



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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JANUARY 2006



FROM THE BIG WIDE WORLD OF AUDUBON



Ivyland, PA, November 11, 2005 -

From December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006, National Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place throughout the Americas. During the 106th CBC, approximately 55,000 volunteers of all skill levels are expected to take part in this census of birds. "Having fun while birding can identify important results that help shape the direction of bird conservation," says Geoff LeBaron, National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count director. "Audubon and our partners at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Boreal Species Initiative are analyzing data from the overall CBC database, using the results they find to develop Audubon's 'State of the Birds' report. These important results will be reflected in 2006 in our 'State of the Birds' waterbirds report, and inform the Audubon WatchList, which is used to prioritize Audubon's bird conservation activities."

Count results from 1900 to present are available through Audubon's website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc <<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>>. Included in those results is the last report of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the CBC database - two birds that were seen in the Singer Tract in Louisiana during the 38th CBC in 1937. Other sightings were reported earlier in the 1930s.

CBC compilers enter their count data via Audubon's website at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc or through Bird Studies Canada's homepage at www.bsc-eoc.org where the 106th Count results will be viewable in near real-time.

Klamath Falls, OR, December 16, 2005 -

The 2006 Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival, which coincides with the presence of wintering waterfowl and eagles, will be February 16-19, 2006. The Festival's purpose is to share information, increase awareness of community resources, and gain understanding of the area's wildlife resources, especially birds of the Klamath Basin.

The Festival, formerly known as the Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference, is supported by a number of organizations, including the Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS,) which originated the conference in 1979.

Festival participants may take guided tours with local birding experts. There will be trips to Crater Lake National Park for snowshoeing; Klamath National Wildlife Refuges for birding; and Lava Beds National Monument for caving and rock art.

Dave Eshbaugh, executive director of Audubon Oregon, will lead presentations and workshops about birding and Klamath Basin birds, the 2006 Great Backyard Bird Count and IBAs in the Klamath Basin.

For more information about the Winter Wings Festival, go to <http://www.winterwingsfest.org/>

JANUARY

FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, January 9, 2006: Flathead Audubon General Meeting begins at 7PM at The Summit, conference room #3. Program by Denver Holt.

Sunday, January 1, 2006: Happy New Year! Kalispell Christmas Bird Count begins at 7:30 AM at Finnegan's in Kalispell

Monday, January 2, 2006: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting, 6PM at 295 3rd Ave. East North, Kalispell.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

SNOWFLAKE BIRDS

This month's feature bird visits the Flathead in winter, seeking relief from the harsh weather of its breeding grounds in the tundra and has the distinction of being the only winter songbird in our area that is mostly white.

A circumpolar bird, the sparrow-sized Snow Bunting breeds farther north than almost any other land bird, and its appearance in our part of the world heralds the approach of winter. Look for small flocks of these white beauties in open fields and along shorelines, where they feed mainly on seeds by walking or running along the ground. According to Radd Icenoggle in his book Birds in Place, the winter flocks roost together on the ground in tight, huddled masses, sometimes burrowing into the snow for insulation; they are often seen "bathing" in the snow.



While visiting the Flathead, Snow Buntings are most easily identified in flight by their large white wing patches. The wintering male is white overall with a buff, streaked back, a white rump patch, black wing tips and a yellowish-orange bill. The female is similar, except that she is more brownish and lacks the rump patch. The wintering flocks are alive with buzzy calls and whistled "tew" notes.

Cornell Labs' Online Bird Guide says that the male Snow Buntings return to their Arctic breeding grounds in early April when the temperatures can still dip to - 20° F and snow still covers most of the ground. Soon after their arrival, the males set up and defend territories that include good nesting sites. However, they will still flock together to forage and usually roost in loose groups of 30 to 80 birds. The females do not return until four to six weeks later.

