



# the Flathead Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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VOLUME 31

NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2006

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## FLATHEAD AUDUBON TO HONOR LEX BLOOD



*Lex Blood will be recognized by Flathead Audubon at its December meeting for his outstanding contributions to conservation education and his crucial support for and participation in many local projects engaged in the preservation of the Flathead's landscape, environment and wildlife. The presentation of this first FAS Conservation Achievement Recognition of the 2006-07 season will be made by Ben Long.*

If you enjoy the mountains, forests and water of the Flathead Valley, you owe a hearty thanks to Dr. William A. "Lex" Blood, for more than 35 years a Flathead Valley geologist, geographer, educator and conservationist. He is a respected elder of the Flathead conservation community, a mentor and counselor with few peers.

Growing up in New York, Connecticut and Virginia, Lex attended Yale University for two years. After serving with the Marines in Korea, he received a business degree from University of Virginia and a doctorate from the Colorado School of Mines. Finding the corporate mining world and the state of Colorado too confining for his energies, he moved his family to Montana in the early 1970s. He raised four children, built a home and chased errant cattle around Lake Blaine.

Desiring wiser subjects than Herefords, Lex became a teacher at Flathead Valley Community College when it occupied a few buildings in downtown Kalispell. Teaching Earth Sciences, Lex launched an educational career that spanned decades and continues today. (LEX BLOOD, continued on page 3)

### DECEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday, December 11, 2006: Flathead Audubon General Meeting** begins at 7PM at The Summit, conference room #3. Christmas Bird Count program - turn to page 3.

**Monday, December 4, 2006: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting.** 6PM at 295 Third Avenue East North, Kalispell (Jane Lopp & Associates Building) All are welcome.

**Saturday, December 16, 2006: Bigfork Christmas Bird Count.** For details, contact Dan Casey at 857-3143 or 756-2681 or [dcasey@abcbirds.org](mailto:dcasey@abcbirds.org) or [caseys4@centurytel.net](mailto:caseys4@centurytel.net)

**Saturday, December 16, 2006: Eureka Christmas Bird Count.** For details, call Lewis or Lynda Young at 889-3492.

**Sunday, December 17, 2006: Glacier National Park Christmas Bird Count.** Nine routes, some half-day, some full day. For details, contact Susan Sindt at 892-7406 or [sisindt@hotmail.com](mailto:sisindt@hotmail.com)

**Sunday, December 17, 2006: Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count.** For details, contact Jim Rogers at 883-6351, ext 247, or [jrogers@polson.k12.mt.us](mailto:jrogers@polson.k12.mt.us)

**Swan Valley Christmas Bird Count, date To Be Announced:** For details, call Steve Lamar at 754-2745.

**Sunday, December 31, 2006: Kalispell Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Dan Casey, see above

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

## CHRISTMAS BIRDS??



For most of us, the month of December is filled with visions of sugar-plums and the other trappings that have come to be expected during the holiday season; but for bird lovers the premier event might just be Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count. This annual event offers opportunities for both expert and novice birders to gather and spend a day observing, counting, and learning about birds. The first year that I was involved with the Kalispell CBC, one of the biggest surprises for me was the sighting of numerous American

Goldfinches, birds that I had previously seen only in the summer. In my ignorance, I even thought that perhaps a mistake had been made. (My apologies to Dan Casey our count coordinator!) I have since learned that many American Goldfinch winter in the Flathead, but because of a change in appearance, winter identification can be a challenge.

As one of the most brightly colored birds found in our area, the summer Goldfinch is easily recognized and has become a feeder favorite. Sometimes called a wild canary, this sparrow-sized bird is a faithful visitor to back yards where their favorite food, thistle seed, is offered. As one of 23 species of the family Fringillidae found in North America, the American Goldfinch is abundant over most of North America where there is suitable habitat. Clearing of forest and creation of open weedy areas has benefited the American Goldfinch, who is almost exclusively a seed eater, even when feeding young and, in return, Goldfinches provide an important service to landowners by consuming large numbers of weed seeds.

Approximately 5 inches in length, American Goldfinch males are unmistakable in the spring and summer with their black caps, tails and wings and their bright lemon-yellow bodies. Females are less brilliant with their olive-yellow coloring and lack of a black cap. This more subtle coloring allows her plumage to better blend in with the surroundings while she is in the nest. Both sexes have slender beaks especially adapted to extract seeds from the seed heads of plants such as thistle, birch, alder, and cedar. Also, because they have short, strong legs that allow them to cling to seed heads and thistle feeders it's not uncommon to see them hanging upside down to feed.

