



the **Flathead Post**

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT



KALISPELL AND WHITEFISH PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS



Since 2001, Flathead Audubon has formally recognized individuals and organizations for their contributions to conservation of the natural values that enhance the quality of life of our valley's inhabitants.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, Flathead Audubon was pleased to recognize Kalispell and Whitefish Parks and Recreation Departments for preserving and enhancing their natural environments for the benefit of city residents who live under the urban forest canopy, and for wild birds that live within the forest canopy and understory trees. Both cities recognize, as expressed by the 2004 City of Whitefish Tree Ordinance, "trees...for their importance in shading and cooling, noise and wind reduction, prevention of soil erosion, production of oxygen, dust filtration, fostering air quality through carbon dioxide absorption, providing wildlife habitat, and contributing to the aesthetic and economic value of real property."

The two departments have much in common. For many years each has received Tree City USA certification. In fact, Kalispell is the second oldest city in Montana to receive this designation. Each manages trees planted on boulevards, greenways and parks within their jurisdictions. Kalispell has more than 20 parks; Whitefish has 14 parks. Both departments are charged by city ordinance to preserve, plant, protect, maintain and remove trees. Each applies the uniform standards prescribed by city ordinance for species, planting (size, grade, location, spacing) and density. Whitefish utilizes tree density standards for all commercial developments of four-plex and up. Kalispell requires every new subdivision to comply with (species, spacing, density) standards for boulevard trees. To finance preservation and enhancement of its urban forest, Kalispell created an Urban Forestry District. Whitefish Parks is *(continued on page 12)*

Wouldn't this license plate look beautiful on your vehicle? New plates are being distributed this year by the State, so now is the time to change to one of beauty and character. You will be supporting Montana Audubon and wildlife habitat by purchasing this plate when you renew your vehicle license. \$35 is added to your



license fee; \$20 of that is a tax deductible charitable donation going directly to support local bird conservation. DO IT FOR THE BIRDS!

FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, May 8, 2006: Flathead Audubon Potluck & Silent Auction. 6:00 PM at Country Kitchen, Flathead County Fairgrounds

Monday, May 1, 2006: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting, 6:00PM at 295 3rd Ave. East North, Kalispell.

Friday - Sunday, June 2-4, 2006: Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Glasgow.
SUMMER FIELD TRIPS - Pages 7 & 8

BIRD OF THE MONTH

AS THE SWALLOWS RETURN TO THE FLATHEAD

Like the legendary cliff swallows who loyally return each year to the mission in Capistrano, California, the swallows of the Flathead are arriving back at their predictable times. We may not greet them with the ringing of church bells, nor a huge fiesta, but their return is no less remarkable.

Swallows belong to the family *Hirundinidae*.

All swallows forage for aerial insects and spend more time on the wing than any other songbirds in the world. Their short wide bills help them feed as they sweep through clouds of swarming insects near water and above the forest canopy. Many species roost at night on marsh reeds.

Among the swallows that return here each spring to breed are the Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Barn Swallow.

Tree Swallows arrive first, about the first week in April. Just a bit later we see the Violet-greens. By the end of April the Northern Rough-winged, the Cliff and the Barn Swallows are here. The Bank Swallows are the last to arrive, early in May. Our six species of swallows winter as far away as Central and South America; they will head south again in September. Until then, we have the opportunity to relish the aerial acrobatics of these elegant birds and to benefit from their mosquito hawking expertise. Swallows eat insects almost constantly while in flight. For this reason, attracting swallows may be one positive step to managing insects such as flying ants, termites, aphids, mosquitoes and gnats. On average, insects make up 99.8 percent of the swallow's diet. A single Barn Swallow can consume 60 insects per hour or a whopping 850 per day. That's 25,000 fewer insects per month that might have joined your summer bar-b-que.

Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) provided our family with our first close up and personal encounter with the swallows of the Flathead. This article is devoted to them. (Next spring, you can anticipate an article on one of our other amazing swallow species.) The Barn Swallow is the only North American swallow with a deeply forked tail. The male's tail is somewhat longer than the female's and juveniles don't develop the long tail until they reach adulthood after one year. The male usually has a rich orange breast and belly; the female has a whitish belly. Both

sexes have a deep rust-colored throat and their upper body glistens in iridescent blue-black. They are about 5 to 7 inches long, and about 3/4 ounce. They have slender pointed wings and their flight seems easier and more flowing than other swallows. They are also the fastest of the swallows and have been clocked flying 46 mph!



Because of their preferred nesting sites, Barn Swallows have undoubtedly provided many families with opportunities to view courtship, incubation and rearing. Barn Swallows were originally cave breeders but now build their nests of mud almost exclusively under man-made structures such as barn rafters (hence their name), bridges and eaves.

If you have a window positioned just in front of a chosen nest site, you are treated to the best of reality shows. Both parents help with the nest building. As the parents pick up mud and carry it in their mouths, they form it into small

pellets. If you look closely at a swallow nest, you'll see many individual mud pellets, as many as 1,000, that make up the nest. The open cup on the top of the mass of mud is lined with feathers, horse hair, and other soft items. It might take the parents a full week to construct the nest, with no time off on weekends. The pair seem to work from dawn to dusk with only a brief rest in the middle of the day. The female lays four or five brown-speckled white eggs. The incubation period is about two weeks, and both parents take unequal turns sitting on eggs and providing food for each other. The female does most of the incubation. They both rest at night beside each other in the nest, a picture of contentment and loyalty. But don't be deceived; there is much more to the courtship of barn swallows than this tranquil scene suggests. *Science* magazine reported last fall that females constantly judge their mates by their looks, in particular by the reddish color of the males' breast and belly feathers. Females mated to males with paler feathers were more likely to secretly copulate with another male. Researchers from the Lab of Ornithology of Cornell University used nontoxic markers to enhance the feather color of some of the males in the study. All of the swallows remained paired with their original mates, but DNA testing revealed that females paired to males with the reddest

(SWALLOWS, continued on page 4)



May 2006 Program



COMMON LOONS AND CITIZEN SCIENCE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Jami Belt of the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center (CCRLC) will present a slide program about Common Loons and Citizen Science in Glacier National Park (GNP) at our May meeting.