In breeding plumage, male Snow Buntings are almost pure white except for their black back, central tail and primary wing feathers. After the arrival of the females, the Snow Buntings place their nest deep in cracks or other cavities in rocks. These secluded sites are chosen to avoid predators such as Arctic Foxes and Snowy Owls, and, although they are relatively safe from predators, the rocks are extremely cold. For this reason, the open cup-like nests are lined with a thick layer of fur, lichen and feathers to help keep the eggs and nestlings warm. Also, the female must remain on the nest for most of the incubation period and the male feeds her during this time. The 2-7 eggs are creamy white with various brown spots and scrawls. Incubation takes 10-16 days and newly hatched babies are helpless, with long, gray-brown down. Both parents share the responsibility of feeding the babies for the 10 to 17 days until they fledge.

Although breeding and non-breeding males look quite different, the Snow Bunting has only one molt per year and no true "alternate plumage." After the molt, which occurs in late summer, the male looks brownish with a brown and black striped back. Underneath the colored feather tips, the dark feathers are pure black and the body feathers are all white. The male wears off all the feather tips by actively rubbing them on the snow until he is immaculate white and jet black by the time the next breeding season arrives.

In 2005, the area Christmas Bird Counts recorded 2 Snow Buntings in Bigfork, 35 in Kalispell and 200 in Eureka, so keep your eyes peeled for these interesting visitors as you drive around the valley this winter. The farm lands in Lower Valley and West Valley are among my favorite places to search for these rather tiny birds. Although they're somewhat hard to spot while on the snow-covered ground, watching a sizable flock swirling over a field in winter can be a spectacular sight. Snow Buntings and the chance to see them are one of the reasons that the Flathead Valley is such a great place to live!

By Jeannie Marcure



Tom Ulrich
photo

* The Bird of the Month articles, which appear regu- *
* larly in your Pileated Post, have been accepted by Scott *
* Crandell, news editor of the Daily InterLake, and will appear *
* in the Outdoor section of the newspaper. Watch the Inter- *
* Lake for articles with a Flathead Audubon Society byline. *
* Thank you to Karen Nichols for making this happen! *
* *****



January 2006 Program



ADAPTATIONS IN OWLS

With Denver Holt

Why is it often difficult to find members of the most widely recognized and distributed group of birds in the world? Renowned raptor researcher Denver Holt will discuss ADAPTATIONS IN OWLS, which enable them to avoid easy detection, at our January 9 program.

Owls have existed for millions of years. Today, there are more than 200 species worldwide. Yet little is still known about owls because of their secretiveness. Holt will explain how good hiding places, plumage colors and patterns, and certain behaviors combine to camouflage owls. Nevertheless, by knowing breeding seasons and recognizing vocalizations, you can identify likely breeding areas and locate owls yourself. Holt will mimic many of the vocalizations of owl species that breed in the U.S. and Canada. His talent for mimicry is also recorded on the CD "Hoots Toots Calls Clacks Hisses."

Holt is the founder (1988) and President of the Owl Research Institute and the Ninepipes Center for Wildlife Research and Education Center in Charlo. The research and educational activities of the non-profit organization and relationships with other scientific organizations are reported in its periodical THE ROOST. Long-range field studies of raptors and the small mammals upon which they prey are emphasized. Mr. Holt's work is supported by research grants from foundations and private donations. Documentaries about the Institute's work on snowy owls will soon be televised in Canada, Japan and Norway. The Institute also offers natural history tours to help support its research.

Since graduating from the University of Montana in 1982, Holt's research has been recognized by others, such as, the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, which named him the Montana Wildlife Biologist of the Year in 2000. He has authored and co-authored numerous articles for scientific publications, as well as a children's science book, OWLS: WHOO ARE THEY?



A GENUINE FLATHEAD AUDUBON PRECYCLING IDEA

What if you could start the new year with one action that would help the planet, boost Flathead Audubon's treasury, and keep your house tidy throughout the year? You can! It won't cost you a dime and you don't even have to leave your house. Send your email address to lindawin@centurytel.net and say "Yes! Send me the Pileated Post by email instead of paper." It's nice to recycle your old newsletters, but it's even better to do without the paper at all. Do it today, and check one resolution off your new year's



NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Put Flathead Audubon right at the top of your New Year's resolution list. Resolve to bring all of your recyclables to the Recycling Wagon this year. We just love to be "dumped on!"

