

Welcome to the Bridger Raptor Festival

October 5 - 7, 2018

The Bridger Raptor Festival is an annual event held in early October in and around Bozeman, Montana. The festival, which is free to the public, centers around the largest known Golden Eagle migration in the United States. Since 1991 a raptor migration count has taken place every fall at the Bridger Bowl ski area in the Gallatin National Forest just north of Bozeman. Festival activities center around raptor viewing and include nature walks and talks, educational and entertaining programs and activities for people of all ages.

Live raptors will be at this event. Some raptors can spot prey from a mile away! Therefore, dogs are not allowed at this event.

The Bridger Raptor Festival is hosted by the Sacajawea Audubon Society, Museum of the Rockies, the Bridger Bowl Foundation, Custer Gallatin National Forest, the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, Montana Outdoor Science School, Yellowstone Forever, and Yellowstone National Park.



Kick-Off Event - Amanda Rodewald, Keynote Speaker

Coffee, communities, and conservation: how your cup can make a difference

Sponsored by Yellowstone Forever

October 5, 2018 - 6:30 pm The Ellen Theatre

Amanda Rodewald is the Garvin Professor and Senior Director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. Amanda directs an interdisciplinary, international research program in ecological and sustainability sciences that seeks to identify conservation strategies that support both people and the environment.

Tropical regions are famous for being biodiversity hotspots, but they also face widespread deforestation, land degradation, and poverty. As such, there is urgent need to identify creative ways to sustain biodiversity, protect ecosystem services, and support human health and well-being. Shade-grown coffee farms are well-suited to simultaneously meet economic, social, and ecological needs. When coffee is grown under trees, farms can supply a variety of products (e.g., coffee, fruits, firewood, lumber, and medicines), while at the same time provide forest cover, support biodiversity, and reduce erosion and chemical use compared to other intensive agricultural systems. Perhaps no other group better highlights the positive role that shade-coffee can play in conservation than Neotropical Migratory Birds, which heavily use shade-coffee farms. Unfortunately, traditional shade management has given way to intensive "sun coffee" monocultures. In her talk, Dr. Rodewald will discuss how shade-coffee and other agroforestry practices can support bird conservation, healthy ecosystems, and human communities in Latin America.

Yellowstone Forever is sponsoring the keynote speaker and there will be no charge for admittance.

Oktoberfest @ Raptor Fest

Beer, food and music in the Jim Bridger Lodge from 3 to 6 pm on Saturday, October 6.

Mission Statement

The Bridger Raptor Festival: A Migration Celebration is an annual event dedicated to promoting an awareness and appreciation for the migration of raptors and other wildlife through the Northern Rockies.

The Festival seeks to:

Raise awareness and support local, national and international organizations that share in this mission.

- Connect the general public to research regarding wildlife and to promote access and interpretation to the findings of the research.
- Foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the local wildlife –while providing opportunities to for life-long learning.

Through:

Free events available to the general public, appealing to a wide range of backgrounds, ages and interests.