Common Loons are known to nest on both east and west sides of the park. They are commonly found in the park in spring, summer and fall. Area loons migrate to winter ranges along the west coast. The park harbors 20 percent of Montana's breeding population of Common Loons which are listed as a Montana Species of Special Concern. However, indications are that loons are not reproducing well in GNP, suggesting that population health is not good. Loons, their nests and nursery sites are disturbed by many human activities, as well as other environmental factors. To help address this problem, Sallie Hejl, CCRLC Resource Education Specialist and an avian ecologist, created a pilot Citizen Science program in 2005 for monitoring Common Loons.

The purpose of the Citizen Science program is to use non-invasive sampling methods to obtain data and estimates of population and nesting success on 45 priority lakes in GNP. The 2006 loon surveys are designed to create even more accurate assessments of loon health by starting earlier in the spring and following loons throughout the breeding season. The data collected in 2005 and 2006 will give park wildlife biologists a foundation for estimating the number of loon pairs that successfully raise young and hopefully give some hints about the causes of nest or brood failure.

Jami, a biological sciences educator with an intimate knowledge of Glacier National Park, believes in the value of field experience. Prior to joining CCRLC, Jami taught natural history for adults at the Glacier Institute for four years. At CCRLC, she will be continuing the work begun in 2005 by Sallie Hejl and Therese Hartman. Jami will coordinate and train Citizen Science program volunteers and park staff who will observe how GNP lakes are being used by loons and recreationists.

Please join us at 6 p.m. for our potluck and general meeting and this exciting program on Monday, May 8, in the Country Kitchen at the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

To volunteer for the Common Loon Project, please see the article below.



Volunteers Needed for Citizen Science Loon Project in Glacier National Park

We need volunteers to help us determine the use of lakes and nesting success of Common Loons in Glacier National Park. You can help by: (1) volunteering to determine if a particular lake has single loons, paired loons, or loons with young on Glacier Loon Day (July 15, 2006), and/or (2) monitor one lake periodically throughout the nesting season (May through August) to help create more robust information on loon population health and to begin to elucidate factors affecting nesting success.

Volunteers count loons and document loon behavior. Participants will learn to discriminate between Common Loons and other waterfowl, will be

taught how to observe loons to determine whether they are mated and have young, and will be introduced to the current knowledge about distribution of loons in Glacier, loon breeding biology, the potential impacts of recreationists on loon population health, and management concerns for loons in Glacier.

We would appreciate the help of anyone who is interested. If you're interested in participating and contributing to the protection and management of loons in Glacier National Park, please call Jami Belt (888-7986) or Sallie Hejl (888-7863) at the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center.



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.

PRESIDENTS

COLUMN

The ax sounded a solid "thwack" as it hit the block of wood. Rat ta ta ta ta tat sounded back from the woods. Another "thwack" and a second Rat ta ta ta ta tat sounded back. Soon I was finished with the wood chopping and was back in the cabin eating a late breakfast. Jane asked, "What is that?" I moved to the window and grabbed the binoculars. A Pileated Woodpecker was inspecting the first three to four feet of each tree in the area next to the cabin, tree after tree until it moved out of our sight. What a thrill to watch the Pileated for a full 15 minutes!

Why do we find birds and nature so fascinating? Spring is here and there are many field trips to favorite birding areas. There is always hope to see a new bird for the "life list," but there is also the joy of seeing old friends. The first Goldfinch is at the feeder. The Swallows are back! Have you seen the Harlequins in upper McDonald creek?

Three days spent at the Schnaus Cabin north of Polebridge over Easter renewed our sense of connectedness with the Earth. The second day, the clock ticked slower and by evening it stopped. Watching the weather change over the peaks in Glacier National Park was a view of eternity past.

Watching a pair of Steller Jays feeding, listening for Nuthatches in the trees, is a view of eternity future. Each of us enjoy nature in a little different way, but collectively it restores the balance in our lives and gives us hope for the future.

Have a wonderful summer enjoying the beauty of the Flathead and Montana and bring your stories to the first meeting of the fall in September! Good birding!!!

From Bob Lopp, FAS President



MAY DAY!! MAY DAY!!
FLATHEAD AUDUBON POT LUCK & MEETING
6:00 P.M. MAY 8, 2006



FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS COUNTRY KITCHEN
BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND ENJOY A GREAT EVENING!!
SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHALLENGE GRANT!

(SWALLOWS, continued from page 2)

feathers cheated less. As a result, those males fathered a greater proportion of young in their brood. Perhaps the intensity of the reddish color is an indicator of the male's health, status, and ability to raise young. The long tail of a Barn Swallow also may indicate the quality of the individual bird; another study revealed that females prefer to mate with males that have the longest and most symmetrical tails. Unmated male Barn Swallows have been observed killing nestlings of nesting pairs, which often succeeds in breaking up the pairs and affords the culprits the opportunity to mate. So among barn swallows, color matters and all is fair in love and war.



The young stay in the nest about 3 weeks after hatching. Both parents provide care. The little ones, when fully fledged, are enticed to fly by their parents. As the young improve in flying, they are often fed on the wing by the parent birds. In the evening the family retires to the breeding place, and usually stays there until mid-August when migration

activity begins. During this time, those beautiful mud-based nests can become regarded as an unattractive decoration, as the fledglings drop their "calling cards" below. Despite this annoyance, remember that not only are swallow nests truly a sign of good luck, their inhabitants help keep down the mosquito population. Swallows, their active nests and eggs are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and may not be destroyed. If, however, you find a swallow nest being constructed near your front door, try placing an artificial nest off to one side of the door or even on a different wall; it may be the surest way to coax the swallows to move, because barn swallows seem to prefer a distance of several feet between nests.



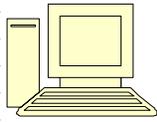
As you watch the swallows returning to Flathead Valley this spring, consider their beauty, their intrigue and their mosquito-eating fervor. Then get out the bells and ring in their return.

Compiled by Linda deKort
Selections from Cornell University Website

Flathead Audubon Goes On-line!

