



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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MARCH 2006



MONTANA COFFEE TRADERS TO BE RECOGNIZED IN MARCH FOR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Montana Coffee Traders will be recognized by Flathead Audubon at its March meeting for its efforts to support habitat preservation for wildlife, especially birds. The presentation of this third and final Conservation Achievement Recognition of the 2005-06 season will be made by Jill Fanning.

Long ago, all coffee was grown under a protective canopy of shade trees, because it could not survive exposure to the fierce tropical sun. However, over the last 25 years, new hybrid varieties of coffee have been developed which are higher yielding and are also sun tolerant. This has led many coffee farmers to cut down the forest canopy of shade and plant denser groupings of coffee plants. The yield is greater, but at a severe price. Increased production puts a greater nutrient demand on the plant and the soil, which is often answered by the farmer with a corresponding increase in agrochemical applications. This in turn leads to water pollution, soil degradation, worker health risks, and a dependence of the farmer on chemical supplies with associated costs.

Even more alarming, the songbirds and other wildlife that once thrived in the rich habitat begin to disappear. According to the Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center, shaded farms harbor as many as 150 different bird species, while sun farms often support as few as five. Ultimately, the fate of these ecosystems and the migratory birds that depend on them to survive may lie in the hands that hold the coffee cups. One third of all the coffee produced is consumed in the U.S. The coffee we choose to drink can make a difference. Many small-scale growers still produce coffee in the traditional way. If they are to resist the economic pressures to sell their forest

farms or to convert to their farms to sun plantations, they must be able to market their coffee and make a decent living. Migratory bird populations are steadily declining. A major contributor to this decline is a steady loss of wintering habitat. Supporting the production of shade grown coffee could help halt and even reverse that trend.

Montana Coffee Traders began in 1982 with the idea of bringing a good cup of locally fresh-roasted coffee into the valley. In 1989 they started an innovative project with a cooperative of coffee farmers around Monteverde, Costa Rica. The Monteverde Preserve is a nature area in a cloud forest environment well known to birders. The coffee farmers living on the edge of the preserve were being squeezed out by dairy farmers who had to log large areas for pasture. Montana Coffee traders asked the farmers to come up with a price for their very best beans which would provide them a reasonable living. A price was agreed on and a relationship formed which exists to this day. In addition to the price paid for the beans, Montana *(continued on page 5...)*

MARCH FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, March 13, 2006: Flathead Audubon General Meeting begins at 7PM at The Summit, conference room #3.

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

MARCH & APRIL FIELD TRIPS - see full descriptions on page 3

BIRD OF THE MONTH

HOUSE FINCH EYE DISEASE APPEARS IN WESTERN MONTANA

House Finches are among the most reliable and frequent visitors to feeders in the Flathead Valley. At our home south of Kalispell, 30 to 40 of these cheery, sparrow-sized birds spend most of the day perching in the top of a larch tree near the house and making frequent visits to the feeders and water on our deck. If you are not familiar with these colorful birds, the males are easily identified by the red coloring on their head, chest and rump, while the females are less colorful with a uniformly brown-streaked head and broad brown streaking on the breast and belly. Both have the short chunky bill typical of seed eaters and they commonly travel together in small flocks, especially in the winter months. Both males and females have two thin white wing bars, a square tipped tail, black eyes and dark brown legs.



male House Finch
by Larry McQueen

As you observe a group of House Finches, you'll probably notice that the males display a wide range of color variation, perhaps all the way from pale yellow to bright red. Our small group has males ranging from pale orange to bright red. This occurs because the coloring depends on the amount of carotenoid pigments in the bird's food source during the molting period. Also, studies show that the females prefer the reddest males, suggesting that intensity of color is an indicator of the male's fitness.

