

MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

MAY 2023 | VOL. 57 ISSUE 4

<http://www.murieaudubon.org> | Facebook @ Murie Audubon Society



UPCOMING EVENTS

Murie's General Program May 11th

Bird BioBlitz 7 am May 13th

SPECIAL FEATURES

Summer Field Trips pg 5

Bird Identification classes pg 7

Summer Picnic pg 8

FIELD NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends!

We're winding down our season of Murie and looking forward to summer activities.

and will be hosting elections for several open positions. Three nominations have been made so far. We will hold a short election prior to our guest speaker at our May general meeting. Thanks so much for your participation.

Murie will also host our summer picnic on August 10th at 5:30 pm. Chicken will be provided and please bring a side dish to share. Also, bring your own table service to save on plastic and paper.

Other than that, we hope you have a great summer!!

Jenny Edwards

SUMMER BIRD CHALLENGE

This challenge is a bit more open-ended. Enjoy all the birding and maybe include a kid in this summer's challenge!

- 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

Downy vs. Hairy Woodpeckers



There has been a great deal of woodpecker activity in this area lately. Usually we hear them before we see them. The "drumming" noises, created by their beaks rapidly pecking a tree trunk for example, are unmistakable. This sound can help us locate the bird, and maybe even identify which species it is. However, in the case of Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, it can be a little tricky to decipher between the two species.

KIDS CORNER Continued

Most people use the size proportion of the beak relative to the head to correctly identify one woodpecker from the other. In the case of the Downy, the size of the beak is relatively small compared to the head. For the Hairy, the size of the beak is relatively large compared to the head (see picture right). Additionally, males for both species have a red mark on the back of the head, while females of both species lack it.

These differences were discussed in the April 25th evening Bird Identification class at the Werner Wildlife Museum. Classes will continue through May 20th as we continue to work through identification of various bird groups. Anyone with interest, including children, is welcome – see page 7 for more information.



Kelly Keenan

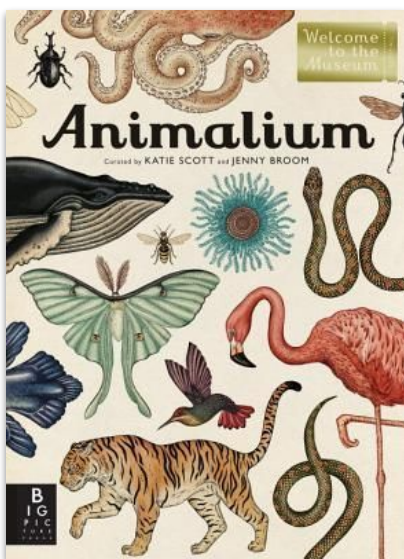
BOOK CLUB

***Welcome to the Museum
Animalium
Jenny Broom, Katie Scott (Illustrator)***

******* 5 + Stars Recommended**

Need a gift for a blooming naturalist in your family? This picture book series is fantastic! There's tons of information, beautiful illustrations, and something to offer for ages 8 and up. I've only had a chance to read the animal book, but the series includes plants, history, dinosaurs, and activity books to go along with them. I imagine the activity book would be a great summer road trip entertainer!

Jenny Edwards



MURIE AUDUBON PRESENTS



Join us for a special presentation by Alan Corey as he debunks misconceptions about lighting and how to light your path more efficiently. The “Light Pollution” program will be held on Thursday, May 11 at 7 PM at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse at the Fort Caspar Campground, 4205 Fort Caspar Road. Corey is the president of the Great Plains Astronomical Community.

We live in a world of perpetual artificial light and it is causing big problems with human health, wildlife, and the environment. We call this artificial light “light pollution” and it is widely seen as a result of industrial civilization, but it doesn’t have to be. Artificial light is wreaking havoc on the natural body rhythms of both humans and wildlife and it affects the physiological processes in nearly every lifeform on Earth. This discussion will focus on what light pollution is, what form it takes, where it comes from, and what we can do to lessen our impact. This program is free and open to the public.

Bruce Walgren-Program Chair

MURIE'S SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Early May - If anyone is interested in a trip to Goshen Hole in the first week of May, call Stacey Scott. It would be interesting to see what we could find in the various birding hotspots around Torrington.

May 13 - We will bird the Glendo area in conjunction with the State Parks. The start will be at 7:00 AM (time below indicates 5 AM, this has changed to 7 AM). This is a good time to be birding the Glendo area. It will be interesting to see what can be found.

A green poster with a white border. On the left is the Glendo State Park logo, which includes a mountain, a river, and a tree, with the text "WYO PARKS" at the top and "GLENDO State Park" in the center. To the right of the logo, the words "BIRD BIOBLITZ" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Further right is a cartoon illustration of a yellow bird with white spots on its back and wings, perched on a branch. Below the title, the text "Saturday, May 13 - 5 AM-11 AM - Park Headquarters" is written in bold yellow font. At the bottom, a white text box contains the message: "Calling all birders! Join Park Staff and the Murie Audubon Society of Casper at Park Headquarters promptly at 5 AM. We will be seeing what birds we can find all around Glendo State Park!"