Check out Flathead Audubon's new website: flatheadaudubon.org. It features a calendar of FAS events and fieldtrips, plus information on bird-related activities in the region. It also includes:

- a PDF version of our Flathead Basin Birding Hotspots brochure, to download and print;
- information on seasonal and habitat distribution of common birds of the Flathead;
- a full collection of all Bird of the Month articles that have ever appeared in the Pileated Post;
- descriptions and pictures of educational materials FAS has for use by local educators;
- maps, history, and pictures of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area;
- copies of all this year's issues of the Pileated Post---and much more! Sprinkled throughout is a wonderful variety of bird images and sounds.



Hillary Smith of Pixel Solutions, Inc., is the site developer; she has produced a richly informative and visually beautiful site. Flathead Audubon is very fortunate to have had someone with such talent working on this project. A bouquet of "Thank You"s to Hillary for a job well done, and a huge "Thanks" to the Flathead Audubon Web Committee for guiding this project to its completion.

Linda Winnie, Website Committee Chair

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.

CAN YOU HELP MEET OUR EDUCATION PROJECT CHALLENGE?

Newly hired Flathead Audubon Education Coordinators, Lisa Discoe and Sonja Hartmann, are in their busy season, helping local teachers obtain our FAS bird education materials for use in their classrooms. Lisa has had calls from teachers as far away as St. Ignatius to arrange to borrow our bird and field trip trunks, and bird costume. Lisa and Sonja are also finalizing plans for another teachers' workshop in early summer. All this activity is possible because of additional funding from a Challenge Grant from the Kalispell-based Sustainability Fund, managed by local educator Lex Blood.

Like last year's Coordinator, this year's Coordinators are charged with helping promote and upgrade the educational materials that Flathead Audubon makes available to educators, organize and oversee the checkout of these materials, and network with other science educators in the Flathead to promote nature education.

The additional funding will allow the Coordinators to take on some additional tasks, including working to align the FAS educational materials with state educational curriculum standards; presenting information about FAS materials to gatherings of

educators; providing educational presentations about birds for school classrooms and other groups of youngsters; and organizing the teacher's workshop mentioned above. At the workshop, teachers learn how FAS bird education materials can be used in their classrooms, are provided with ideas for lessons and activities they can use to teach their students about birds, and learn more about birds, in preparation for teaching bird-related topics to their students.

FAS has been able to expand the Education Coordinator job in this way because we have doubled the Coordinator stipend, from \$2500 last year to \$5000 this year, an increase made possible by a generous Challenge Grant from the Sustainability Fund. The Sustainability Fund will provide \$3000 if Flathead Audubon can provide a matching \$2000.

We now face the challenge of coming up with \$2000 in matching funds.



Can you help? If so, please send your donation to Flathead Audubon Society, PO Box 9173, Kalispell, MT 59904-9173.

If you would like to know more about the activities planned by the new Education Coordinator team, please contact Lisa Discoe at 837-1456 or ldiscoe@hotmail.com.

Teacher Workshop

Date: June 16 & 17th (Friday & Saturday)

Contact: Lisa Discoe at 837-1456

Teachers: Come and learn about 'Placed-Based' education, along with how to instruct your classroom on the fundamental basics of birding in the Flathead Valley.

Place: Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive
Offering OPI and Graduate Credits



Support Local Agriculture at Valley Farmers' Markets

When it comes to taste, nothing beats fresh produce. And by buying your bedding plants, fruits and vegetables at the local Farmers' Markets, you support the role of agricultural lands in our local economy. A diversity of cottage industries provide locally-made arts, crafts, and other items at these markets. These venues offer a wonderful chance to network with friends and neighbors and build community connections. Another option is to subscribe to our Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) shareholder co-ops; as of this writing, there were still subscriptions available for these weekly (May-October) organic produce partnerships, with pick-up points in Kalispell, Bigfork and Whitefish. All three are also among the many producers selling directly at the Farmers' Markets.

Bigfork Farmers' Market

Bigfork Schools Bus Lot (Grand Avenue)
June 7th (4-6 pm) through Labor Day
Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Andrea Goff: 837-5888

Kalispell Farmers' Market

Center St. & 5th Ave. West
3rd week of April to 3rd week of October
Tuesdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm
Saturdays, 9:00am-12:30pm
Beverly Medved: 752-3350

Polson Farmers' Market

Masonic Temple
May 31-mid-October
Tuesday & Fridays, 9:00am-2:00pm
Gladyce Drebes: 675-2855



Whitefish Farmers' Market

Mountain Mall Parking Lot
Mid-May to mid-September
Thursdays, 4pm-6:30pm
Joanna Barnes: 862-6078



Downtown Whitefish Farmers' Market

Central Ave.
May 31 to mid-September
Tuesdays, 5pm-7:30pm
Nancy Svennungsen: 862-2043

Organic CSA Providers:

Swallow Crest Farm: Bigfork

Julian Cunningham: 756-0462

Raven Ridge Farm: Kalispell

Kip Drobish: PLA-NTER; 752-6837

Terrapin: Whitefish

Judy Owsowitz: 862-6263

Gardening is man's effort to improve his lot.

VOLUNTEER TO SURVEY LOCAL REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS DURING ANNUAL FROG DAYS



Amphibians are declining around the world, but the reason is a mystery. Join Flathead National Forest biologists for the Annual Frog Days! They will be gathering valuable data, which may help in unraveling the mystery. For three days in June, the 27th, 28th, and 29th, they will be heading to wetlands in the Tally Lake Ranger District, in the Swan Lake Ranger District and in the Hungry Horse Ranger District to survey frogs and turtles, salamanders and snakes and other interesting creatures. No prior experience is necessary as each day will start with a 1½ hour training session on how to identify local amphibians and reptiles and how to do the surveys. Anyone 7 years and older is invited; kids must be accompanied by an adult and will need a permission slip signed by a parent. All volunteers must RSVP, as space is limited. The survey will go out rain or shine and you will need to bring lunch, water to drink, something to keep your feet dry (waders or hip boots are ideal and some are available for loan), insect repellent, raingear, a change of clothes and extra socks. You will meet each day at 8:30AM and should be finished by 3:30PM. On Tuesday, June 27th, meet at the Tally Lake Ranger District office in Whitefish; on Wednesday, June 28th, meet at the Swan Lake Ranger District office in Bigfork and on Thursday, June 29th, meet at the Hungry Horse Ranger District in Hungry Horse. To RSVP, please contact Amy Jacobs at 863-5444, Beth Gardner at 837-7508 or Marylou Zimmerman at 387-3848.