My research at www.birds.cornell.edu tells me that House Finches are native to the western United States and occur in a wide variety of habitats ranging from desert to chaparral and open coniferous forest to cities. Since House Finches prefer edge habitat and require water as well as structures for nesting and perching, their range expansions have been facilitated by man's changes to the environment. As suitable habitat was created by man, the western populations have expanded north into British Columbia and into central and eastern Montana over the past hundred years. There is a close correlation between House Finch abundance and the size of local human population.

As you're watching those flocks of House Finches devour the sunflower seeds in your feeders, be sure to look for some similar species that may have joined the group. In our area, the Cassin's Finch and also the Purple Finch are regularly seen, sometimes mixed in with flocks of the more common House Finch. Cassin's Finch is distinguished from the House Finch by its slightly larger size (6-6.5 inches), its more pointed bill, and shorter, notched tail. Male Cassin's also has a bright red crown on the top of its head, as compared to the male House Finch which has a more overall red appearance to the head. Male Purple Finch is a darker raspberry red with red on the nape, back and flanks and little or no brown streaking on the breast or flanks. For more detail on distinguishing these three finches, check out the information on-line at the Cornell Lab website:



male Purple Finch
by Larry McQueen

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/finchIDtable.html>

Eastern populations of House Finches descend from the 1940 release of illegally caged birds by pet shop owners on Long Island, New York. These birds are thought to have been trapped in the Los Angeles area and proved to be extremely prolific in their new environment, spreading north into southern Ontario, south to northern Florida and the Gulf of Mexico and west into the Great Plains where they are now meeting the native western birds. Interestingly, these introduced eastern birds developed a migratory behavior that is absent in the native western birds and House Finches from the Great Lakes and the northeastern United States now migrate south in the winter (perhaps searching for that California weather that their ancestors came from?)

while the native western birds are non-migratory.

Sadly, since January 1994, the House Finch population in the eastern United States has been decimated by an avian eye disease called Mycoplasmal Conjunctivitis, a disease known previously only in poultry. Over the twelve years since this disease was first observed in the east, it has spread rapidly through the whole eastern population, killing an estimated forty percent of the House Finch population there. Although occurrences in other species such as American Goldfinch have been reported, the common and colorful House Finch seems to be the primary victim.

(BIRD OF THE MONTH, continued on page 6...)



male
Cassin's Finch
by Larry McQueen



March 2006 Program



MONGOLIA'S LOST WATER

Swan Valley resident Phil Frey and daughter Carolyn Bechard really get around—around the world, that is. Sometimes their destinations are not only off the beaten path, but there may not even be a path. Take Inner Mongolia, for example. In September 1998, Phil and Carolyn were among the second group of Occidentals to travel to that part of China since the Cultural Revolution. They joined an international project team funded by Earthwatch to study the hydrology of Gobi Desert waters.

Thousands of small spring-fed lakes pockmark the vast Gobi Desert. Tall grasses surrounding these lakes provide forage for Mongol livestock and habitat for small birds, ducks and geese. But over the centuries, these waters have been depleted. And, Chinese scientists are trying to understand why.

Under the direction of Wei-Zu Gu, Professor of Hydrology at the Nanjin Institute of Hydrology, the team traveled by Bactrian camel into the Gobi and over the world's highest sand dunes to a work site. At this site, they lived near a Mongol family and collected data and samples 24 hours a day for a week. The samples were sent back to the Institute's laboratory for further analysis.

Phil Frey has been a Montana resident since 1954. He is a graduate of the University of Montana's School of Geology, a retired Marine Corps pilot, a former restaurant entrepreneur, and an active member of an international research organization. He and his search dog, Choco, also assist Flathead County Sheriff's Office search and rescue operations. He lives with his wife Donna on Swan Lake. He and Carolyn recently became Bigfork realtors.

Carolyn Bechard graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Modern Languages and Literature. She recently left a career with a corporate airline to marry and settle in Kalispell. Please join us to view slides and to hear more about the history, people, fog, vipers, artifacts and WATER of Inner Mongolia's Gobi Desert on Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at The Summit.



