

MURIE AUDUBON'S

PLAINS & PEAKS

NOVEMBER 2023 | VOL. 57 ISSUE 7

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What's up at the Tate



UPCOMING EVENTS

November's Monthly Program **Nov 9**

SPECIAL FEATURES

2023/24 Field Trips **pg 6**

About Murie's Board Members **pg 5**

FIELD NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Fall, Everyone!

Oh what a fun night at Birds, Booze, and Bingo. We had 162 attendees. The night was filled with laughter and great cheer and tons of new faces.

As we look towards our fall and winter season, I'm very excited for the upcoming field trips and Christmas bird count.

The board is also very excited to send some of our board members to the Audubon Rockies Leadership Conference this month at Estes Park Colorado. We're hoping to build connections with conservation leaders in our area and abroad.

November is always a great time to give gratitude. I wanted to thank all of our volunteers who work to communicate, organize, donate, inspire, create, collaborate, and guide. We have a wealth of skills in our organization and we have the best people. Thank you so, so much for all you do for birds, conservation, and people. I feel very blessed by each of you.

Have a great month, everyone!

Jenny Edwards

NOVEMBER BIRD CHALLENGE

See if you can find these 10 species of birds in Natrona County during the month of November.

- Snow Goose
- Canada Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Gadwall
- Bufflehead
- Common Merganser
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Goldeneye
- Mallard
- Wild Turkey

Data compiled from eBird.

KIDS CORNER



Is it possible to use less Plastic in your life?

Take a moment to recall the day and all the plastic items you came in contact with. Be thorough and consider everything used in your morning routine like your toothbrush, to anything you ate or drank that came in a plastic package, to anything used for entertainment like toys, games, etc. If you were to write all the items down, do you think you would have list of 10 things, 20 things, 50 things, or more? Give it a try and see. The point is, most of us use more plastic on a daily basis than we are aware of.

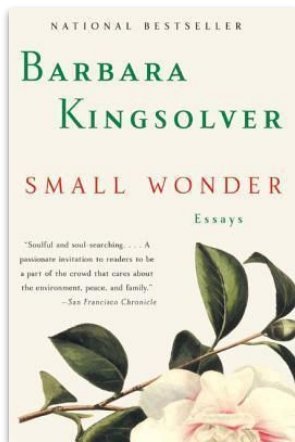
KIDS CORNER Continued

Additionally, consider the plastic items that are used once, or for a short period of time, and then discarded. These are often referred to as single use plastics. Some examples include plastic floss sticks, plastic stems on cotton swabs, plastic rings from ring pops, plastic cutlery, plates, straws and stirrers, and plastic wrappers and packaging.

Are there situations that you could choose an alternative to plastic for your needs? Some options could include using a nonplastic food container to pack a lunch, using reusable shopping bags as opposed to the plastic ones offered at the store, using a refillable, nonplastic water bottle as opposed to a plastic bottle filled with water purchased from a store, using nonplastic flatware as opposed to plastic utensils, or using nonplastic pencils.

Switching to a plastic-free lifestyle is not a reasonable change for most households. But reducing the amount of plastic each household uses is and could make a real difference in the total amount of plastic incorporated into the environment each year. The increasing amount of plastic in the environment impacts all living things on Earth.

Kelly Keenan



Small Wonder
Barbara Kingsolver

****** 4 Stars Recommended**

Barbara Kingsolver is one of my favorite authors. I'm looking forward to reading this book of essays. Reviews promise that some are funny, others require a deep level of introspection. The topics of essays in the book are centered around nature, the environment, some memoir, and personal stories.