Flathead Audubon Earns PHD in Recycling!



If you thought last year's recycling total was impressive, take a look at this year's numbers. In 8 short months, we have collected a total of **5345** pounds of cans, jugs, papers, magazines, and cardboard! That far surpasses last year's 4120 pounds and would fill our meeting room at The Summit from floor to ceiling with some falling out the door. Thanks to everybody who has made a "donation," large or small. And now ... On behalf of the big empty space in the landfill, Flathead Audubon is hereby awarded the PHD (Piled Higher and Deeper) award!

Brent and Kay Mitchell

2006 SUMMER FIELD TRIPS



TUESDAYS IN MAY AND JUNE: BIGFORK WILD MILE WILDFLOWER AND BIRD WALKS. Join Robin Magaddino and Anne Morley for a leisurely morning of bird watching and wildflower identification every Tuesday in May and June along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme Restaurant in downtown Bigfork at 10AM. Call Robin at 837-4294 or Anne at 886-2242 for more information. Come and enjoy a few moments in the natural world...a good way to start the day!

SATURDAY, MAY 6: BOB ROST'S MAY BIRDING BLAST. Bob will lead a trip in search of early neotropical migrants. We will find a variety of warblers and maybe even a flycatcher or two. This trip will wind its way towards the Swan Lake area with stops along the way at local hotspots. Meet Bob at 8AM at the Little Brown Church, intersection of Hwy 35 and 83. Call Bob Rost at 837-2255 for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 13: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The National Bison Range near Moiese celebrates this day in a big way. The Red Sleep Mountain drive opens for the summer. This splendid drive through the range travels through a variety of habitats and is a wonderful place to see a broad spectrum of birds, from Yellow-headed Blackbirds to Mountain Bluebirds, from Western Meadowlarks to Bald Eagles. There will be a guided Birding Adventure along Mission Creek starting at 8:30AM which you must pre-register for by calling the NBR at (406)644-2211, Ext. 207. There will also be a talk at noon about bluebird habitat and nest boxes by Erv Davis and Rod Wamsley; wildlife photographer Donald Jones will be on hand to sign his newest book Wings Over Montana: A Celebration of Montana Birds. The National Bison Range will open at 6:00AM on International Bird Day.



SATURDAY, MAY 13: SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help count loons on the lakes throughout northwest Montana on this day. For more information, contact one of the following: for areas north of Kalispell, contact Amy Jacobs at 863-5444; for areas west of Kalispell, call 751-4580; for southern Flathead Lake and Mission Valley, call Brett Gullott at 883-2888, Ext. 7292; for the Libby area, call Glen Gill at 295-7495; for the Swan Valley, call Jane Ingebretson at 837-5081; for the Eureka area call Christi Ferruzzi at 882-4451.



SUNDAY, MAY 14: HARLEQUIN DUCKS AND DIPPERS IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Join John Ashley for a Mother's Day walk in Glacier National Park in search of one of Montana's most enigmatic birds, the Harlequin Duck. These rare ducks return from the Pacific coast year after year to the streams of their birth, where they breed. There will be short easy walks all morning. Please note: a Glacier National Park entrance fee or pass is required. Call John at 892-3825 or Ashley@bigsky.net to sign up for the trip; the number of participants is limited, to minimize disturbance to these shy ducks.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 20 & 21: GLACIER INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND. Help Glacier Institute get ready for its 22nd year of educational activities. Volunteers are needed for cleaning, painting, light carpentry, and outdoor work such as tree cutting and planting at both the Field Camp in the Park and the Big Creek Outdoor Education Center. Call Glacier Institute at 755-1211 or register@glacierinstitute.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 21: A WANDER THROUGH LOST TRAIL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Lost Trail is located in the beautiful Pleasant Valley and is a great place to see grassland and riparian birds. The road through the Refuge wanders through wet meadows where Wilson's Snipe, Brewer's Blackbirds and Vesper Sparrows sit on fence posts next to the road. Dahl Lake, a large shallow lake on the Refuge has breeding populations of Black Terns, Ruddy Ducks, Red-necked, Pied-billed, Horned and Eared Grebes and Sandhill Cranes. Meet at Fish, Wildlife and Parks on Meridian Rd. in Kalispell at 6 AM. Contact Leslie Kehoe to sign up for the trip or for more information at 837-4467.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4: BIRDING THE NORTH FORK IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. This trip will focus on neotropical migrants and the birds that specialize in recently burned areas. We will stop at the Fish Creek campground to look for Harlequin Ducks and scan the cottonwoods for vireos and warblers. Then we will head up the inside North Fork Road, stopping along the way in search of Black-backed Woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Spruce Grouse and Northern Hawk Owls. We may even find the elusive LeConte's Sparrow. This trip is limited to 20 participants; sign up for the trip with Steve Gniadek at 888-7833. Meet in West Glacier at 6AM; we will return by 2PM. Please note: Glacier National Park entrance fee or pass is required.



SATURDAY, JUNE 17: THE ROAD TO TALLY LAKE. This excellent trip winds its way through a wide variety of habitats. Every species of warbler that migrates to NW Montana can be found on these US Forest Service lands on the way to Tally Lake. This trip will focus on both bird identification and birding by ear. Meet at Fish, Wildlife and Parks on Meridian Road in Kalispell at 7AM; we will return by 1PM. Call Bruce Tannehill for more information at 862-4548.

2006 SUMMER FIELD TRIPS



SATURDAY, JUNE 24: SPEND A MORNING WITH THE LOONS. This tour will take us to lakes where Common Loons have nested. Possibilities include: Tally, Blanchard, and Little Stillwater Lakes. We may see loon families with chicks. Loon Ranger, Eric Riggs, will be leading this 3-hour trip. Meet at Fish, Wildlife and Parks on North Meridian Road in Kalispell at 8:30AM, return by noon. Sign up for the trip by calling 751-4580.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25: TOBACCO VALLEY BIRDING TRIP. This special trip will visit the Nature Conservancy's Dancing Prairie Preserve in the morning, where we will look for prairie species such as Long-billed Curlews and Grasshopper Sparrows. The afternoon will be spent looking for birds in the rich riparian areas along the Tobacco River. Easy hikes of about one mile will be taken at each area but anyone wishing to stay closer to the vehicles will also have birding opportunities. Call Lewis or Lynda Young at 889-3492 for meeting time and place.