2006 MARCH AND APRIL FIELD TRIPS



SATURDAY, MARCH 4: BOB ROST'S MARCH BIRDING BLAST. Join FAS and Bob Rost for an early March trip in the Flathead Valley. Bob will tailor this tour to locations where the best birding can be found at the end of winter. We will see the usual suspects, but there should be a surprise or two awaiting us as well. Meet at the Park 'n Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and 82 at 8:00AM. For more information, please contact  Bob Rost at 837-2255.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18: LOWER VALLEY

the first of two trips that will focus on the water-wetland sites near Somers and in the Lower Valley. We should see hundreds of ducks and other early spring arrivals, such as Northern Pintail, Tundra Swan, American and Eurasian Widgeon. Meet Bob Rost at the Park n' Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and Hwy 82 at 8:30AM. Please contact Bob at 837-2255.

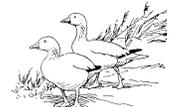
WATERFOWL TOUR, PART ONE. This is

fowl migration. This four hour trip will visit

the first of two trips that will focus on the water-wetland sites near Somers and in the Lower Valley. We should see hundreds of ducks and other early spring arrivals, such as Northern Pintail, Tundra Swan, American and Eurasian Widgeon. Meet Bob Rost at the Park n' Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and Hwy 82 at 8:30AM. Please contact Bob at 837-2255.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 25 & 26: FREEZOUT LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FIELDTRIP. The spring waterfowl migration at Freezout Lake WMA is an experience not to be missed. Snow Geese can be counted by the thousands and more than 40 bird species have been seen in past years. Please call Dan to arrange carpooling. The trip will leave at 10:30 AM Saturday from the Tidyman's parking lot in Kalispell, which will get us to the WMA just in time to watch the white geese arrive at Freezout Lake that evening. Stay overnight at the Bella Vista Motel (406-466-5711) in Choteau. After watching the geese leave the lake Sunday morning, we will head for home in time to arrive in Kalispell by 5 PM. Contact the field trip leader, Dan Casey, at 857-3143 or dcasey@abcbirds.org



SATURDAY, APRIL 8: LOWER VALLEY WATERFOWL TOUR, PART TWO. Please join FAS for a 3-4 hour guided tour of the wetland areas in the Somers area and the north shore of Flathead Lake. We will search for resident and migrating waterfowl, but we should also see a wide variety of raptors and early songbirds. This is a great time to bone up on your ducks and get into the spirit of spring. Meet at the Park n' Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and Hwy 82 at 9:00AM. For more information, contact Dan Casey, 857-3143 or dcasey@abcbirds.org

FROM THE BOARD:**LINDA DEKORT****IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Your Flathead Audubon Board has been busy these last six months. We hope this synopsis will fill you in on some of the significant happenings.

One topic which has attracted much conversation is the creation of a Flathead Audubon website. We are grateful to FAS member Michele Carbery who initiated this discussion in earnest last October. A website committee consisting of Linda Winnie (chair), Bob Lee, Gail Sullivan, and Mike Fanning was formed. We were then treated to presentations by Michele Reese and Michael Moffit of The Marketing Team, and by Hillary Smith of Pixel Solutions. In February we contracted with Pixel Solutions to create a web page and it is well underway. John Kyle volunteered to be our webmaster; we feel very fortunate to have him on board.

The newsletter committee also has been going high tech. Many members are now receiving The Pileated Post (almost two weeks early and in color!) via email. It has saved 75 cents/copy to print and mail and consequently has saved some trees and conserved printing chemicals. If you would like this service but are not already receiving it, please email Linda Winnie at lindawin@centurytel.net. Even the printed version of the Post has a new look since September; it is now being printed by Kintla Copy and Creative in Whitefish.

