

MURIE AUDUBON'S
PLAINS & PEAKS

OCTOBER 2023 | VOL. 57 ISSUE 6

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Birds, Booze, and Bingo

Oct 11

SPECIAL FEATURES

2023/24 Field Trips

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FIELD NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Fall, Everyone!

Are you ready for Birds, Booze, and Bingo? Are you ready to have a great time, and raise funds for conservation projects?

I'm so excited to invite you and everyone you know to our October Event at Blacktooth Brewery. It's sure to be a great time.

The board kicked off the season with some busy projects. We purchased a classroom set of binoculars to support younger kids in the field.

We are also planning a migration station project at one of our favorite birding locations, EKW. This station may provide signage about important migratory birds and a bird list for the area. More details to come.

I'd also like to welcome Dylan Hicks, our newly appointed student board member. I'm excited about Dylan's excitement and passion for Murie.

Have a great month, everyone!

Jenny Edwards

OCTOBER BIRD CHALLENGE

This month's challenge is to find bird that are the most often seen in our area during the month of October.

- Bufflehead
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Belted Kingfisher
- Downy Woodpecker
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- European Starling
- Common Redpoll
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

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

Data compiled from eBird.

KIDS CORNER



It's Fall Migration Time

With fall brings bird migration. This massive movement of birds along great distances captures the interest of bird enthusiasts year after year. Scientists monitor the number and different species of birds that fly over specific areas. However, many of the reported observations come from citizens. These observations serve as valuable data for migration, migration associated studies, and more. They not only help us understand more about birds but also more about environmental factors, such as light pollution and changes in seasonality or precipitation, that may influence when, where, how, and why the birds move each year.

KIDS CORNER Continued

The focus of the Werner Wildlife Museum's Wildlife Study Series on Sept 20th was "Citizen Science". During his talk, Zach Hutchinson showed the audience bird migration data from BirdCast (an eBird powered online tool) for Natrona County for specific days of September this year. Interestingly, the number of birds passing over Natrona County the night of Sept 7th was estimated at over 2 million! And, as of Sept 23rd an estimated 60 million birds have fully crossed our region this migration season. We can compare these numbers to other parts of the United States. Just a couple of days later, on Sept 9th, further south it was estimated that just over 3 million birds flew over Cass County Texas, with an estimate of 80 million birds in total crossing over that area so far this migration season as of Sept 23rd.

Check out the migrations for yourself at BirdCast. You can learn more about bird nighttime flights including their direction, speed, and how high they're flying. Migration information about specific species is also available. Live data will run until November 15.

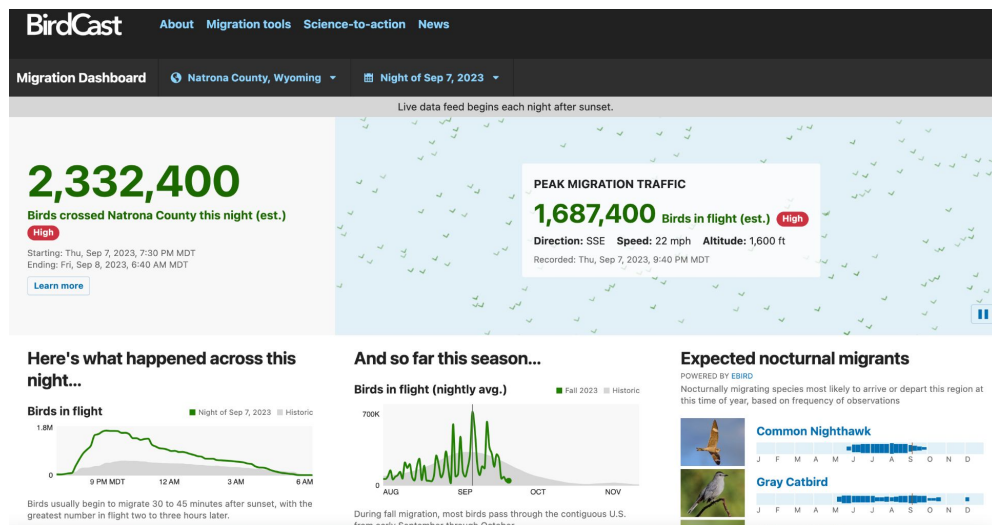


Image from <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-WY-025?night=2023-09-07>

Kelly Keenan

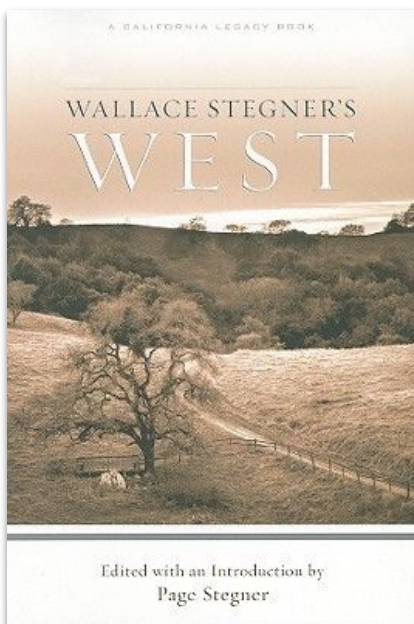
BOOK CLUB

Wallace Stegner's West-Wallace Stegner & Page Stegner

****** 4 Stars Recommended**

This book offers essays on the West, beautifully written. Wallace was a great explorer of Utah and California. These explorations are reflected in his fiction. After his death, his daughter organized his non-fiction essays about the West and published them into this book.