MONDAY, JUNE 26: CALLING ALL KIDS...A NATURE WALK FOR ALL AGES. Join Flathead Audubon and Ansley Ford for a one to two hour nature walk on the historic Rails to Trails path in Somers. There will be games and activities especially for the youngsters. Parents are welcome to join in the fun. Meet at the south entrance of the Rails to Trails path near the Somers Post Office at 9AM. Please call Ansley for more information at 857-6788.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 28 & 29: SURVEY OUR LOCAL REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS DURING ANNUAL FROG DAYS. Call Amy Jacobs at 863-5444 to volunteer and see page 6 for more info.



SATURDAY, JULY 1: A MORNING OF BIRDING AROUND KALISPELL. Join Flathead Audubon for a few hours of exploring some birding hotspots in Kalispell. Meet at 7 AM at the pavilion in Lawrence Park, north end of Main St. in Kalispell, where we may see Wood Ducks, Lazuli Buntings, Black-chinned Hummingbirds and Black-headed Grosbeaks. The walking will be easy. Call Karen Nichols at 756-5763 for more information.

SUNDAY, JULY 9: A TOUR OF THE MISSION VALLEY. We will visit the National Bison Range, driving over the Red Sleep Mountain Drive to look for warblers, vireos and sparrows. We may find Rock Wrens, Short-eared Owls or a swift Prairie Falcon. We will also spend some time at the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge scanning the reservoir for waterfowl and marsh birds. Meet at Park n' Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and 82 near Somers at 6:30AM. For more information on this all day trip, call John Hughes at 261-2506. Please note: the entrance fee to the National Bison Range is \$4 per vehicle.



SATURDAY, JULY 15: MONTANA LOON DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help look for and count loons on the lakes in northwest Montana. A day spent watching the loons can add valuable data to the ongoing study of these wonderful birds. For more information, please contact one of the following: for areas north of Kalispell, contact Amy Jacobs at 863-5444; for areas west of Kalispell call 751-4580; for southern Flathead Lake and Mission Valley, call Brett Gullott at 883-2888, Ext. 7292; for the Libby area, call Glen Gill at 295-7495; for the Swan Valley, call Jane Ingebretson at 837-5081; for the Eureka area, call Christi Ferruzzi at 882-4451; for Glacier National Park, call Steve Gniadek at 888-7833.

SUNDAY, JULY 16: HIGH COUNTRY BIRDING IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. This may be the chance of your life to see a Boreal chickadee or a White-tailed Ptarmigan! We will enjoy both the birds and the wildflowers on this moderately strenuous hike to Piegan Pass. We may also see American Pipits and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches. Meet at Apgar Visitor Center at 6AM and car pool to the trailhead. To sign up for the trip, call Leslie Kehoe, evenings, at 837-4467, or Steve Gniadek at 888-7833. Glacier National Park entrance fee or pass is required.

SUNDAY, JULY 23: FLOAT THE FLATHEAD RIVER WITH THE CASEY'S. Join Dan and Susannah Casey for a canoe trip from the Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island in Kalispell. This beginner level float is an easy six hours on the river (no whitewater) through a variety of riparian habitats. Bring canoe, lifejacket for each person, lunch and raingear. Meet at 9AM at the Kalispell K-Mart parking lot. Please RSVP to Dan or Susannah at 857-3143.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13: MIGRANT SHOREBIRDS IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY. This is a unique opportunity to see shorebirds as they begin their migration southward from the Arctic. We may see up to 15 species of shorebirds, including dowitchers, phalaropes, yellowlegs and sandpipers at various locations around the Valley, depending on where the migrants may be found. Meet at Tidyman's parking lot at 9AM. Please RSVP to Dan Casey at 857-3143.

BOB ROST'S BIRDING BLASTS FOR THE SUMMER. Bob chooses weekend days throughout the summer to bird watch in some of Flathead's best bird hotspots. Because of the nature of birds, one never knows where or when the birds will be; Bob likes to make his trips spontaneous, depending on where the best birds can be found. Check the FAS website often (flatheadaudubon.org) or call Bob at 837-2255, to find out when the Birding Blasts will take place.



Sure Sign of Spring – Eagle Cams

Bald Eagles often start nesting even before the snow disappears, and start their egg laying and chick rearing at different times in different parts of the country. You can view Bald Eagles in various stages of nesting and rearing young by viewing four web-based "Eagle Cams" focused on eagle nests in four different parts of this continent.

In western British Columbia, a local group mounted a video camera beside an eagle nest on Hornby Island, a few miles off the east coast of Vancouver Island. Live streaming video from this camera can be viewed at <http://lastream001.galaxytelevision.net/hh001>. As of mid-April, the adult eagles are incubating a single egg. Most of the time you will see one parent on the nest, with the wind ruffling its feathers, and sometimes you can watch it turning the egg. Occasionally, the parent leaves and you can see the egg clearly. Perhaps by the time you read this, the chick will have hatched.

On the east coast, near Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has a camera focused on an eagle nest on the grounds of the agency's National Conservation Training Center. An image of this nest and its occupants is recorded every 30 seconds, then posted on traininq.fws.gov/eagle. The 30-second wait between pictures can be annoying, but it is well worth the wait. This pair of eagles started out with three eggs and they all hatched! As of mid-April, all three chicks can be seen alive in the nest. The site also offers pictures taken early on of the three eggs, of the first chick when it hatched, then of the nest with two chicks, then finally with three.

If you ever wanted to get close to an eagle's nest but were too scared, now's your chance! The BioDiversity Research Institute has its Web cam focused on the nest of a bald eagle. The Web cam, at <http://www.briloon.org/ed/eagle/index.htm>, is updated every 30 seconds. Additionally, there are two live video feeds of the nest. The mother is incubating the eggs, which are expected to hatch any day. While the videos are fascinating, the site asks that you limit viewing to two minutes. This will give others a chance to watch, too.

