



MT Audubon file photo

JANET ELLIS

Receives FAS Conservation Achievement Recognition

Published below is a much abbreviated version of Janet's conservation accomplishments. The full account is available on the FAS website. Take a look. It will knock your socks off!

In October, Flathead Audubon presents our Conservation Achievement Recognition to Janet Ellis for her career-long dedication to wildlife and habitat conservation in Montana and to conservation of Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

Janet began as an intern lobbyist in 1981, working for passage of the Nongame Checkoff bill. It failed. In 1983, as Montana Audubon's new part time lobbyist, she interviewed and educated legislators, and got the bill passed. Since then over \$1 million has been contributed toward nongame management across Montana.

For over three decades Janet has successfully lobbied for conservation in the Montana Legislature. Highlights: 1991 Janet shepherded to passage the Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) law. 1993 she crafted and shepherded the bill prohibiting sale of exotic plant species, including purple loosestrife. 2001 she promoted the bill that facilitates prohibiting importation of exotic wildlife, including mute swans. Steve Hoffman, former Executive Director of Montana Audubon, explained reasons for her success: "She's patient with people who don't agree with her. She sticks to the science and works well with people on both sides of the aisle. People trust her because of that kind of integrity and knowledge."

In September 1989 Janet became Montana Audubon's first full time Helena-based staff person.

For four years she was the only staff person - lobbying, shaping public policy, developing conservation projects, supporting Montana's local Audubon chapters, developing funding, and doing all the office work. She instituted a chapter based legislative phone tree to augment her lobbying power. Flathead Audubon was a big branch. Later she replaced it with the Armchair Activist Program, which uses email instead of a phone tree.

In 1993 Montana Audubon began hiring more staff, allowing Janet to focus on research and public policy issues, while continuing as lobbyist. Her numerous conservation achievements outside the legislature address a wide range of issues. Highlights:

Early 1990's Janet worked with corporate and private landowners, state and federal agencies, and other non-profits, to develop Montana's highly respected voluntary Best Management Practices for the timber industry to protect habitat for Montana's fish and riparian species.

2002 Janet published a widely distributed illustrated pamphlet that guided Montana's stream-side land owners away from rip-rapping their banks.

2003 and 2008 Janet authored 4 publications that helped steer Montana's land-use planners toward conservation based approaches to wetland and stream regulations, providing the data for science-based stream set-back regulations around Montana.

As a member of the 2012 Governor's Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council, Janet helped craft Montana's conservation strategy for management of Sage Grouse, implemented by Governor Bullock in 2014. Janet and others also convinced the State Land Board to prohibit sod busting on DNRC lands, thus protecting over 3 million acres of Sage Grouse habitat. *continued on page 6*

OCTOBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, October 9, 2017. 7 PM Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. See page 3.

Monday, October 2, 2017. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. All welcome.

Saturday, October 7, 2017. evening. Sandhill Cranes at West Valley Wetlands. See page 6.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Ring-necked Pheasant

By Ben Long

Big. Loud. Gaudy. Such are the adjectives that describe the Ring-necked Pheasant. Popular is another. Another is "tasty."

Ring-necked Pheasants are our most ornamental game bird. Some people call them "Chinese" Pheasants, since they are native to Asia, not North America.

The first Pheasants in North America were released in Oregon in the 1880s. They've gone gangbusters since, helped along by the hunters who want to see them propagated and by farmers who change habitat to their favor. According to Cornell University, there are an estimated 50 million Ring-necked

Pheasants in the world, and about 30 percent of them are in the US.

Over the past 150 years or so, folks have tried to introduce all kinds of game birds in Flathead County. Charles Conrad, Kalispell's founder and mansion-builder, reared game birds for release.

Of these, pheasants and Hungarian Partridge are the ones that took. Northwest Montana winters are too snowy for quail. Pheasants can survive, if they have agricultural operations to mooch from.

Hunters love pheasants because they are handsome, toothsome, and challenging to hunt. Pheasants are well adapted to farmlands. Before modern agriculture plowed under the valleys of northwestern Montana, the largest gallinaceous (chicken-like bird) was the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. Those birds disappeared as native grasslands disappeared.