Jenny Edwards



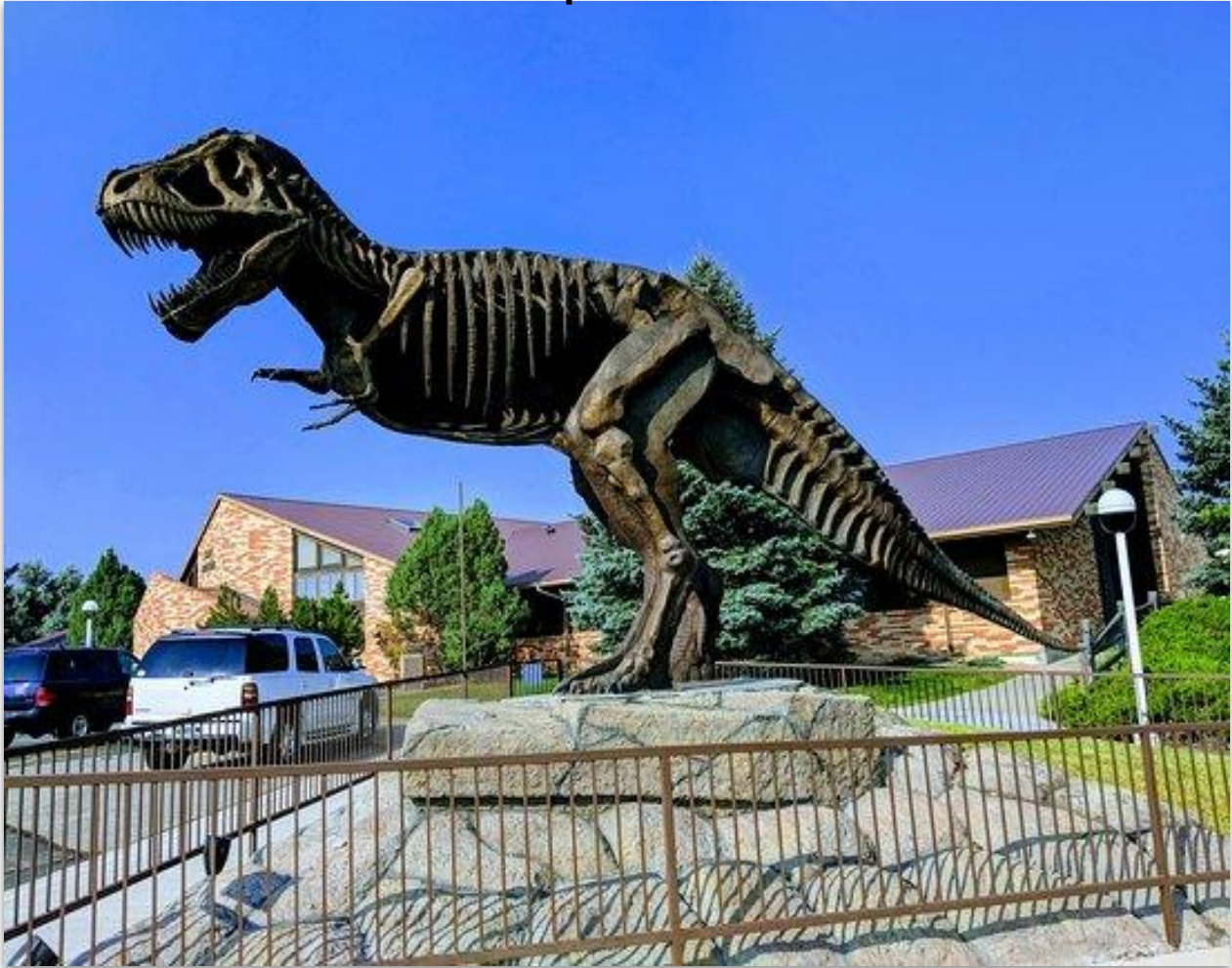
Cattle Egret. Photo: JAah/iStock - Photo from audubon.org



Plastic debris inside the carcass of a Laysan Albatross chick on Midway Island. Photo: USFWS - photo from audubon.org

BOOK CLUB

MURIE AUDUBON PRESENTS
What's up at the Tate?



Our November program will be all about the Tate Geological Museum at Casper College. J. P. Cavigelli, Collections Manager / Field Operations & Prep Lab Manager at the Tate will be our guest speaker. JP will talk about the exciting projects that the Tate Museum has been working on since Covid, more or less. While Dee the Mammoth and Lee Rex are the Tate's superstars, there are so many other character actors and extras involved in the show. Dinosaurs and, oh, so much more from Wyoming's varied geological past. Ichthyosaurs, crocodiles, mammals, maybe even a bird or two.

JP has talked to us on several previous occasions, and for those who don't know him, he came to Casper in 2004. Before coming to the Tate, he worked on and off in paleontology for 14 years, doing field work as well as a two year post as the collections manager for the University of Wyoming Department of Geology and Geophysics. He has had the good fortune of having been invited to join international paleontological expeditions to Mongolia, Niger (twice), Tanzania (twice), northern Alaska, and North Dakota.

The public and Audubon members are invited to come to the Murie Audubon free talk on November 9, 2023 at 7 p.m., at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse, at 4205 Fort Caspar Road.

J. P Cavigelli and Bruce Walgren

ABOUT MURIE'S BOARD MEMBERS-



NOVEMBER'S ALL ABOUT... STACEY

Name: Hustace H "Stacey" Scott

Favorite Bird: Any Chickadee, or the non-introduced bird I'm looking at

Career: I worked on the family ranch, worked in Alaska as a CPA for 20 years (over 17 years auditing oil companies for the State of Alaska), then back to Wyoming to work on the family ranch for 25 years, and am now mostly retired. For the last 20 years, I have also been Chairman of the Bates Hole/Shirley Basin Sage-Grouse Working Group.

Hobbies/Interests: I have been birding for over 75 years, and enjoy being in the field looking for birds. My earliest memory is wishing I was old enough to go all day on the Christmas Bird Count (probably 5 or 6 years old). In the last couple of decades, I have become interested in soil health and climate change. Did you know that if we increased the organic matter in the soil to 3-4% in all the intensively farmed lands in the world we would sequester more Carbon than has been released by the industrial revolution? I also enjoy reading; stories and current events.

Favorite Murie Work: I really enjoy the monthly field trips.

Contact: hustace@gmail.com, 307-262-0055

MURIE'S 2023/24 FIELD TRIPS

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

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 over wintering waterfowl. This is a great way to add to your year's list that you started on the Bates Hole Count.

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:

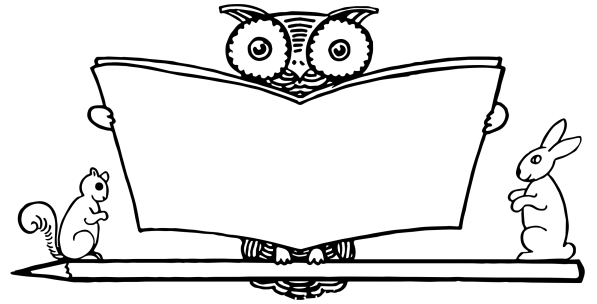
Monthly Newsletter
Education Programs
Guest speakers

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)

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