The American Goldfinch mates later than most birds, with nesting seeming to depend on the flowering of the thistle plant which provides a favorite food and nesting material. In our area, thistles begin to bloom in late June or early July and during this time the courtship and territorial display of the Goldfinch includes acrobatic maneuvers by the male, who also sings during this flight. In his 1902 Handbook, Frank Chapman wrote of the Goldfinch, ***"Their flight is expressive of their joyous nature, and as they bound through the air they hum a gay 'per-chic-o-ree.' Their love song is delivered with an ecstasy and abandon which carries them off their feet, and they circle over the fields sowing the air with music."***

After mating, the female builds a cup-shaped nest of down and plant fibers in the fork of a tree or shrub, while the male keeps watch. The nest is woven so tightly that it will hold water and sadly there have been reports of young birds that have drowned in water retained in the nest while the parents weren't present. The 4 to 6 light blue eggs are incubated by the female and hatch in about 2 weeks. Chicks are born naked and with their eyes closed. Both parents feed the young regurgitated seeds and the young birds fledge in about 17 days. A gregarious bird throughout the year, the American Goldfinch seems to feed in small groups during breeding season, while it is found almost exclusively in large flocks during the winter.

During the winter months, identification becomes more difficult, as male Goldfinches lose their black caps and the previously lemon-yellow body turns a buffy brown. The face and throat of the male retain some yellow, while the wings are primarily black with dirty white edges, creating two distinct wing bars. The tail is black with white edges and the bill and legs are yellow. The female in winter plumage has similar coloring, although she has no yellow on her head or throat.

In spring, the American Goldfinch returns to breeding plumage by a second complete molt of its body feathers, the only member of the finch family to do so.

The state bird of Iowa, New Jersey and Washington, the American Goldfinch was first reported in Montana on June 8, 1805, when, in the vicinity of the Marias River, Meriwether Lewis made the following entry in .... (GOLDFINCH, continued on page 6)





## December 2006 Program

**Tales of Christmas Past: Adventures in Bird Counting**Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Susannah Casey

What's even better than spending a day in box stores trying to find the perfect gift? How about driving the back roads, walking in the woods, or counting the birds at your feeder from the comfort of your living room? For this year's annual pre-count slide show, we'll have a twist on Dan Casey's usual overview, identification tips, CBC trivia, conservation and natural history tidbits, anecdotes and predictions. Susannah and Dan have been doing counts together for more than 25 years, and now you get to hear "the rest of the story!" There's no better way to prepare for the upcoming counts than to come and enjoy Susannah's tales of winter adventures counting birds at Somers, Kalispell and Ninepipe. You can expect an animated presentation with lots of great pictures of common and rare birds. We will try to finalize the teams for the Bigfork count at the end of the talk. Don't miss it!

**Win a Hummingbird for Christmas and Help Fund Local FAS Projects**

You could win this beautiful color photograph of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, double-matted in a wooden frame if your ticket is drawn in the upcoming **Flathead Audubon Christmas Raffle**.

But there's not much time left to buy a ticket! The drawing will be held at the FAS December 11 meeting. You don't have to be present to win. Raffle tickets are **\$2 each**, with a bargain rate of **\$10 for 6 tickets**.

Tickets may be purchased at the December meeting, before the drawing. You can also get them by mail. Send your name, phone number and the number of tickets you want, along with your check for the appropriate amount, to Jill Fanning, FAS Christmas Raffle, 380 Tally Lake Road, Whitefish, MT 59937. Jill will fill out



your raffle tickets for you. Mail orders must be received before December 9.

Proceeds from the Raffle will help fund local Flathead Audubon projects such as the FAS Bird Education Program (which provides classroom bird education trunks, and teachers' workshops for local educators), FAS grants and scholarships for the study of avian natural history, and the leasing and managing of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

The prize hummingbird photograph is by local nature photographer **Mike O'Dale**. Mike graciously donated this matted and framed version of his work to Flathead Audubon. He and his wife Jackie live in Kila, and are active members of FAS.

And to all you raffle ticket holders: Good luck! And thanks for helping Flathead Audubon.

**(LEX BLOOD, continued from page 1...)** With Ursula Matson, Lex founded The Glacier Institute outdoor education center, and his geologic field courses remain among its most popular classes. Lex has worn out countless hiking boots on Montana trails, leading geology field trips that, as Lex says, "tell the story behind the landscape." Hundreds of Flathead Valley residents and visitors enjoy a greater appreciation of the Crown of the Continent, thanks to the patient instruction of Dr. Blood. He has presented lectures for the Smithsonian Institute, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Committee and random groups of puzzled tourists.

It is nearly impossible to list all of Lex's many conservation accomplishments. He was a founder or founding board member of Montana Environmental Information Center, Glacier Park Associates, Montana Environmental Education Association, Flathead Forestry Collaborative Project, and Sunrift Center for Sustainable Communities. He directed the Flathead Coalition the FIRST time we fought coalmines in the Canadian Flathead and served on the Flathead County Planning Board well before the current population boom.