Pheasants, however, thrive in ditches, cattails, fence lines and riverside thickets. They do particularly well when farmers have an incentive to leave some lands fallow. Hard winters knock their numbers back, but they are prolific breeders and tend to rebound. They are not averse to venturing into town to scratch up sunflower seeds that the chickadees spill or pecking grain spilled in the horse pen or seeds in hay.

If you cannot identify a male Ring-necked

Pheasant, you should probably consider a hobby besides birding. Pheasants are the size of a small chicken. Males are flamboyant, with barred tail feathers as long as their body. They have a green head with red cheek patches and bright yellow eyes. Their bodies are bronze, and they have their namesake white neck ring.



Females are about the same size as the males, but are dressed in camouflage to hide while on the nest, which they scrape out on the ground. Hens' tails are shorter than their male counterparts, but still are long. Females may be mistaken for Sharp-tailed Grouse, but that is irrelevant in western Montana,

as that grouse species is basically extinct here.

Pheasant hunting is big doings in Montana and much of the Midwest. Popular places to hunt pheasants locally include the Mission Valley, where protected habitat like Ninepipes National Wildlife Refuge is intermingled with agricultural lands. In the Flathead Valley, hunting pheasant generally depends upon knowing amenable landowners for access.



Non-hunters can enjoy the spectacle of pheasant behavior in the rural agricultural lands of the valley. In spring, you can hear them crowing their mating call. Strutting roosters shine against the vivid green of young winter wheat, like copper buttons on a velvet coat. In the winter, you can see them clustered in hawthorn thickets and cattail swamps, adding a splash of color to the monochrome months of late winter.

Pheasants eat grain, wild fruits and grasses in the winter and small green forbs and insects when they are in season. In turn, pheasants are eaten by a wide variety of predators, including humans with 12-bores. Eggs and young are sniffed out by coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, bobcats and feral housecats. Life is tough in the pheasant's position of the food chain.

continued on page 6

October Program

Montana Audubon at Work

presented by
Janet Ellis

Join Montana Audubon's Senior Director of Public Policy, Janet Ellis, on Monday, October 9 at 7 PM at the United Way Conference Room, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. Janet will talk about four issues that Montana's Audubon's policy program is working on: the Montana Legislature—upcoming issues and hot topics; the state's sage-grouse conservation program; wind farms, siting and birds—assessing the impacts; and an update on the proposal by the Lake County Conservation District to have the state of Montana take over management of 60,000 acres of the Flathead National Forest. Four stories, each told in 10 minutes. Questions will be welcome! The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.flatheadaudubon.org.

Janet Ellis has coordinated Montana Audubon's public policy and legislative work on behalf of Montana's wildlife and wildlife habitat since 1983. She became Montana Audubon's first staff person when its office opened in 1989. Janet has received several awards for her work, including "Conservationist of the Year" from the Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Wildlife Federation, and Montana Audubon; a 2016 "Lifetime Award for Conservation and Clean Energy Achievement" from the National Wildlife Federation; and a "Special Achievement Award" from the Montana Native Plant Society.

She holds a degree in biology from the University of Montana. In 2014, Janet began a new adventure by running for elected office: she now serves in the Montana Legislature as a Representative of HD 81 during legislative sessions.



MT Audubon file photo

Janet Ellis at Kevin Rim

2017 OSNA Work Day

The long-awaited 2017 annual workday for the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area is scheduled for Saturday, 30 September. We'll gather at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive at 0900 ... doors open at 0830. We'll carpool to OSNA from Montessori and should be done by noon or so.



Gearpatrol.com

There are a few of the usual projects that need to be tackled – some trails cleared and mowed, some old fencing removed, and, of course, as

always weeds to be addressed. Many hands make light work, so please come with work gloves and wearing old clothes appropriate for the weather.

This should be a fun and quick day as well as sprucing up OSNA. If you have any questions or suggestions or need directions, please contact Bob Lee at 270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net or Linda Winnie at 253-7430 or lindawin@centurytel.net.





Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

The Secret of Life?

I guess "contrarian" is my nature. When faced with the obvious, I often do a mental about-face and consider the view from the opposite direction. When something specific happens to me, I sometimes pull back and view the experience through a wide-angle lens – how does this relate to everything else in the universe as we know it?