The program committee has continued to secure great programs for our monthly meetings. We find that our presenters also are going high tech and often need a digital projector to illustrate their talks. The board is now looking into purchasing a digital projector of our own. If you would like to help with this search, please contact Leo Keane.

The Education Committee has received encouragement to continue the Education Coordinator position. Lex Blood, who manages the Sustainability Fund, has donated \$3000 to go towards a yearly stipend. The FAS board will match this with \$2000, thus providing the coordinator with a healthier stipend (\$5000 per year) than we have offered in the past. The job description will include: promoting the use of FAS Education materials by contacting schools, teachers, and interested agencies; maintaining the check out procedure for the FAS educational materials; preparing and presenting conservation lessons to classrooms or other groups (such as 4H, nursing homes etc.); coordinating volunteer efforts in conservation education outreach; putting on workshops with teachers and communicating with other local conservation organizations. If you would like to help the Education Committee with some of these projects or with fundraising for the Education Coordinator position, please contact Sonja Hartmann, Education Committee Chair. The Education Committee also recently received two generous donations: \$150 from Walmart and a scanner from Karen McElvain. Some of the money will go toward sponsoring Project Feeder Watch in the Classroom. This year Kim Mitchell's classes at Pleasant Valley School received a \$90 grant for PFW. If you know of teachers who might be interested in such a grant in the future, please notify Sonja Hartmann.

The Nominations Committee is also in need of a "few good members." If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, for our vigorous and fun-loving board, please contact Linda de Kort, Nominations Committee Chair.

In addition to promoting and executing all of the projects outlined above, the FAS board has been keeping a very tidy shop. Following Good Business Practices, Kay Mitchell completed an audit report of the FAS financial records (we passed with flying colors). As a result of the audit, Bruce Tannehill has written up formal procedures for the treasurer and finance committee. Paula Smith, new Publicity Chair, has also developed and distributed the procedures for publicity. The result of her success has been some of our standing room only meetings we have had lately.

The Hospitality Committee is open to suggestions for places to hold our May Potluck, which is also often bursting at the seams. The criteria are: large enough for 100 seated members, tables and chairs for 100, plug-ins for kettles and pots, parking area, \$0-\$50 for the evening, good acoustics and preferably, a screen to show slides. If you know of such a place, please contact a member of the Hospitality Committee. As co-chair of the Hospitality Committee, Lois Drobish's welcome smile is back to greet each member at our general meetings. Lois has been absent this year, caring for Matt who passed away on February 2. We will miss this gentle, tall man who often handed out name tags at the meetings and who never missed an opportunity to offer help to those in need. Thanks Matt.

MONTEVERDE COFFEE

\$30,000 Donation to Montana Audubon!

The Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon chapter has donated \$30,000 to assist with the hiring of an Executive Director for Montana Audubon! At last Montana Audubon is able to advertise for an Executive Director to coordinate the operation and growth of the organization. The Executive Director is accountable to the Board of Directors and is responsible for carrying out Board-approved goals and objectives; facilitating the work of staff, contractors, and leadership; and for operating the organization within the Board-approved budget. The Executive Director has primary responsibility for fundraising, communications, and program development.

The Executive Director will be located in Helena and probably will earn between \$45,000 and \$55,000, depending on experience. This step forward has been made possible by careful budgeting by the Board and outstanding service by Janet Ellis and the staff. The next Montana Audubon Board Meeting will be April 1 in Choteau and will include a special tour of Freezeout Lake. The Board hopes to select the new Executive Director at that time!

National Audubon has allocated Montana \$1,671 for the Mini Grants program. Linda DeKort and the Education Committee have submitted an application to help fund the Conservation Education Coordinator position. A total of \$5,000 is needed to fully fund the position and the Sustainability Fund will contribute \$3,000, leaving Flathead Audubon to raise the remaining \$2,000. The Conservation Education program last year was a great success but there is continuing need to expand the use of FAS educational materials by schools, teachers and other interested agencies.