Today, Lex is managing director of the Sustainability Fund, which makes grants to conservation and community efforts in the Flathead Valley. He fostered the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium, linking outdoor educators from Montana, British Columbia and Alberta. He began the Non-Profit Development Partnership, which seeks to support a wide variety of conservation, community and charity groups in the Flathead. Lex is a stalwart of the Flathead Conservation Roundtable. He still roams Montana with rock hammer in hand, conducting geological analyses that help secure cooperative conservation agreements on private land conserved by the Montana Land Reliance, Flathead Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Montana.

*(concluded on next page)*

### What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter survey of birds that visit your bird feeders. Periodically you count the highest number of each species that you see at your feeder from November through early April. FeederWatch helps scientists track broad-scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The Christmas Bird Count is a very valuable way to contribute to knowledge of birds in winter, but that is a one-day snapshot. FeederWatch is a way to expand our knowledge over a longer time.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, in partnership with the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and Canadian Nature Federation operate Project FeederWatch. Anyone with an interest in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms and retired persons.

What will I do if I join Project FeederWatch? Count the birds that appear at your count site. For each species, report only the highest number of individuals that you saw at one time on a count day. That way, you are certain to avoid counting the same bird twice.

How much time will it take? It's up to you! Select your own bird-count days – two consecutive days once every two weeks, or every week if you enter data online and if you choose to count that often. Count during all or part of those days. You will report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology, either over their web site or on paper Data Forms.

Participants receive a Research Kit and the Lab's quarterly newsletter, *Birdscope*. Your kit, which arrives about 3 weeks after you sign up, contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding and data forms – everything you need to start counting your birds. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. There is a \$15 fee that covers your materials, newsletter, staff support, web design and data analysis.



Pacific Northwest & Rocky Mountain Regions  
2005-2006 Top 25 List: 802 Sites Reporting

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dark-eyed Junco            | 14. American Goldfinch     |
| 2. Black-capped Chickadee     | 15. Varied Thrush          |
| 3. Northern Flicker           | 16. American Crow          |
| 4. House Finch                | 17. Hairy Woodpecker       |
| 5. American Robin             | 18. Pine Siskin            |
| 6. Downy Woodpecker           | 19. Mourning Dove          |
| 7. Red-breasted Nuthatch      | 20. Sharp-shinned Hawk     |
| 8. Song Sparrow               | 21. Red-winged Blackbird   |
| 9. European Starling          | 22. Fox Sparrow            |
| 10. Spotted Towhee            | 23. Bushtit                |
| 11. House Sparrow             | 24. Black-billed Magpie    |
| 12. Steller's Jay             | 25. Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| 13. Chestnut-backed Chickadee |                            |

What will your "TOP 25" list be for 2006-2007? Give it a try!

President Bob Lopp



(LEX BLOOD, concluded....) Lex is married to Judith Pressmar; they live on Kalispell's East Side and enjoy traveling in Montana and abroad. He has three grown sons and a daughter, Lisa Flowers, who is the director of the Boone and Crockett Environmental Education Center near Choteau.

An ardent adventurer and consumer of outdoor gear, Lex's opinion is frequently sought regarding trails, routes and equipment purchases. A photograph of him was once taped to the cash register of Rocky Mountain Outfitter, apparently some kind of good luck charm. He has walked men half his age into the ground. On the down side, he is, admittedly, an impatient bird watcher.

Rumor has it Lex Blood has an email account, but he greatly prefers communicating over a cup of coffee and breakfast, or, better yet, a shot of George Dickle bourbon and a campfire. So, cheers, Lex. The Flathead Valley, along with Flathead Audubon say "thank you."

By Ben Long



**FROM THE BOARD: SHIRLEY HARRISON**

FAS BOARD MEMBER



**FLATHEAD AUDUBON AND OSNA NEIGHBORS  
HELP GUIDE DEVELOPMENT OF NEWLY ANNEXED  
RIATA RIDGE SUBDIVISION**

Kalispell City Planning Board and Zoning Commission listened and allowed the surrounding Greenridge and Howard Drive community a voice in the subdivision development of their neighborhood on Tuesday evening, November 14, 2006. No one protested owner Gary Priest the right to develop his recently purchased 4.47 acre parcel, formerly known as the Leg Up Stables. The Planning Board unanimously voted to annex this county property into the city, at a higher density of R-2 single family homes, which allows minimum 9600 sq feet lot size. What the surrounding unified community did protest is how he and Schwarz Engineering are planning to do it.