The December recycling run rolled in at 622 pounds. That's impressive, but even more exciting is that it put us past the two ton mark just since September, and past our total for **all** of last Audubon year! Did you have a part in this feat? Good going, recyclers! And a special Mitchell thank you for having your items all contained in bags and boxes last time. It sure made packing the trailer easier!

Recycling plastics can be confusing, so some people just opt for the garbage can. But there are more reasons to recycle plastics than almost any other items. Plastic is made of petroleum and takes petroleum to make. When put in a landfill, it does two bad things: it takes almost forever to break down (some reports estimate 199 years!) and items made of plastic (jugs, bottles, etc.) are usually bulky and take up lots of landfill space. The good feature about

plastic is that it can be shredded and melted to reproduce plastic, which can be used again. So here are some guidelines for recycling home plastics:

1. Turn the container over; find a number in a triangle. We can recycle all #1 plastics.
2. If the plastic is #2, it needs to be translucent (clear but hazy) to be recyclable.
3. Exception: the new #2 white milk jugs **are** recyclable.
4. No other #2 plastics are recyclable right now. This includes vitamin bottles, colored plastics, #3 or higher, and unmarked containers.
5. Exception: unmarked water and juice bottles **are** recyclable. (Confused yet?)
6. Remove the lids from bottles.
7. It's OK to smash, squish, or mash containers to save space (and vent frustration over all of the exceptions).



If you aren't sure about a particular item, bring it anyway and we'll figure it out!

FROM THE BOARD: LINDA WINNIE
FAS BOARD MEMBER, NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR



The Tale of the Tip-up Bird

This summer a small black and white seabird paid me a surprise visit. I was swabbing the deck of our sailboat, tied to a dock at the north end of Vancouver Island, when I heard a “plop” and looked up to see the little bird swimming nearby. I must have startled it, because suddenly it up-ended and dove under the water.

“A tip-up bird,” I heard a voice say, and looked over to see Jim, one of our sailor neighbors, with a big smile on his face.

We watched quietly as the bird surfaced again, then dove several times more—probably gathering crustaceans, which it eats underwater.

“We call it a tip-up bird because it does that whenever we are moving toward it in our boat,” Jim explained. “We see lots of them, but never can get near for a good look because they just ‘tip-up’ and disappear.” He was grinning with obvious delight at being able to see it up close here at dock.

Jim was getting such enjoyment from just watching this bird that I refrained from adding my birder’s take on it: the bird’s “official name” is Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), it is a juvenile, and it is alone because its parents left it before it even got out of the nest. Nor did I launch into the tale of this species’ unusual and interesting life-history (I’d recently read a good book on the subject), or explain to him why populations of this species are fast disappearing. He clearly was not a birder, and I could imagine his eyes glazing over even before I finished the “official name” part of my account.

But you, dear reader, are a member of Flathead Audubon, so I thought you might be interested in hearing something of the Marbled Murrelet’s Tale.

The Marbled Murrelet is one of the smaller members of the Alcid or Auk family. Like all Auks, it lives on the ocean, and only comes to land to nest. Auks “fly” underwater with their wings to chase prey or gather food, like a penguin. Their wings are not as efficient in the air. They do not fly long distances and must flap their wings very rapidly to go more than a few yards. When Auks perceive danger approaching on the water, they are more likely to dive to escape than to fly.

A Marbled Murrelet is bit smaller than an American Robin. In summer, an adult has mottled brown plumage. The colors and extent of marbling varies considerably with the individual, ranging from a uniform dark brown look in some birds, to quite pale browns and extensive white spotting in others. Pairs of Marbleds often differ significantly in their plumage.

In the winter, these same birds wear a starker coat of just black and white—with white under parts, and mostly black with some white markings on the upper body, wings and head. Juvenile plumage is similar to the adult winter garb, augmented with a bit of dusky brown barring on the breast and flanks. That is how I knew that Jim and I were watching a juvenile.

A Marbled typically floats with its head up-tilted, its tiny pointed beak pointed above the horizon, and its tail cocked nearly vertical—so has a slightly haughty look. Since it uses its wings rather than its feet to swim, a Marbled starts a dive by throwing its feet up into the air and plunging its forward body and stretched back wings down into the water, which puts its wings in position to take it even farther under. Hence Jim’s frequent observation of the Marbleds’ “tip-up” escapes.