By Bob Lopp, FAS President



(Montana Coffee Traders, continued.....)

Coffee Traders sends a dollar from each pound of Monteverde coffee to the cooperative.

Montana Coffee Traders also produces Grizzly Blend coffee from which a dollar per pound goes to local grizzly bear protection groups including "Vital Ground" which uses the money to buy conservation easements and parcels of land that are vital to the survival of these bears.

Good Migrations, a brand produced by Montana Coffee Traders, is a new generation of sustainable coffees that are shade grown, organic and Fair Traded. This is an outgrowth of the International Sustainable Coffee Congress, sponsored in 1996 by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. They had finished a series of studies on the issue of rainforest logging displacing migratory song birds. One of the

outcomes of this was an agreement to encourage consumers to purchase shade grown coffee. Another outcome was encouraging farmers to continue producing shade grown coffee through a "fair trade" system similar to that Montana Coffee Traders pioneered in 1989. Good Migrations coffees help promote healthy ecosystems and help provide sanctuary for resident and migratory birds.

Fresh-roasted shade-grown coffee is delicious. It tends to be less acidic, much more aromatic, and contains slightly less caffeine than its cousin "sun coffee". If it is also organically grown, it is much better for you. Montana Coffee Traders provides a variety of products which benefit consumers, coffee farmers, the environment and wildlife.

By Jill Fanning



SNOWYS IN ABUNDANCE!

Bird lovers in northwest Montana have been treated to unusually high numbers of Snowy Owls this winter. An estimated 5 are hanging around the Somers area, and sightings of 20 at a time have been reported between Polson and the Pablo Reservoir. A report from "Winging It", the Newsletter of the American Birding Association, indicates that we are not the only ones in the country enjoying an influx of Snowys.

While most northern owls stayed home this winter, Snowy Owls staged a moderate invasion. Birds were noted as far south as the mid-Atlantic states and, remarkably, Arkansas.

The largest numbers were reported in the northwest. In that region, owls wintering near the coast profited from another of the period's phenomena. Late December storms pushed many thousands of Red Phalaropes onshore, some even a short distance inland, from California to British Columbia. In subsequent days a number of these birds ended up in owl pellets.

Adapted from "Winging It", January/February 2006

(BIRD OF THE MONTH -- FINCHES, continued...)

Starting in 2002-2003, when House Finches captured in Missoula, Montana, carried the conjunctivitis bacterium, Cornell Lab determined that this disease has reached western House Finch populations. Currently the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is conducting a House Finch Disease Survey in order to determine the extent of the infection in western birds. Data collected thus far indicates that the disease may not be spreading as quickly in the western United States as it did in the east, but Cornell is encouraging everyone who observes birds to be on the lookout for its appearance and to report their findings to their research team. Through data collected, researchers hope to determine if there are geographical differences in the prevalence of this disease, if the disease is spreading to other species, and if the House Finch numbers are declining in the West as they did in the East.

Unfortunately, I've spotted a few sick birds among my faithful feeder visitors this winter. Symptoms of this disease may include red, swollen, watery or crusty eyes, an upper respiratory infection and mucous oozing from the nostrils. Birds may also appear weakened or disoriented from blindness. The disease is spread when healthy birds come in contact with an infected bird or an object touched by a sick bird. If tube feeders that require birds to stick their heads through a hole to get the seeds are used by sick birds, the next healthy bird to use that hole is likely to contract the disease. It's important to note here that this disease poses no known health threat to humans, but it only makes sense to clean your bird feeders and water source with a mild bleach solution periodically and also to wash your hands thoroughly after touching them. This will not only protect you from the bacteria but will also help retard the spread of the disease at your feeders. Research

indicates that some birds do recover but many become blind and die of predation or starvation.

If you would like to help Cornell researchers learn more about this disease, you can sign up on the net at www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi, or by calling 800-0843-2473. Mail inquiries can be sent to Membership Services, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. Data may be submitted via the Internet or by sending in paper forms and there is no charge to participate.