When I was a kid, in the woods on an Indian summer day, I literally stumbled onto the secret of life, or at least one of them. I landed on my face. Lucky for me, it was a soft landing. My nose was buried in a mound of rich-smelling fern moss, and beneath the moss was reddish, spongy wood – what remained of an ancient pine. If I hadn't been a few centimeters away, I wouldn't have noticed. The rancid wood was more alive than it was when it was -- well, alive. Webs of fungus rootlets enmeshed the remaining wood in a multi-dimensional tapestry. Sowbugs, centipedes, and beetles scurried for cover, their universe blown apart by a bumbling giant. Scarlet mites were frozen in shock. Kelly green fungus stained the wood at older cracks. There was in front of me an entire city, with crowded streets and tenements. I could almost hear the horns honking.

I was looking, of course, at death. The tree was far past "decadent" in silvicultural jargon. A "waste" in myopic jargon. But, face-down in the evidence, I felt my viewpoint doing another one-eighty. The secret of life? Maybe *death* ...

The extent to which this is true surprised me. Up to twenty thousand *species* of plants, animals and microbes can live in one dead log. One third of all forest animal species call decadent trees home. Woodpeckers, Kestrels, Chickadees and flying squirrels nest there. Owls use the woodpecker holes, and eat red-backed voles, who eat fungus and spread spores for new fungus. Fungal mycorrhizae (rootlets) live in mutualism with the roots of all coniferous trees, allowing them to gather nutrients and extra water. No fungus, no forest. And where does soil, to host new trees, come from? Death, that's where. It doesn't take much of a logic extension to realize

that there would be no "live" anything without the death of everything before. We eat, wear, live in, sleep on and drive around in death every day. It is literally impossible to untangle and isolate death from life, and that is precisely why the world works so well. Not that we don't try. To many humans in the neo-European world, death is a personal and tribal loss and not a natural and global gain. Grab a bit of wrinkle cream, some hair dye, do a nip and tuck here and there, eat, drink and be merry – for tomorrow ... well, you know.

Along with taxes, death is actually one of the absolutes. There's mounting evidence that it will happen. But when the wide-angle lens looks at "things" like life and death, or you and I, there are processes and relationships connecting everything to everything. We "divide" in order to control and conquer, but the divisions are intellectual, denial-based illusions. The connections, it seems, are best seen and felt with the "heart" in us. Humility lies in the humus. A flea can attempt to steer a dog, but it only succeeds in making it itch a little. So it is with our attempts to control our planet.

We can lock our bodies in concrete vaults, see this year's fires as an enemy, eliminate predators – but at our peril. Death, as distasteful as it is, fuels life, a yin and yang relationship that models most relationships. In the middle of death is always renewal, and humming, vibrating life.

As an increasingly crotchety old contrarian, how will I face my own demise someday? I don't know, exactly. But I don't change the subject any more. See, I was out in the woods one fall, and I fell onto this log ...

If I should die before I wake,
All my bone and sinew take,
And put me in the compost pile,
To decompose me for a while.
Worms, water, sun will have their way,
Returning me to common clay.
All that I am will feed the trees,
And little fishies in the seas,
So, when radishes and corn you munch,
You may be having *me* for lunch,
And then excrete me with a grin,
Chuckling, "There he goes again."

-Lee Hayes



Good News from the Western Front!

The Flathead Land Trust has met its goal in raising 100% of the required \$150,000 non-federal match of the \$1.4 million project that will permanently protect the West Valley Pond site. The Pond and surrounding farmland provide rich habitat for a very large variety of birds and other wildlife that we all love to watch and photograph. Moreover, the sandhill cranes who stage there preparing for fall migration are favorites of birders of all ages. Flathead Audubon pledged \$10,000 to the project and, with an important matching pledge from an anonymous donor, our \$10,000 has become a grant of \$15,000 to Flathead Land Trust!

In addition to the landmark financial goal being met, on September 5 the county Board of Adjust-

ment officially declined to allow two 325-foot lighted radio towers to be erected in a West Valley location very near the West Valley Ponds site. Several Flathead Audubon members presented scientific information that showed dangers to birds from such towers. Because of the official decision, the birds of West Valley can continue to fly and migrate free from these hazards.