Marbled Murrelets live exclusively in the near-shore protected waters of the Pacific Coast of North America, from northern Alaska to southern California. Though familiar to residents and explorers of that coast, the Marbled Murrelet has been a mystery bird to ornithologists (and others) for many years. Many seabirds and most Auks are black, gray and white even in the summer—white underneath, with black-gray-white patterns above. This coloration provides good camouflage at sea. Why is the Marbled mottled brown in the summer? When they go to land to nest, many seabirds and most auks choose isolated islands or rock ledges to protect their eggs and nestlings from predators, and many nest in large groups for further protection. But Marbled Murrelets are never found nesting in such locations. During the nesting season they are seen at sea gathering food, and then they just fly off toward land with it. Where are they going?

Tip-up Bird, continued on page 7.....

BROTHER, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!!

What about our feathered friends? How can we make this cold winter easier for them to survive? Watch the birds that come to your feeder. What time do they arrive in the morning and the afternoon? Are they all fluffed out? Are they aggressively competing for space at your feeder? Do any of them look sick or inactive?

Birds in many ways are just like us. They need food, water and shelter. What is the environment of your feeder area? Since I live in a suburban area, the feeder is my window on the avian world. Especially on weekends I get to watch the interaction of many birds at the feeder, the water bath and the close trees and shrubs that provide protection.

About 9:30 a.m. the first birds appear. The Flickers head for the suet, then one of the three feeders, the medium sunflower seeds. Yesterday, two pair of Flickers, two Blue Jays and six Magpies jockeyed for position. Size of bird is a factor in dominance, so the Magpie, being larger, has dominance and the Flickers and Blue Jays just eye each other making sure they do not get within reach of the Magpies or each other.

Two to three pair of Chickadees flit back and forth from the Blue Spruce and the mixed feeder or the sunflower feeder. They are used to me and just complain if I am in the way when I fill feeders or clean the water bath. They take a seed, fly to the Spruce to eat or tuck it away, then back to the feeder. This goes on for about an hour morning and afternoon.

After the BIG birds are through, the House Finches, Pine Siskins and Gold Finches come in to feed and squabble for position. I am sure they have more fun arguing about position than eating. Male House Finches, then female House Finches, then Pine Siskins move around between mixed feed, sunflower and thistle seeds. The Gold Finches head right for the thistle seeds. They have as striking a winter wardrobe as summer!

Below the feeder is the space for the ground feeders. Dark Eyed Juncos, what I grew up calling "Oregon Juncos," clean up some of the spilled feed. A beautiful male Ring Necked Pheasant comes every day to prance around the yard. Sometimes he brings the female but not very often. One year a covey of Quail "lived" under our balcony by the bird feeder. They would "explode" every time I stepped out on the balcony to load the feeders.

The most important addition to the feeder is the water bath. It is heated so it does not freeze over. Bathing is not so important, but constantly having open water is very important. Birds of all sizes stop for a drink. I clean the water bath weekly and check that it is full every other day. Heated baths are not cheap but last a long time.

Suet provides the "instant" energy that many birds need. There are two hanging ones and one attached to the feeder. Cenex has a good price on cases of suet. Those feeders provided the most entertainment, especially with the larger birds - the contorted positions they get into just to get a bite or two of fat!!

Just as we dress warmly with layers of clothing, take a thermos of coffee or tea, and pay attention to the weather, our feathered friends must do that to stay healthy and safe. Anything we can provide to make their lives better and safer will be repaid ten fold by the opportunity to study birds up close, while we are warm inside and they are outside in the cold!! Ten degrees below is just as cold to them as it is to us! Let's help them survive for another season!

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Thanks to all who joined the Flathead Audubon Society during our renewal period. We have 158 FAS members; 76 of these are members of both FAS and National Audubon. Currently, 312 members of National Audubon chose (or were assigned by virtue of their home address) our chapter as their local chapter. National is reducing financial support to the local chapters, which is the reason we instituted the separate FAS membership. Please continue to support FAS.