Please consider taking part in this important project. All you need to do is attract birds to your yard, record the presence or absence of sick House Finches, and then submit your observations to the Cornell Lab. By contributing your findings you will help scientists determine how this disease is affecting the House Finches in the west and this information will be used to help manage future outbreaks of wildlife disease.

By Jeannie Marcure

Male House Finch with diseased eye--taken south of Kalispell in February 2006 by Jeannie Marcure



LOOKING BACK – 29 YEARS



March 1977, the Newsletter of Flathead Audubon made its first appearance. Volume 1, Number 1 of the Accipiter Express (the original name of our newsletter) was four mimeographed pages. It listed upcoming field trips, announced a course called "Bird Study" being taught at FVCC by Dan Sullivan, asked for volunteers to help the Bird House Building Committee, and reported on recent bird sightings in the Valley. It also provided a list of all 119 members of the group, a list that includes such familiar names as Marcy Bishop, Kris Bruninga, Dennis Hester, Jean Robocker, Elly Jones, David Shaner, Elmer Sprunger, Ruth White, Jack Whitney, Loren Kreck, Barb Baxter, and Dan Paschke. Also on the list is a name that, 29 years later, appears in the Directory of Officers on the back page of this issue of the Pileated Post: Bob Lopp, our current President.

On page 3 of the Express is "A Word from the Pres" written by Dan Sullivan, the first President of FAS. Below is an excerpt::

"The Flathead Audubon Society is only three months old but its real origin began in Dec., 1974, with our first Audubon Christmas Bird Count. From the people participating in the count, the Lower Flathead Valley Bird Club was formed. ...

(Looking Back, continued on next page)



Congressional Attacks on the Endangered Species Act

By Derek Goldman and Sarah Matsumoto, Endangered Species Coalition



For over thirty years, the Endangered Species Act has been a safety net for our nation's species on the brink of extinction. Because of its protections, majestic bald eagles and peregrine falcons still soar over our mountains, California condors can again be seen at the Grand Canyon, and humpback whales travel our coasts. In addition, the law also protects the ecosystems which endangered species depend upon, which provides important safeguards to America's mountains, forests, and rivers.

Currently, the Endangered Species Act is under attack in Congress. Under the guise of "reform," special interests and the politicians to whom they give money seek to undermine the very principles for which the ESA was passed – protecting and recovering our nation's magnificent diversity of plants, fish and wildlife. One bad bill has already passed the House, and another has been introduced in the Senate. Specifically, Representative Pombo's Extinction bill would seriously weaken the Endangered Species Act's safety net provisions protecting endangered species and habitats by:

- * Eliminating species "recovery" as a central goal;
- * Repealing the important "critical habitat" provisions of the Act;
- * Undermining and politicizing science-based decision making; and
- * Requiring taxpayers to pay landowners to comply with the law.

These two bills represent some of the most serious threats to the Endangered Species Act in its

30-year history. We have a responsibility to stop them from weakening the ESA and the protections it provides to species on the brink of extinction. The Endangered Species Act is a landmark law that prompts us to be good stewards of our land and the web of life it supports. It has been enormously successful in preventing the extinction of hundreds of species, including the species on the list in Montana: Black-footed Ferret, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Canada lynx, Whooping Crane, Least Tern, Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Pallid Sturgeon, White Sturgeon, Bull trout, Water Howellia, Ute Ladies'-tresses, Spalding's Campion (or "catchfly"). We must not diminish protections for these magnificent animals, or for the places they call home. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to be good stewards of the environment and leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home.

It is critical that members of Congress stand up for Montana's wildlife heritage and oppose this scheme to repeal the protections the ESA provides. A senior member of the Senate's Environment and Public Works committee, Montana's Senator Max Baucus will be influential in determining the future of the Endangered Species Act.