Flathead Audubon members and our chapter as a whole have shown major support for the West Valley Ponds

project. Right now is a prime time to see sometimes hundreds of sandhills. Why not take a ride out to West Valley and enjoy some tremendous birding?

By Kay Mitchell



Dick Walker

2017 BIRDATHON

On June 3, Flathead Audubon members participated in their fifth fundraising BIRDATHON, with two teams attempting to identify as many bird species as possible on a single day. Participants pursued pledges for one of the teams by phone and in person. Thanks to the generosity of Flathead Audubon members, friends and family, the 2017 BIRDATHON raised over \$3,661.

June 3rd began before sunrise for anxious birders and developed into the most productive day for the competing BIRDATHON teams since its inception. Both teams topped their previous records with the Tannehill Tanagers racking up **171** species, and John's Jays identified **191**. The winning tally is now Tanagers 3 and Jays 2, after this year's second consecutive win for the Jays.

Members of each team searched from east of the Rocky Mountain Front and Glacier National Park to the Bison Range

and Ninepipes Wildlife Management Area, along with the Eureka valley, Smith Lake and local birding hot spots for riparian, alpine, plains and city species. The high counts on each team were due to diligence, good weather and searching further afield. Both teams met at the end of the day, excitedly exchanging stories.

But the day was about more than having a good time. It was about raising money to continue Flathead Audubon's commitment to conservation education in the valley as well as help pay the lease and expenses associated with the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

We owe a special thanks to our feathered friends for allowing us to see and hear them on June 3. Another special thanks to all participants and donors for a memorable day in the great outdoors and for supporting Flathead Audubon's conservation goals.

by Bruce Tannehill



Fws.org



Audubon.org

FLATHEAD AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY IS A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

- ⇒ OUR MISSION IS TO CONSERVE BIRDS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY.
- ⇒ WE PROMOTE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.
- ⇒ WE WORK WITH DIVERSE GROUPS AND AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE SOUND DECISIONS ON NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.
- ⇒ WHILE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS IN NORTHWEST MONTANA, WE BELIEVE IN THE PROTECTION OF THE EARTH AND ALL OF ITS INHABITANTS.



FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All Flathead Audubon field trips are free and open to the public and are geared for all ages and levels of field experience. They are led by area biologists, retired professionals, and some of the best birders in the region. For all Field Trips, dress for the weather, bring binoculars or spotting scope if you have them, wear sturdy footwear, and drive and pull off the road safely. All drivers must have their own vehicle insurance. For more information, contact Kathy Ross at 837-3837 or Cory Davis at 257-3166, or the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" is available at the Flathead Audubon general meetings and on www.FlatheadAudubon.org.



SANDHILL CRANES AT WEST VALLEY WETLANDS, Saturday evening October 7. Enjoy an evening gathering with the Flathead Land Trust and a large contingent of Sandhill Cranes. The cranes will be congregating in the West Valley and we'll join them. For more details contact Laura Katzman (lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org, 406-752-8293).

See the FAS website for a report (with pictures) on the August 19 field trip to the island portions of OSNA led by Jeanette Oliver.

Janet Ellis, continued from page 1

Recent work on wind farms. Janet is widely recognized as a pioneer in this area. She has served on technical advisory committees (TAC) to several Montana wind farm projects, and successfully negotiated with a wind energy company to move its turbines back from the Kevin Rim, one of the highest density raptor nesting areas in this country. She has raised public and agency awareness of the potential impacts of wind development on both birds and bats.

Over several decades, Janet worked for protection of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Only because of Janet's tough negotiating was Audubon able to obtain its first 10-year license for OSNA in 2000. A new management plan was then required, and Janet was its primary author. She coordinated a partnership between Flathead Audubon and Montana

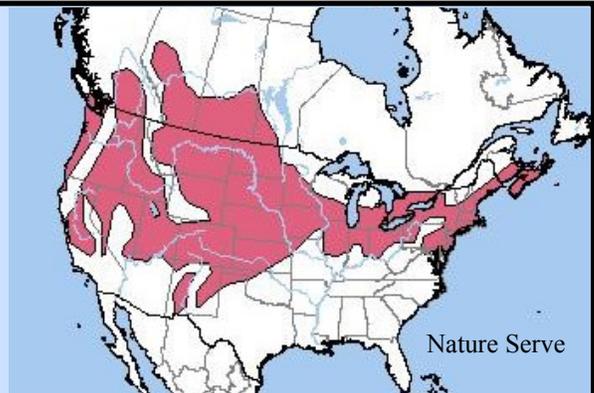
Audubon to pay for the license and manage the Area. In 2010 she secured our second 10-year license. Janet actively participates in OSNA management decisions, sometimes attends our Owen Sowerwine Committee meetings - often by phone, serves as liaison between Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon's Board of Directors on OSNA issues, and frequently provides much appreciated advice.