We want to avoid sending duplicate copies of the Pileated Post. We must be sure that the data in our FAS membership list matches that in the National list. Otherwise, the computer prints duplicate labels; you may receive a newsletter with a slightly different name or address than you gave when joining FAS. If your address label on Pileated Post is inaccurate or bothers you in any way, call me at 862-8070 or e-mail shrdlu@centurytel.net and we will try to change the National record.

Mike Fanning, Membership Chairman



Recently Montana Audubon sent out a letter asking for financial support from Audubon members throughout the state. For those of you who did not get a copy of this letter, and for those of you who are still thinking about whether to make a donation to Montana Audubon, we are passing on to you the letter's

Ten Good Reasons to Support Montana Audubon.

1. Protecting Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Montana Audubon (MA) has been helping to establish a network of sites in Montana as part of an International Important Bird Area program that identifies critical areas for birds, and then works to protect those areas.

2. Preserving Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. MA shares the license cost of the OSNA with Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) and works with FAS to manage this natural area. In addition, MA continues to secure grant monies to fund management costs.

3. Preventing Sprawl from Damaging Streams. MA has produced a handbook on how Montanans can protect wetlands and riparian areas from development and sprawl, and has met with local governments to talk about ways they can protect these important areas.

4. Helping Citizens Understand Wetland Laws. This fall MA released a report on the US Corp of Engineers' record in regulating the development of wetlands and riparian areas that documents the continued loss of Montana's wetlands and streams.

5. Championing Wildlife Management Issues. MA works on a case-by-case basis on specific issues that directly impact birds and other wildlife. A recent example is MA's involvement in developing rules to prohibit the importation of the exotic Mute Swans, which pose a threat to our native Trumpeter Swans.

6. Linking Kids in Montana and Mexico with Birds. MA's Birds Beyond Borders program connects Montana elementary schools with their counterparts in Oaxaca, Mexico, through study of migratory birds. This year the program will reach more than 480 students in Bigfork, Garrison Junction, Hamilton, Helena, Lolo, Missoula, and Mexico.

7. Coordinating Community Education Programs. MA's Community Naturalist Program works with members of local Audubon chapters to bring environmental education to children, their parents, and teachers. This Program was instrumental in getting Flathead Audubon's education program started.

8. Expanding the Education Program in Billings. In 2006 MA will cooperate with Yellowstone Valley Audubon and other partners to hire for the second year a seasonal environmental education teacher who will provide nature education on a 27-acre site bordering the Yellowstone River in Billings.

9. Monitoring Montana's Birds. MA collects data for and coordinates the publication of *Montana Bird Distribution*, which uses thousands of bird sightings submitted by volunteers and professionals to identify where birds are found in the state.

10. Celebrating at our Annual Bird Festival. MA's annual Bird Festival brings together birdwatchers from throughout the state to explore new birding habitats. This year's festival was in Bigfork. Next year we will head to the prairies of eastern Montana for a celebration in Glasgow on June 2-4, 2006.

Flathead Audubon thanks all who have made end-of-year donations to Montana Audubon. We urge any who are still "thinking about it" to send contributions to Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624.



Montana Audubon Offers Grants for Wildlife

MT Audubon is offering grants totaling approximately \$1,000, to fund projects that benefit wildlife. Preference is given to research/education projects benefiting nongame wildlife and habitats. Funds can be used for mileage, supplies, equipment, printing, and communications. Applications must be postmarked on or before February 1, 2006. Grant recipients will be announced by February 28, 2006. Project guidelines may be requested from: Audubon Wildlife Fund, Box 595, Helena, MT 59624; phone: (406) 443-3949; email: mtaudubon@mtaudubon.org; or on www.mtaudubon.org.

Birding Montana with Montana Audubon

A new June birding tour of Montana is being offered by Montana Audubon. The trip is targeted at British birders and is already half full. But there is still room for local birders to sign up as well. A large portion of the state will be covered over the course of two weeks. Participants can expect to see more than 200 species. To learn more about this new tour, as well as other tours being offered by Montana Audubon, visit http://mtaudubon.org/html/birdwatching_field_trips_and_programs.htm Proceeds from these tours go to Montana Audubon's projects, operations, educational activities, and grants.