And finally, almost in your back yard, pictures taken every 10 seconds by a camera trained by the Army Corps of Engineers on an eagle nest near Libby Dam are posted at http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?siteName=libby&pageName=eagle_cam_main. The site allows you to open a Pop-up Auto Refresh window that remains active after you exit from the site. With the Pop-up window in one corner of your monitor screen, you can keep an eye on nest activity while you are working on other things.

In the two weeks I've been monitoring these sites, I've found that occasionally one of the sites has no eagle pictures displayed, presumably because its camera is not working or some cable connection has failed. Eventually the problem gets fixed, but that can take some time. So if you visit one of these sites and no eagle pictures are being displayed, try again later.

By Linda Winnie

Bird Sanctuary in Libby

William Hubbard of Troy is interested in developing a bird sanctuary on the old Stimson Lumber mill site, now owned by the Port Authority. This property has 3 man-made ponds and a natural pond. He would like help establishing a local club for this, as well as any financial assistance. If anyone would like to join in this endeavor, please contact William at PO Box 3008, Troy, MT 59935 or hubbard@troymt.org.



Input Sought on Migratory Bird Hunting

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites public comment in drafting a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on hunting of migratory birds. The Service regulates the hunting of waterfowl, cranes, rails, snipe, woodcock, doves and pigeons. Regulations governing seasons and limits have been created annually since 1918. Other regulations, termed "basic" regulations, such as those governing hunting methods, are changed only as needed. "Migratory bird management is a key mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Director H. Dale Hall. "This NEPA process will ensure that all voices are heard." The SEIS will update the 1975 EIS and 1988 SEIS for issuing of annual hunting regulations.

Written comments regarding SEIS scoping are due by May 30, 2006, to Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS MBSP-4107-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may be faxed to (703) 358-2217, or e-mail huntingseis@fws.gov. For more information, see <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/fedreg/MGBHR.HTML>

Submitted by Bob Lee

FROM THE BOARD:

LESLIE KEHOE

BIRDING IN A LAND DOWN UNDER, PART II, A TALE OF TASMANIA

Tasmania, an island about the size of Ireland, lies 150 miles or so south of the mainland of Australia. It lies south of the 40th parallel and is surrounded by the tempestuous Southern Ocean. It is called the Apple Isle and it is said that the first apple trees were planted by the botanist aboard the Bounty. It was a favorite stopping place for both Captain Bligh and Captain Cook. Tasmania is a land of great beauty, still very wild with untamed rivers, lovely, peaceful lakes, rugged, awe inspiring mountain ranges, ancient moss-covered trees, unique button grass meadows, amazingly abundant wildlife including wallabies, wombats and penguins. I spent a very short week in the austral springtime exploring this remarkable island.

Nearly one third of the island is set aside in National Parks; there are 14 National Parks here and several of them have been designated as World Heritage Areas by the United Nations...a very special designation reserved only for the most remarkable places in the world. I visited five Parks during my short stay.

I spent one day on the east coast of Tasmania at Freycinet National Park. The park is a peninsula composed of rugged pink granite cliffs and mountains (we would call them hills) interspersed with spectacular white sand crescent shaped beaches. I went for a walk that evening, a light breeze blowing, a few errant clouds above and the setting sun turning the pink granite into unbelievable shades of orange, red, and gold. It was such a peaceful and pleasant evening.

After a generous breakfast which included blueberries, strawberries and homemade pastries I stepped out into a tempest. A storm had come in overnight with gale force winds, with rain and sun and flying clouds. It was all very exciting. On the ocean side (east) of the peninsula immense waves were crashing up against the headlands, and flying below me with great skill were Pacific Gulls and hundreds of Australasian Gannets. On the west side of the peninsula which was protected from the worst of the winds is a large body of water called Moulting Lagoon. It is filled with Black Swans; according to the guide books, over 10,000



of them breed here. I saw hundreds of them in front of me and they glided majestically over the waters followed by tiny gray cygnets, quite magical. Here, too, were flocks of Caspian Terns and Bar-tailed Godwits. White-faced Herons probed the marshy edges of the Lagoon as Welcome Swallows flew overhead. Australian Pelicans flew effortlessly just above the water.

I spent several days in the mountains, of which Tasmania has plenty. Some of the most inaccessible wilderness in the world can be found on the west side of the island. Cradle Mountain National Park was my destination here. It is a World Heritage Area with good reason. The mountains of the Park are rugged, their slopes heavily forested with ancient rainforest, with some of the trees here 2000 years in age. Walking here is like taking a step backwards in time, and water can be found everywhere. Over 95 inches of precipitation

falls here every year. There are deep glacial lakes surrounded by 600 foot cliffs, dozens of caramel colored rushing streams whose waters are stained with tannin, wet meadows and mud up to one's knees.

The ancient rainforests of Tassie are filled with trees and plants found only here. There are immense King Billy pines, members of the cypress family, whose trunks support entire ecosystems of mosses, ferns and lichens. The most common of the eucalypts here is the snow gum, tall trees that can withstand the cold and snow of Tasmanian winters. In the alpine areas are cushion plants, brilliant green mats 2 to 3 feet across and only inches tall, some of which are hundreds of years in age and grow in the most exposed areas, absolutely fascinating.

Southern and myrtle beech trees, both *Nothofagus* species, grow on the subalpine mountain slopes; their closest relatives today can be found in New Zealand and Patagonia. These trees evolved from the ancient continent of Gondwana some 140 million years ago, truly living fossils.

There are bushes such as the Mountain Pepper whose rounded leaves have been used since time immemorial by the Aboriginals. Be forewarned, don't put a large piece in your mouth; what the name doesn't include is the word "hot". There are Button grass moorlands, a sedge that forms large mounds, and open fields filled with Alpine coral ferns. Forty percent of these plants are endemic to Tasmania and found only here. The landscape is one I was continually amazed by; like nothing I have ever experienced.

A Tale of Tasmania, continued...

