anderson, monies for Casper Mountain Science School camp in June. Motioned seconded by Harry. Voting occurred via electronic poll administered by Jenny -- unanimous approval.

BURROWING OWL



The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a small, long-legged owl found throughout open landscapes of North and South America. Burrowing owls can be found in grasslands, rangelands, agricultural areas, deserts, or any other open dry area with low vegetation. They nest and roost in burrows, such as those excavated by prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.). Unlike most owls, burrowing owls are often active during the day, although they tend to avoid the midday heat. Like many other kinds of owls, though, burrowing owls do most of their hunting from dusk til dawn when they can use their night vision and hearing to their advantage. Living in open grasslands as opposed to forests, the burrowing owl has developed longer legs that enable it to sprint, as well as fly, when hunting.

Description

Burrowing owls have bright eyes; their beaks can be dark yellow or gray depending on the subspecies. They lack ear tufts and have a flattened facial disc. The owls have prominent white eyebrows and a white "chin" patch which they expand and display during certain behaviors, such as a bobbing of the head when agitated.

Adults have brown heads and wings with white spotting. The chest and abdomen are white with variable brown spotting or barring, also depending on the subspecies. Juvenile owls are similar in appearance, but they lack most of the white spotting above and brown barring below. The juveniles have a buff bar across the upper wing and their breast may be buff-colored rather than white. Burrowing owls of all ages have grayish legs longer than those of other owls.

Males and females are similar in size and appearance, and display little sexual dimorphism. Females tend to be heavier, but males tend to have longer linear measurements (wing length, tail length, etc.). Adult males appear lighter in color than females because they spend more time outside the burrow during daylight, and their feathers become "sun-bleached". The burrowing owl measures 19–28 cm (7.5–11.0 in) long and spans 50.8–61 cm (20.0–24.0 in) across the wings, and weighs 140–240 g (4.9–8.5 oz). As a size comparison, an average adult is slightly larger than an American robin (*Turdus migratorius*).

Article and photo from: https://kids.kiddle.co/Burrowing_owl

MURIE AUDUBON'S SUMMER FIELD TRIP SERIES

BY STACEY SCOTT
BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED BIRDERS
CALL 262-0055 FOR MORE
INFORMATION

April 24, Saturday, Leave from Game and Fish at 7:00 AM to see birds along the west side Boysen Reservoir. We are especially looking for Sage Sparrows in Sage Brush. (112 miles, 1hr 50 min)

May 1, Saturday, Goldeneye, meet at 9:00 at Goldeneye (25 miles, 30 min from Casper)

May 2, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

May 8, Saturday, Goshen Hole, all day, meet at 7:00 AM at Game and Fish (160 miles, 2 hr 40 min, from Casper)

May 9, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

May 15, Saturday, Cheyenne Big Day (178 miles, 2hr 30min from Casper)

May 16, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

May 21, Bird-a-thon to support Audubon Rockies (Call for more details)

May 22, Lake DeSmit area led by Tina Toth (120 miles, 2 hr drive from Casper)

May 29 or 31, The Fontenelle Trap to look for warblers below Fontenelle Dam (266 miles, 4 hr from Casper)

May 30, Sunday at EKW, meet at 7:00 AM at EKW, and quit before church (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)

June 5, Little Red Creek, Meet at Game and Fish at 7:00 AM to go to Little Red Creek (28 miles, 40 min)

June 12, Dirty Shirt Woods to listen for Flammulated Owls. Very dependent on Thunderstorms (20 miles, 40 mins)

July 10, Saturday, Goldeneye to look for early shorebird migrants (25 miles, 30 min from Casper)

Sept 6, Labor Day, EKW to look for warblers (Less than 9 miles, 15 min from Casper)



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.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF MURIE NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

This is just a friendly reminder that per our newest bylaws, every membership expires September 30, 2021, and every year thereafter. Unless you have paid for years in advance, your membership expires September 30, every year until our bylaws change. 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

RENEW OR BECOME A REGULAR MEMBER OF MURIE AUDUBON FOR ONLY \$10

Today's Date: _____

\$10 One Year \$20 Two Years \$30 Three Years or electronic payment on our website

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