Tip-Up Bird, continued...

It was not until 1974 that a Marbled Murrelet nest was actually found. It was discovered by a logger who was helping trim an old-growth stand of redwoods in California. As he climbed high into the canopy, he discovered 148 feet above the forest floor a single downy nestling crouched in a depression in the flat expanse of moss that covered a large branch of a redwood. The down was grayish yellow, spotted with brown and black, and blended almost perfectly with the partially desiccated moss.

The full story of this discovery can be found in the recently published *Rare Bird. Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet*, by Maria Mudd Ruth. I recommend this lively and up-to-date history of our knowledge about the Marbled Murrelet if you want to know more. (I'd be happy to loan my copy of the book to anyone interested in reading it. Just contact me by phone or email.)

Since this first Marbled Murrelet nest was found, several major research projects have begun to uncover the secrets of this unusual bird.

We now know that these little ocean residents with swim-adapted wings head up to 45 miles inland each spring, into the old-growth rain forests, to lay a single egg high up in the canopy on some soft expanse of moss covering an upper branch. The parents take 24-hour shifts incubating the egg, while the "off-duty" parent flies back to the ocean to feed. The parents' mottled brown plumage blends in with the bark of the nesting tree and the browned moss and needles around the nest.

Once the chick emerges, each parent travels to the ocean several times a day, returning with a small fish, held crosswise in its bill, for its begging chick. When the chick is large enough, the parents stop coming. About two days later the chick fledges. Unaccompanied and unassisted by its parents it takes off from the nest and flies directly to the sea. Once at sea the chick is on its own. There is no evidence of post-fledging parental care.

John and I have been fortunate to see many Marbled Murrelets in our travels along the north-west Pacific coast, but the fact is that Marbled Murrelet numbers are declining. A major reason for this is, of course, that their nesting habitat is dwindling as the old-growth Pacific coast rainforests are being logged. Also, Marbleds are often caught in fishing nets as they search for their underwater food, and large numbers have succumbed to oil spills.

The Marbled Murrelet population in Alaska appears to be holding its own, though its numbers are declining. But the numbers in Canada and the lower forty-eight coast have fallen dramatically. The species has been listed as threatened in Canada. In 1992, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed it as threatened in our lower Pacific-coast states—Washington, Oregon, and California. That listing is now under review, however, because in 1997 the FWS ruled that the population in this three-state region is not separate from the population in Alaska. Currently conservation organizations and scientific research groups are gathering data to document the decline of both populations, and urging genetic studies to assess the separateness of the two. Information and updates on the process are available from the website of the Pacific Seabird Group at www.pacificseabird.org.

The problems facing the Marbled Murrelet are similar to those currently faced by so many bird species, including the incredible "come-back star," the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. These species depend in some crucial way on what is now becoming a dwindling resource. Someone asked recently about Ivory-bills, "Why don't those birds just switch to another kind of food?" Given enough time, of course, they might. In fact, some Alaskan Marbleds do manage to nest on the ground where forest canopies are absent. But thousands of years of evolution have shaped these species' life-habits, and a change in such deep-seated behavior does not come quickly. As Rachel Carson has pointed out, "The rapidity of change and the speed with which new situations are created follow the impetuous and heedless pace of man rather than the deliberate pace of nature." Any hope for the future of such species as Marbled Murrelets and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers is just wishful thinking unless it is grounded in present-day conservation action.



Thanks to Lisa Discoe for donating and preparing warm and hardy shade-grown coffee at FAS General Meetings this year. Thanks also to all of the board members who brought festive treats to our December meeting. We need someone to bring treats to our January meeting. If you can help with this, please call Linda de Kort at 755-3704.



Looking for some facts about the avian flu? To separate fact from fiction, visit the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>



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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. The meeting starts at 7:00PM and includes a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN, in Kalispell. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

THE PILEATED POST is published September through May and is sent to members of the Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070.

Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to pileatedpost@hotmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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Secretary	Gail Sullivan	932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
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	Jill Fanning	862-8070		Neal Brown	837-5018
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			

MONTANA AUDUBON

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FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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