Wildlife, too, is abundant and diverse. Some, such as Bennett's wallaby (similar to kangaroos but smaller), Tasmanian pademelon (a type of wallaby), Long-nosed potoroo and Tasmanian devil, are found only in Tasmania. I stayed at a wonderful lodge in the Park and every morning and evening (most marsupials are nocturnal), within a few feet of my room, I saw Common wombats (a truly unique creature with dark liquid eyes), wallabies, pademelons and a bristly creature called a Short-beaked echidna.

The birds sing at the break of day in Tasmania as they do at here in the spring, even in the pouring rain. A large heavy-billed black bird with white wing tips called a Black Currawong was one of the first to wake me; the bird book describes the call as a yodeled croak. They were usually right outside my window; it was an unusual way to wake up. Soon the Crescent and Yellow-throated Honeyeaters would join in; these lovely birds are slightly smaller and more slender than our American Robins, with long curved beaks for sipping nectar. Here in the eucalyptus I found a pair Green Rosellas, a parrot found only on Tasmania. They are beautiful green birds with bright yellow heads and blue cheeks. Yellow Wattlebirds practiced their love songs, too. The largest of the honeyeaters, they are about the size of our jays. These birds are gray brown with a long spotted tail; they have an unusual pendulous yel-



low wattle that hangs from behind the eye. I found thornbills and birds the Aussies call robins in brushy thickets beside the stream. They are similar to our robin, only smaller, but these robins are flycatchers rather than thrushes. Some have bright orange breasts and some are pink.

I finally got to do a little star gazing in the southern hemisphere. On a crystal clear night surrounded by mountains and rainforest, I found myself closer to the stars than I have been since I was a child. The stars in Southern Cross twinkled brightly; all of the stars in Orion's belt were visible, and the shining path of the Milky Way kept me mesmerized. There was little light pollution in the mountains and the dark vault of the sky was laid out before me in shining, sparkling splendor.

This tells only a partial tale of the land that is Tasmania; it is a mythical place and yet it felt very familiar. There are rich green farmlands and quaint towns with a colonial flavor. Gold and copper mines have defaced the land, yet one third of the country is set aside for all to enjoy. There is a long honored Aboriginal heritage, yet the island was used as a penal colony for a hundred years and the native peoples were nearly exterminated. The native wildlife is abundant and diverse but there are sharp declines in some populations such as the Tasmanian devil. The dense rainforests and pristine wind-swept beaches are places where time stands nearly still. It is a place that I long to visit again; after all, I still need to find that elusive Forty-spot Pardalote and I never did find a Ground Parrot and then there is ...

Glasgow to Host 2006 Bird Festival

The 2006 Montana Audubon Bird Festival will be held June 2 - 4, 2006, in Glasgow. Festival brochures and registration forms will be sent to all Audubon members.

**HOTSPOTS BROCHURE AVAILABLE**

Looking for a good place to go birding? Need to know how to get there? Want to know which birds frequent the Flathead Valley in your favorite season? Which birds breed here? Which just visit for the winter? You can get answers to these questions and more in Flathead Audubon's "Birding Hotspots in the Flathead Basin." This 6-panel, multicolored brochure contains descriptions of 13 birding hotspots around the Flathead Valley, with a map showing how to get to them. It lists all the birds that have been sighted in the Flathead, along with information on their abundance, breeding status and season of occurrence.

The Hotspots brochure is available—free!—at the monthly Flathead Audubon meeting. It is also available at <http://www.flatheadvalues.org>. You may request a mailed copy of the brochure by sending \$1 for shipping costs to Dan Casey, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Flathead Audubon provides copies of Hotspots to local businesses that sell bird-related items or serve tourists who might be interested in birding. Up to 30 brochures may be obtained free of charge for this purpose. Contact Dan Casey, 756-2681, to arrange this.

Funding assistance for the brochure was provided by Montana Audubon, Flathead National Forest, Glacier National Park and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One.



(CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, continued)

working with city administration to develop a Park Land and Greenways Maintenance District to fund services. With an inventory of about 5,000 trees, as each city responds to changing conditions, it attempts to achieve more diversity among the species which comprise its inventory, so as not to rely heavily on a single species. Following are some reasons for changing tree inventories:

- Whitefish has a mature aging urban forest of green ash trees that are at the end of their life cycles. Kalispell began planting its streets in 1905 with Norway maples, green ash and American elm. (Remember the fate of American elm.)
- Paper birches are dying from the effects of drought followed by bronze birch borer.
- Trees planted in the early decades of the cities' lives were often planted too close together, without thought for their ultimate size. Thus, two trees removed from a site may be replaced with one new tree.
- Street projects have resulted in the need to replace trees weakened by construction or removed.
- Inappropriate tree species growing under power lines are being replaced with appropriately-sized species, such as Amur maple.
- New neighborhoods are being annexed.



To enhance management of the urban forest, Whitefish will upgrade its tree inventory this summer, utilizing GIS and Autocad technology to help determine precise location, species and condition of each tree. Kalispell plans a future computerization of its inventory.

Kalispell has a volunteer Shade Tree Commission and Whitefish a volunteer Tree Advisory Committee established by city ordinance to offer advice and recommendations to their urban forestry programs. Kalispell's Commission hosts the Trees to Paper to Trees semi-annual recycling drive which buys the trees planted by third graders at the annual National Arbor Day celebration on April 28. Since 1996, Kalispell has received the National Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award.

In addition to the annual tree care cycle, Whitefish has projects underway and planned.

- A landscaping plan for Highway 93 South from Town Pump to Pizza Hut.
- Irrigation and revegetation with native plants along West Edgewood Road.
- A landscaping plan for the north and south sides of the viaduct.
- Revegetation of bicycle/pedestrian trails with low maintenance plant materials.
- A demonstration park with an Ad Hoc Committee to experiment with pesticide-free maintenance
- Investigation of how other communities preserve viewsheds.
- A public process for the establishment of a dog park(s).
- An official Tree Memorial Program to provide living memorials for deceased friends and relatives along with a plaque in a park setting.

Kalispell is also planning for the future as it begins to write its first "Parks and Recreation Master Plan." Changing demographics, i.e., retiring baby boomers, will impact the delivery of services. The Parks Department is studying the design of present and future park facilities, programs, and recreational and leisure opportunities in order to identify where it needs to put its resources.