We are honored to recognize Janet Ellis for her lifelong dedication to wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation, her efforts to improve government regulations and policies with respect to development and associated impacts to wildlife, her use of science to inform and influence governmental action and public understanding, and her genuine willingness to work with all of Montana's Audubon members and Chapters.
by Gael Bissell and Linda Winnie

Ring-necked Pheasant, continued from page 2

To make up for these losses, females lay big clutches of 12 or even more eggs and sometimes two clutches per season.

Ecologically speaking, Ring-necked Pheasants do not play a particularly important role in the natural web of life in northwest Montana. Ring-necked Pheasants will never be a candidate for the Endangered Species List, or even a Species of Special Concern. They exist at human whim. Soundly established, they will likely remain here as long as we do.



Richard Aley Memorial

Richard Aley, long-time member and supporter of Flathead Audubon, passed away September 2, 2017. Dick and his wife Mary joined Flathead Audubon in the late 1990s, shortly after Dick retired and they moved to Whitefish. Dick and Mary were familiar faces at our Flathead Audubon monthly meetings, and at our year-end potluck meetings. Dick's warm friendliness and his wry sense of humor were enjoyed by all. We will miss him.

Education Committee News

Hello from the Flathead Audubon education committee. Our 2017-18 members include Joe Batts, Linda de Kort, Amy Jacobs, Bob Lopp, Doug Mac-Carter, Kathy Ross, Rod Walette, and Gail Shay Linne, chair.

In August our committee and President Kay Mitchell, reviewed, revised and agreed to the contents of the 2017-18 independent contractors' contract. The document was submitted to and approved by the FAS Board of Directors, and signed by Denny Olson, Kay Mitchell and Gail Linne. The contract spans the FAS's fiscal year.

On behalf of the education committee, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Denny Olson back as the independent contractor for Flathead Audubon. Denny is highly regarded as a bird educator and as a dedicated Audubon member. To learn more about the responsibilities and well-developed activities Denny will lead, please follow the link on the Flathead Audubon website to the 2017-18 independent con-

tractors' contract.

The education committee will meet again in December to review education programs, in March, 2018 for assessment, and finally in May, 2018 to plan next year's education programs.

Birding is a wonderful way to explore the natural world. My Dad, who was a lifelong Audubon birder, introduced bird-watching to me at a young age. I've shared my love of birding with my students, my children and now with my grandchildren.

Along the lines of bringing the natural world to young people, I will include an agenda topic for our December committee meeting to discuss possible outreach programs for children and youth as an extension of our current educational programs. Please feel free to e-mail (gslinne@centurytel.net) or call me (406-871-4881) with suggestions about this idea.

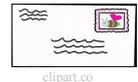
Happy Birding!

by Gail Shay Linne, Education Chair

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew your membership in Flathead Audubon as soon as possible. For those who don't renew by October 18, this will be the last issue of the Pileated Post they will receive. Don't miss an issue of our very interesting newsletter! The FAS Board proposed and the membership voted last May to raise the membership dues a bit to cover increased expenses. The dues now are \$25 for a basic membership and \$40 for a supporting membership. This year we really need support for our excellent education program. We are the only organization in the Flathead Valley which offers free environmental education.

For those who join or renew memberships in National Audubon, note that they no longer will accept checks at the New York address. You must either use the envelope sent to you when requesting you to renew or to use the internet at <http://www.audubon.org/renew>.



When you renew your Flathead Audubon membership please include your email address. We would like to compile a list of members email addresses so we can send occasional notifications of events or important news.

By Mike Fanning

GO FOR THE ELECTRONIC POST!