BIRD BIOBLITZ

Saturday, May 13 - 5 AM-11 AM - Park Headquarters

Calling all birders! Join Park Staff and the Murie Audubon Society of Casper at Park Headquarters promptly at 5 AM. We will be seeing what birds we can find all around Glendo State Park!

*Time change for Bird BioBlitz is 7 AM rather than 5 AM

Wednesday, May 24 - Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot for the North Platte Shelter for a walk around EKW. This should be near the peak of the warbler migration, and you never know what we will see.

Thursday May 25 - Come help the Lincoln School bird in EKW. We will meet at 10:20 at EKW. Call Stacey Scott for more information.

MURIE'S SPRING FIELD TRIPS continued

Memorial Day, May 29 - Meet at 8:00 AM at the Game and Fish Parking Lot for our annual Little Red Creek field trip. If the weather cooperates (the two-track is not passable if it rains), this can be a really interesting trip. We should see White-throated Swifts, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Dusky and Gray Flycatchers, Rock Wrens, Black-throated Gray, Virginia's and Audubon's Warblers, Chats, both Towhees, Lazuli Buntings, Song Sparrows and we always hope for other special birds. Call Stacey Scott for details, especially if you would like to be informed if the weather causes us to change the date.

Saturday, June 10 - *We will have a bird trip somewhere. It will be posted under Events on the Murie Website, or contact Stacey Scott to see where we will go. If anyone has a good idea as to where you would like to go, you can have a large impact on the field trip.*

Saturday, July 15 - *We have tried to look for butterflies the last 2 years, but the drought reduced the flowers too much. Maybe this year we will be lucky. Check the Events page on the Murie Website or contact Stacey Scott.*

Thursday, August 10 - Annual Picnic at the Centennial Shelter. We will aim for 5:30. Murie will provide fried chicken; bring something to go with the chicken.

Friday, Sept. 1 - *This has the potential to be the peak of the fall warbler migration. We will meet at the Platte River Shelter at 8:00 AM for a walk around the park. Call Stacey Scott for more details.*

Stacey Scott 262-0055

BIRD IDENTIFICATION CLASSES

ON GOING - Stacey Scott and Luis Alza are teaching a bird identification class this spring through May 20th. We will meet at the Werner Wildlife Museum at 7:00 pm on Tuesday evenings, and have a field trip the following Saturday if the weather permits. This is a really good way to learn the local birds. Each class will pretty much stand on its own, so you can join us some days and miss others. The emphasis will be on learning how to identify birds in the field, therefore the field trips will be a very important part of the class. Call Stacey Scott for more information.

Stacey Scott is also teaching an OLLI class this spring in May. See the OLLI catalog for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TRANSPORT INJURED BIRDS

Teton Raptor Center provides rehabilitation to a high volume of avian wildlife who are injured, ill or orphaned in the Casper area. This requires a lot of drive time to get patients from Casper to Jackson and then back to Casper when they are fully healed so that they can be released where they were found in their original habitats. Our organization relies on help from volunteers to carry out this life-saving transportation service. If you'd like to be a part of this critical conservation effort by being a volunteer transporter, please reach out to us via phone (307) 203-2551 or email raptors@tetonraptorcenter.org



Join Teton Raptor Center's Raptor Rescue Network



We need **YOUR** help to give injured birds a second chance at life in the wild!

If you have access to a vehicle, you can volunteer to transport injured raptors to rehabilitation facility.

Contact Teton Raptor Center at 307.203.2551 or email at raptors@tetonraptorcenter.org



MURIE SUMMER PICNIC



Murie will host our Annual Summer Picnic on August 10th at 5:30 pm 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This is a friendly reminder that each September is our annual membership and renewal drive. All memberships expire on that date 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:

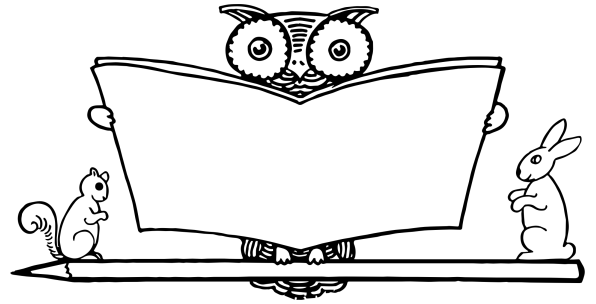
Monthly Newsletter
Education Programs
Guest speakers

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.

Harry
Murie Audubon Society
Membership Chair



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

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