Receiving the awards for the Kalispell and Whitefish Parks and Recreation Departments were Mike Baker, Director of Kalispell Parks and Recreation, Carole Peschel, Whitefish Park Board and Tree Advisory Committee member, and Dick Solberg, Whitefish Tree Advisory Committee member.

By Paula Smith

MONTANA AUDUBON REPORT



At the quarterly Montana Audubon board meeting on 4/1/06, representatives adopted the Five Year Strategic Plan, a user-friendly, plain English, clear view of MA's direction for the next 5 years. The Executive Director application period has been extended, to encourage more applications. There were reports on the Billings Conservation Education Program, three anti-conservation ballot initiatives that are expected, Montana Audubon representation at the Endangered Species Conference in Washington, DC, and the availability of "mini-grants" for local chapter projects. Financially, Montana Audubon has gone from a \$300,000 deficit two years ago to a positive cash flow now. Anyone interested in further details about the meeting may contact Brent Mitchell, FAS Alternate Board member to Montana Audubon.





Slate of Nominees for FAS Board Positions

by Linda de Kort, Nominations Chair



The Nominations Committee is delighted to present a rich slate of nominees. The election of officers and board members will take place at the Annual Meeting following the Potluck on May 8th. We are grateful that several board members and officers have agreed to continue on the board, some in the same positions, one in a brand new one. We are also pleased to introduce new nominees to this slate.

Gail Sullivan has been our secretary for six years. She helped launch the FAS website and will continue to be a contributing member to the contents of the website. She is employed full time at the Tally Lake Ranger District. Thanks, Gail, for accepting the nomination for another two year term.

Bruce Tannehill has served as Treasurer of the FAS board for six years. Bruce has established sound financial procedures, oversees our investments, helps prepare the budget and ensures that we stick with it, distributes a monthly treasurer's report to the board and writes up a financial statement for the newsletter and annual report. Bruce is an esteemed retired physics teacher from Whitefish High School. He and his wife Gail travel the planet, field guides and binoculars in hand. Bruce has accepted the nomination for Treasurer for a two year term.

Mike Fanning has graciously accepted the nomination for Vice President. This position has been vacant this year and we are grateful to have support and back up for our very busy President, Bob Lopp. Mike has served on the Audubon Board for 6 years and is the current Membership Chair. He keeps track of all memberships and helps with the pick up and mailing of the Pileated Post. He is a self-proclaimed hedonist and as soon as the snow flies in the winter, Mike and his wife Jill pursue their skiing pleasures on Big Mountain. Mike has spent most of his career managing technical consultants and doing consulting work. We are grateful that he "came out of retirement" to help a board in need.

Lewis Young has been a FAS board member for three years. Lewis retired as a biologist from the Forest Service and has been a most valuable source of information and inspiration regarding wildlife issues. Lewis serves as Conservation Chair and has penned many eloquent and well researched letters on behalf of Flathead Audubon. Lewis' wife Lynda is sometimes referred to as the Mayor of Tobacco Valley Historical Village because of their involvement with that living museum. Lewis is also president of the Eureka Bird Club and unofficial

guide for many fine fishing holes in the Tobacco Valley. We are very grateful to Lewis for accepting this nomination.

Marcy Mahr has accepted a nomination to the FAS board for a one year term. Marcy lives in Kila with her husband Kip Drobish and daughter Kolibri (hummingbird!). They live on a ridge they call Raven Ridge in a straw bale, solar-powered home they built. Many families in the Flathead Valley belong to their community-supported agriculture program (CSA), receiving nutritious, organic produce throughout the summer. In 2000, Marcy and Kip received the EarthSong Foundation's Sustainability Award for their work in conservation and sustainable agriculture. Marcy also works professionally as a conservation biologist, most recently contributing scientific research to the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y), a bi-national, cooperative network of scientists, conservation groups, foundations and businesses working to maintain and restore nature's biological diversity from Wyoming's Wind River Range to the Yukon's Peel River basin. For five years (1999-2004), Marcy was Y2Y's Science Director. Marcy's interest in birds in the Flathead was really piqued a few years ago when Y2Y's scientific analysis showed our area as



a bright 'hotspot' for bird biodiversity—with some of the highest numbers of different bird species throughout all of Yellowstone to Yukon. Marcy also works on local projects such as planting native plants along creeks within Ashley Creek watershed and looking for ways to bridge the Flathead's conservation and agricultural communities. Marcy will add great depth and insight to our FAS board.

Barbara Grove has accepted a three year nomination to the board. Most of us in Flathead Audubon know Barbara through her beautiful wildlife photos that have been shown at meetings with those of her husband Gene. She is an award-winning published photographer with magazine cover credits. Barbara and Gene have been full-time residents of the Flathead Valley since December 2004. They moved from their ranch in the Hill Country of Texas, where their ranch was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Her past memberships include the Travis County Audubon Society and the Marble Falls-Burnet County Birding Club in Texas. She is a certified home economist and taught at The University of Texas. Barbara and Gene enjoy exploring and photographing the Northwest. Thank you, Barbara, for graciously accepting our nomination.



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MAY, 2006



Have a safe, happy summer, everyone!

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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 | 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 | 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 | (shrdlu@centurytel.net) | 862-8070 |
| 2005-2006 | Brent Mitchell | (bkmitch@centurytel.net) | 756-8130 |
| 2005-2006 | Leslie Kehoe | (ljkheoe@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 | Linda Winnie | 755-1406 |
| Conservation | Lewis Young | 889-3492 | Newsletter | Linda Winnie | 755-1406 |
| Education | Ansley Ford | 857-6788 | Editors | Kay Mitchell | 756-8130 |
| Education | Lisa Discoe | 837-1456 | Program | Leo Keane | 862-5807 |
| Coordinators | Sonja Hartmann | 387-4150 | Publicity | Paula Smith | 837-0181 |
| Field Trips | Leslie Kehoe | 837-4467 | Refuge Projects | Leslie Kehoe | 837-4467 |
| Hospitality | Lois Drobish | 756-7405 | Sales | Jill Fanning | 862-8070 |
| | 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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