Get the Pileated Post by email rather than snail mail! It saves trees and money that FAS can use to support our local projects. When you fill out the FAS Membership Form just leave the check box for "paper copy" empty; be sure to put your email address on the form. Or contact Linda Winnie directly to let us know you want email delivery: lindawin@centurytel.net

CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

Highlights from September 5, 2017 Board Meeting

- ◆ Learned that the June Birdathon netted us more than we had earlier expected
- ◆ Appointed 4 committee chairs as 1-year directors
- ◆ Received a resignation from the Board from Paula Smith
- ◆ Named Jan Metzmaker as Publicity Chair
- ◆ Heard a list of programs for the new program year and suggested additional possibilities
- ◆ Learned that Hawk Watch observers are logging many more birds than at same time last year
- ◆ Discussed Owen Sowerwine Work Day (September 30)
- ◆ Studied FAS budget and asset information

Birds of Prey Festival a Big Success

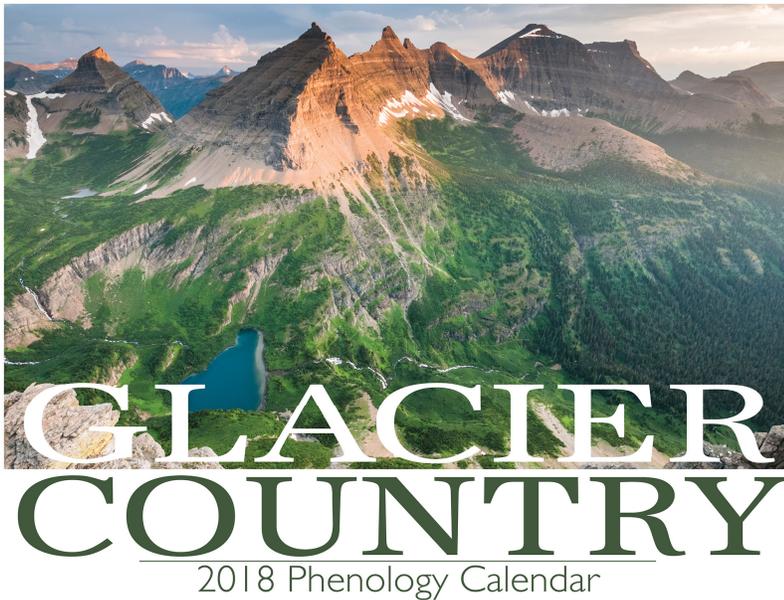


FAS's 11th annual Birds of Prey Festival held on September 16 at Lone Pine State Park in partnership with Lone Pine State Park saw record attendance. Denny Olson, FAS Conservation Educator, said "Over 490 participants came through the door, and those who just stayed outdoors were not counted. I think we are talking 550 total! BIG thanks to all of you who chipped in on FAS's part!"



Aaric Bryan, The Daily Interlake

2018 FAS CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE!



ble Conservation Educator, Dennis Olson, has been busy filling every square.... 365 squares to be exact, chock full of natural history. In this calendar, you'll find out when elk begin to round up their harems and what a "frog-cicle" is. In addition to the wonderful daily information, each month highlights some of the unique animals (and a bonus ecosystem) found on both sides of the "Crown of the Continent." While the calendar for 2016 focused on the high alpine areas, the monthly features on this calendar focus on the flora and fauna on and in the slopes, forests, and meadows that extend from the rocky high places of Glacier National Park. We specifically chose beautiful and interesting photos that told a story and Dennis tells these stories below each photo.

After a one year hiatus, Flathead Audubon is back with a new phenology calendar for 2018. What is "phenology"? It's the study of annual events and this calendar has more events than ever! Our knowledgeable

These calendars are a perfect addition to your wall and make great gifts for friends and family. Pick them up at Flathead Audubon events and online at the Flathead Audubon website.

by Jake Bramante

Lead Bullets and Wildlife

Big game hunting season is coming up and for those of you who are hunters, consider switching to non-lead bullets if you haven't already. Why? Lead bullets, even copper jacketed bullets fragment on impact and leave large and small fragments throughout the carcass. Avian and mammalian scavengers feed on the carcasses and ingest the lead fragments re-

sulting in elevated lead levels and several die each year from acute lead poisoning. Non-lead bullets are available and work as well or better. Ask me about my personal experience with non-lead bullets. For more details on the subject please see the article in the October 2016 Pileated Post available on the FAS website. *by Lewis Young, Conservation Chair*



Found near Hamilton MT, 2014, this Bald Eagle died from lead poisoning. It exhibited clinical signs of lead poisoning such as head and wing droop, muscle tremors, and anorexia. Photo courtesy Brooke Tanner, Wild Skies Raptor Center.