Jenny Edwards



MURIE'S 2023/24 FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips (call Stacey Scott at 262-0055 for more information)

Saturday, Oct. 14 - We will meet at 9:00 AM at the west end of Reshaw Park to look for migrating sparrows. Last year we had White-crowned, White-throated, Harris', and Song Sparrows in the middle of October. If people are interested, we will go to EKW afterwards.

Saturday, Nov. 11 - We will meet at 8:00 AM at the Game and Fish Parking lot for a trip to Casper Mountain. The weather will dictate where we actually go. This is a nice time for a walk in the woods, and even if it snows it is really nice. This will probably be a very energetic hike that should end at about noon.

Saturday, Dec. 16 - The 76th Casper Christmas Bird Count will be a fun time for all. We have all sorts of parties from driving around Casper to a very energetic group looking for grouse on Casper Mountain to those counting their own feeders. We need everyone. Counting all the birds in our 15 mile diameter circle requires as many people as we can get to join us. We will have more details in future newsletters.

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 - Start the New Year off right by joining us for the Bates Hole Christmas Bird Count. This is one of the few truly rural Christmas Counts in the country, and a really great way to start the New Year. While it can be cold, it is usually clear and calm in Bates Hole which is a real contrast with the windy and cold that is normal in Casper on January 1. With little to no wind, the snow just sitting on top of the sagebrush is really beautiful. So join us for a fun day, or half a day if that is all the time you have. We will have more details in future newsletters.

Saturday, Jan. 13 - We will meet at 9:00 AM at the Game and Fish Parking lot for a trip to Gray Reef and Alcova Dam. Gray Reef usually has some open water, which attracts overwintering waterfowl. This is a great way to add to your year's list that you started on the Bates Hole Count.

ABOUT MURIE'S BOARD MEMBERS-



OCTOBER'S ALL ABOUT... ZACH

Name: Zach Hutchinson

Favorite Bird: Pileated Woodpecker

Career: I have been working at Audubon Rockies for 8 years, first as a Community Naturalist and now as the Community Science Coordinator. Audubon Rockies is the regional office of the National Audubon Society.

Hobbies: I am quite fond of international travel, photography, writing, reading (fantasy and science fiction), kayaking, gardening, board games (we love Wingspan in this house), and of course, birding! I keep several bird feeders up at my house that provide hours of entertainment every day! I try to host the occasional field trip to view my feeders, as we get an exciting group of birds that visit.

Favorite Murie Work: I am very proud of Murie's effort to prevent off-leash dogs from running through the critical wetland on the Murie Audubon property and our continued efforts to fund student and teacher-led conservation projects.

Contact: zach.hutchinson@audubon.org

SCIENCE ZONE UPDATES

Free Family STEAM Nights are back at The Science Zone!

Every Thurs. 4:00 - 7:00

Oct. 5: What makes us sick? It's not a big deal - or maybe it is! In honor of the discovery of the Polio Vaccine, our theme this week will be "What makes us sick?" In addition to learning about snot, we'll tackle viruses, bacteria, germs, and the power of sharing.

Oct. 12: The theme for Earth Science Week 2023 is celebrating innovations in the geosciences that help make our communities healthier, safer, and more sustainable. Come learn about some of these innovations while exploring your own creative talents to help solve environmental problems!

Oct. 19: Let there be light! We will look at the history and science of the light bulb as we honor the lighting of Menlo Park in 1879. We have lots of bright ideas to educate and entertain tonight's participants!

Oct. 26: October wouldn't be complete without some Frankenscience! Frankenstein Friday is October 27 this year but we'll kick it off early with a Frankenstein Friday Eve party tonight! We'll use chemistry to create a Frankenstein hand and have loads of fun doing other spooky science activities.

Family STEAM Nights are supported by the Science Zone's AmeriCorps members and are made possible through a generous grant from ServeWyoming and the Mott Foundation

Family STEAM activities are free. Museum exploration is available until 7:00 pm with free admission for members or \$5 for those 3 years and older.

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.

MURIE AUDUBON

INVITES YOU ALL TO



★ BIRDS, BOOZE, & BINGO ★

\$5 PER CARD
7 ROUNDS OF BINGO
WIN CASH PRIZES

★ 10/11/23 ★

BLACKTOOTH BREWERY, 7 PM

BIRDS, BOOZE, AND BINGO NIGHT

We'd love to get as many people as possible to attend this fun-filled event. We'd like to think of this as a membership drive, to encourage people to find out more about Murie, and potentially join. There will be cash prizes awarded to the winner of each round. There may even be an extra special bird identification bingo round.

Please, invite all your friends (as long as they are 21 or older)! We'd love to have a packed house!

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:

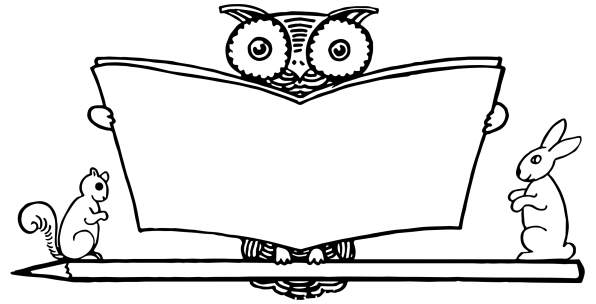
Monthly Newsletter
Education Programs
Guest speakers

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)

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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> 😊

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