Please call Senator Baucus 1-800-332-6106 and ask him to support the Endangered Species Act and oppose any bill that would weaken protections for species and habitat.



DON'T MISS IT!



Whether you're an expert birder or a newby to the sport (or anywhere in between), you can gain new knowledge and appreciation for the birds of our area by attending *BEAUTY OF BIRDS*, a class sponsored by Flathead Audubon and taught by FAS board member Ansley Ford. *BEAUTY* meets on Wednesday evenings in April, but the class is very popular and limited in size, so sign up soon. Register at the Flathead High School office. Open your mind and fill it with the *BEAUTY OF BIRDS*!

(Looking Back, continued from page 6)

"Although our chapter was basically formed by backyard birders, our goal is to form a viable chapter which not only includes the backyard birder but the environmental activist, as well as people whose interests range between the two. The chapter will provide both a forum for the expression of our differing views and activities for our divergent interests.

"To become a strong chapter, member participation is required. We are in need of people interested in legislative activities and environmental problems to serve on the Conservation Committee... People are needed to guide field trips or who own or have access to areas of good birding and nature study. People are needed to run the newsletter ... Anyone interested in these or other areas is encouraged to talk to me at one of the meetings or contact me by mail. The ultimate success of our chapter is dependent on the number of people actively involved."

Some things don't change, do they? Except now, if you wish to help on one of the FAS committees, you should contact not Dan Sullivan, but one of the other original members – see contact information for Bob Lopp on the back page of this issue.

By Linda Winnie





Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173
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MARCH, 2006



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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 Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070. To receive this newsletter in electronic format, please 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: pileatedpost@hotmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Bob Lopp	52 West View Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-6886
Vice-President	Vacant		
Secretary	Gail Sullivan	932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	239 Deer Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-4548
Past-President	Linda deKort	(dekort@montanasky.com)	755-3704

DIRECTORS

2003-2006	Lisa Discoe	(ldiscoe@hotmail.com)	837-1456
2003-2006	Lewis Young	50 Garrison Dr., Eureka, MT 59917	889-3492
2004-2007	Dan Casey	(dcasey@abcbirds.org)	857-3143
2004-2007	Bob Lee	(rml3@centurytel.net)	257-0363
2004-2007	Ansley Ford	(aew333@yahoo.com)	857-6788
2005-2008	Bob Rost	(mobob@centurytel.net)	837-2255
2005-2008	Paula Smith	(paulabobsmith@centurytel.net)	837-0181
2005-2008	Shirley Harrison	(hakunash@digisys.net)	844-2291
2005-2006	Linda Winnie	(lindawin@centurytel.net)	755-1406
2005-2006	Mike Fanning	(shrldu@centurytel.net)	862-8070
2005-2006	Brent Mitchell	(bkmitch@centurytel.net)	756-8130
2005-2006	Leslie Kehoe	(ljkehoe@digisys.net)	837-4467
2005-2006	Leo Keane	514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birdseed Sales	June & Rod Ash	754-2289	Owen Sowerwine	Brent Mitchell	756-8130
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Natural Area	Neal Brown	837-5018
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Newsletter Editor	Linda Winnie	755-1406
Education	Sonja Hartmann	387-4150		Kay Mitchell	756-8130
Education Coordinator	Vacant		Program	Leo Keane	862-5807
Field Trips	Leslie Kehoe	837-4467	Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181
	Ansley Ford	857-6788	Refuge Projects	Leslie Kehoe	837-4467
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405	Sales	Lisa Discoe	837-1456
	Jill Fanning	862-8070	Wetlands/Waterfowl	Neal Brown	837-5018
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			

MONTANA AUDUBON

Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 443-3949 www.mtaudubon.org
 Temp. Executive Director: Janet Ellis jellis@mtaudubon.org
 Board President: Betsy Griffing e_griffing@hotmail.com



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 Whitefish, MT 59937