Conservation Workshop: Managing Salt Cedar and Russian Olive along Montana Waterways:

- **Conference Date: Oct. 25 - 26** (Meeting will take place from 1-5 on Wednesday and 8-noon on Thursday).
- **Conference Location: Great Falls (Montana Electric Co-op Building).**
- **Purpose: A forum to engage scientists, resource managers, conservation groups and other stakeholders in exploring strategies to eliminate salt cedar and Russian olive from Montana waterways.**
- **Objectives:**
 - ◇ Explore strategies, identify resources and agree on cooperative actions to eradicate salt cedar and Russian olive from Montana riparian areas.
 - ◇ Learn more about field practices: successes and "lessons learned" from current efforts to manage salt cedar and Russian olive along Montana waterways.
 - ◇ Develop strategies that increase public understanding and concern about Russian olive and salt cedar impacts in riparian habitats.
 - ◇ Encourage networking, knowledge-sharing and cooperative action among conference participants.

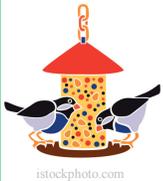
For more info contact Janet Ellis jellis@mtaudubon.org, 406-443-3949.

Bird Feeders and Bears

Bird feeders are often a strong attractant to bears especially in the fall when they are trying to fatten up before entering their dens. Please consider not feeding birds until the bears have entered dens which usually happens by the end of November.

Other attractants also create conflicts with bears also. Montana FWP Bear and Lion Specialist Erik Wenum says "We are urging people to step up

their efforts in getting attractants secured; lock up the garbage, put the pet foods inside and pick the fruit. It's unfortunate when we have to kill a bear. It's not something we enjoy doing, but when a bear is fed human foods that is typically the outcome. If residents take responsibility and clean up all attractants, we will have fewer problems and fewer bears will need to be killed." You may contact Erik Wenum at 756-1776 or 250-0062.



SPECIAL GIFTS

I wish to help make Flathead Audubon's vision a reality. Here is my contribution to the continued success of our chapter.



- Eagle Donation, \$1000+
- Osprey Donation, \$500+
- Snowy Owl Donation, \$250+
- Merlin Donation, \$100+
- Kestrel Donation, \$50+
- My Own Vision, amount of my choice

The FAS activity which most interests me is:

- Education Programs
- Owen Sowerwine Natural Area
- Scholarships and Grants
- Field Trips and Outdoor Events

I want my gift to recognize another:

In memory of _____
In honor of _____

Please send a notification of this gift to:

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Please do not acknowledge my gift in the Pileated Post

Please make checks payable to:



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Did you know? Most small songbirds have between 1,500 and 3,000 feathers on their bodies. A swan, however, might have as many as 25,000 feathers. A bird of prey, such as the eagle, would have between 5,000 and 8,000 feathers.

Be sure to check the Flathead Audubon website for late breaking FAS news and announcements.



OCTOBER 2017



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The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with Montana Audubon and the National Audubon Society. Flathead Audubon meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meetings start at 7 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN, in Kalispell. Both meetings are open to all.

THE PILEATED POST is published September through May and is sent to members of Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070. To receive this newsletter electronically, email your request to: lindawin@centurytel.net. Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: lindawin@centurytel.net

Website: www.FlatheadAudubon.org

Conservation Educator - Denny Olson: auduboneducator@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

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Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406
Education	Gail Linne	871-4881		John Hughes	261-2506
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	837-3837		Lewis Young	889-3492
	Cory Davis	257-3166	Nominations	Bob Lee	270-0371
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070	Program	Bob Lee	270-0371
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678	Publicity	Jan Metzmaker	837-0181
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
	Cory Davis	257-3166	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070	Website	Jake Bramante	250-8394
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MONTANA AUDUBON

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 Executive Director: Larry Berrin lberrin@mtaudubon.org
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