UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12th at 7 pm
April Monthly Program

May 14th at 8 am
Edness Kimball Wilkins (EKW)

SPECIAL FEATURES

MAS to Support EKW Projects

PLATTE RIVER TRAILS SPRING CLEANUP

On Saturday June 4th the Platte River Trials will host the Spring Cleanup. This is will include areas around the MAS newly fenced in area between Morad Park and WY Game and Fish, also known as the Piggery. If you have time, please come out and support the spring cleanup of this recently conserved habitat area!

More information about the spring cleanup can be found on the Platte River Trails website [https://www.platterivertrails.com/events.html](https://www.platterivertrails.com/events.html)
Happy Summer, Everyone!

We won’t be seeing each other formally for a bit, so I just wanted to wish you all the best kind of summer.

We will still have quite a few events this summer including bird classes- Luis and Stacey’s bird identification classes, field trips, and picnics.

Speaking of picnics, Edness Kimball Wilkins State has a couple of really neat projects going on. They will be planting native species in several areas. The board has decided to conduct a price match to help fund these projects. Our goal is to have the membership donate $2000.00, and the board will match that price. How fortunate we are to have such a great resource for birds in our backyard?

We are also kicking off our fall season with a bang. A team is working on hosting a Murie Audubon Society event in September. There will be food, fun, and a fantastic speaker. Keep your eye open for more details.

Jenny Edwards

FIELD NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUMMER BIRD CHALLENGE

This challenge is a bit more open-ended. Enjoy all the birding!

- Wyoming’s State Bird
- Another state's state bird
- A bird doing something strange
- A bird who bark is bigger than him/her
- A juvenile learning a skill
- A bird nest
- A bird swimming/bathing somewhere strange

Good luck! Can’t wait to see pictures and reports of your birds!

Data compiled from eBird.

KIDS CORNER

Do domestic geese and Canada Geese flock together?

The goose in the picture on page 3 has been spotted multiple times among groups of Canada Geese around the area of the North Platte River and South Wyoming Boulevard in Mills, a location quite close to where MAS has it’s monthly general meetings. This dissimilar goose is likely a common domestic goose, or Greylag Goose (scientific name Anser anser).
KIDS CORNER Continued

There are certainly other observations of domestic geese interacting with Canada Geese around the state and country, however why are they doing so and how did they end up with these groups of Canada Geese? What is the reason? Do the two species mate and reproduce? And lastly, is this goose truly a domestic goose or could it be a wild Greylag Goose, one that occurs in Europe and Asia most commonly?

Kelly Keenan (photo above Kelly Keenan March 2022)

MAS TO SUPPORT EKW PROJECTS

MAS is challenging its membership and community to match funds for habitat improvement projects at Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park this year. Projects will focus on Betty’s Garden Area and the Russian Olive removal area on the east side of the park.

MAS will provide $2000 towards these projects in hopes of another $2000 being donated. MAS members, and anyone wishing to help, can contribute by mailing donations to Murie Audubon Society PO Box 2112, Casper WY 82602 - thank you!

BOOK CLUB

*Rabid: A Cultural History of the World’s Most Diabolical Virus*  
by Bill Wasik, Monica Murphy

***** 5 stars  
This book has everything I personally love. Good science, fascinating history, connections to fantasy and lore, WOW! If you’re looking for something on your summer reading list that is both informative and entertaining, look no further! This makes connections from To Kill a Mockingbird to Dracul, to viral evolution. I appreciate how “smart” rabies is so much more after reading this book.

Jenny Edwards
They say that the third time's a charm. This is the third time that we've tried to have Andrea Orabona do an in-person Burrowing Owl program. So we have scheduled Andrea to be here on May 12, 2022 to update us on the ongoing Burrowing Owl research being done in Wyoming.

Andrea had presented a Burrowing Owl program via Zoom in May 2021. We felt that the program was interesting enough that we hoped to have her present the program again in person to a larger audience. The presentation itself is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Murie Audubon Society.

Andrea is the statewide Nongame Bird Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s Nongame Program based in Lander, and will be presenting the 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.

Please join us on Thursday, May 12, 2022 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! Hope to see you there!

-Bruce Walgren
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

I will send out a notice on wyobirds about the field trips and any changes, so if you get wyobirds you will be notified of any changes. If you don’t want to sign up for wyobirds (which I completely understand), you can call me at 307 262-0055 or email me at hustace@gmail.com and tell me you are interested. I can let you know if there are changes or if the weather cancels a field trip. Also, call me if you have any questions about any of the trips, or if you have any ideas for field trips. **Stacey Scott**

**April** I will be counting Sage-Grouse Leks in April and early May. If anyone would like to see this amazing performance, call me. I can take a few people at a time, on a first come first serve basis. The roads to the leks are dirt two-tracks, so they have to be dry before I will go. The protocol calls for me to be at the lek half an hour before sunrise, and the leks are about 45 minutes from the west side of Casper.

**Saturday May 14 Birding EKW** Meet where the road comes to the river, just west of the Platte River Shelter at 8:00 AM. We will walk around EKW to see what the migration has brought.

**Memorial Day, May 30** We will go to Little Red Creek if the weather allows it. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Game and Fish Parking Lot.

**Saturday, June 11** We will try to listen for small owls at Dirty Shirt Woods. Tentatively we will meet at the Game and Fish Parking lot at 7:00 PM. This can be disrupted by a thunderstorm, it would be best to tell me if you are coming.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASSES

Luis Alza and Stacey Scott’s a 4 week bird identification class continues into the first two weeks of May. We meet at 7:00 PM Tuesday nights at the Werner Wildlife Museum, and have a field trip each following Saturday. We cover the basics of how to use field guides and binoculars, then talk about the most common birds that are around here. Our objective is to teach how to identify the common birds, and how to look up any that puzzle you. Murie Audubon will have several field trips after the class is over so that you can continue what you learned in the class. This class is free and open to everyone.

**OLLI Class:** Stacey Scott is going to teach an OLLI Class on bird identification on June 1 and June 8. The first class will concentrate on birds in EKW with a field trip to EKW on June 2. The second class will concentrate on birds on Casper Mountain with a field trip to the mountain on June 9.
SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This is just a friendly reminder that our annual membership and renewal drive will begin in September. All memberships expire in September each and every year, so this is our big push to renew current members and to encourage visitors and guests to join.

We would love to have you as part of our education and conservation team. Features and benefits:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Education Programs
- Guest speakers
- Guided field trips
- Community projects
- Education Grants

You can be part of our citizen scientist efforts. You do not have to be a birder to join, enjoy, or take advantage of everything this site has to offer.

So, please, take a moment to sign up. The registration link is on our home page. We have on-line payment options for electronic payment, and of course, you can mail in payments using snail mail.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Harry

Murie Audubon Society
Membership Chair

MURIE SUMMER PICNIC

Muie will host our Annual Summer Picnic on August 11th at 5:30 at the Centennial Shelter of Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park. Fried Chicken will be provided, but bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share! Also, please plan on providing your own plateware and drinks. See you there!
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.

OPEN POSITIONS
We have a couple of Murie Audubon Society Chapter open volunteer positions for your consideration.

- Membership Chair – This position requires some knowledge of working with spreadsheets and working with other Board Members to update our membership database, recruit new members, and other duties related to membership.
- Webmaster/IT Manager – This position requires knowledge of WordPress and cPanel, updating and managing our website.

Experience desired, but not necessary. We can train you if you are interested and have a computer with Internet access. If interested, please send an email to murie@murieaudubon.org

These are volunteer positions only.

-Harry

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.

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 http://MurieAudubon.org 😊

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