Increases in lot densities bring an increase in populations and ensuing problems. The clear message from this meeting is that the density needs to be lowered. Several organized and articulate homeowners, including Flathead Audubon members, presented concerns about potential problems for all homeowners from this new subdivision and the several that are yet to come. Existing landowners along Greenridge and Howard Drive have county R-1 (one acre minimum lot size) properties that range from .5 acre to 5 acres and butt up against the 442 acre Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

Problems addressed to Mr. Priest's proposal are access to Willow Glen near the existing troublesome Woodland Drive intersection, the need to improve both lanes of Greenridge and Howard Drives, to prevent storm water and drainage damage on nearby properties, to decrease lot density by increasing the lot size to be more compatible with Leisure Heights and The Willows subdivisions further south on Willow Glen, to increase the park to the full 20,908 sq ft and to locate it in the southeast corner, to be enlarged as other subdivisions occur further south; to increase the width of the proposed Riata Drive and cul-de-sac, and to insure that the bike path right-of-way stays free of development. The Planning Board gave Mr. Priest and Schwarz Engineering up to 90 days to meet with the local landowners and their privately hired planner to solve these problems and return to the City for approval.

Flathead Audubon OSNA Committee agrees that all of the above problems with this subdivision need to be solved for this community. Since 85% of wildlife use riparian areas twice a day, we are concerned for the privately owned open space and low density buffer zone surrounding the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Our successful management of OSNA as a Natural Area depends on the support of this local community of which we are a part. We need to continue this spirit of working to reach livable compromises with neighborhood development to achieve win-win results. These neighbors will gain a more livable environment next to a riparian ecosystem that supports the Flathead Valley watershed leading to Flathead Lake.

Before November 14, 2006, I would not have believed there was hope for the reckless fast sweeping growth of our valley. Flathead County seems to be struggling with their growth plan. Smart Growth conversations do not talk enough about livability and park or open space for humans. The Riata Ridge project fits with the Flathead Growth policies of increasing the density nearest the city limits. If Riata Ridge developers and the local community come together in a spirit of communication and common good, future new homeowners will be included in this valuable community to continue this age old tradition – communities growing families and our future.

**DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE AUDUBON MEETING!**

On the sale table on the side of the room at our monthly meeting, look for:

- \* Note Cards – Beautiful watercolors of birds, boxed or single
- \* New 2007 Calendars – Song bird and raptor wall calendars, weekly planner
- \* Books – “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv
- \* Miscellaneous – who knows? Plush tweety birds?



Jill Fanning, Sales Chair



## Christmas Counts Coming Up



This year the Bigfork count (our 33<sup>rd</sup>) will be held on **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. True to our new tradition, the Kalispell count will be two weeks and a day later, on **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Other counts in our chapter area include Glacier National Park, Ninepipe, Eureka, Libby, and the Upper Swan Valley (Condon). See the list of dates for these counts on page 1. As we get ready for our two valley counts, let's review a few highlights from last year...

Last year was the "winter of the **Snowy Owl**," and 5 were seen on the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count at Bigfork, only the second time we have found the species on the count. **Trumpeter Swan, Gyrfalcon, Northern Saw-whet Owl** and **Spruce Grouse** were among the 81 species that rewarded those willing to brave temperatures as low as -17F on a sunny winter's day. We have now found 142 species of birds over the history of this count, which usually has the highest species count in the state.

Our Kalispell count has become even more popular than the Bigfork count, and last year 47 observers turned out on a beautiful New Year's Day. As a result, we found >13,000 individual birds of 68 species, and added 4 new species to our 7-yr cumulative list for the circle, which now stands at 96 species. These included a well-described **Glaucous Gull** at the landfill, a **Peregrine Falcon** off Columbia Falls Stage Road, two **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, and three **Marsh Wrens**. Other notable species included **Tundra Swan, Thayer's Gull** (count week), **White-throated Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird** and **Cooper's Hawk**. The seven **Merlins** and 34 **Blue Jays** were new high counts for those species.

### How You can Be Involved (We Want You!)

Participating in a Christmas Count only requires that you're willing to spend at least part of the day outdoors with one or more other birders, counting all the birds in a designated part of our count circle(s). Or, if you live in the count circle, you can just count the birds at your feeder that day. We welcome all participants, and we take care to pair less experienced folks with more skilled observers. Call the count compiler, **Dan Casey**, at **857-3143** (home) or **756-2681** (office) ASAP if you want to take part in the Bigfork or Kalispell counts, either in the field or as a feeder watcher. For the Bigfork count, all arrangements are made ahead of time following the December FAS program; we meet at the Bigfork Senior Center at 5PM the day of the count for a potluck compilation dinner. For Kalispell, we finalize the teams over breakfast at Finnegan's restaurant the morning of the count (starting at 7:30). Please come and continue the tradition with us, and start a new tradition of your own!

CBC Chairman, Dan Casey



## 2006 SUNFLOWER SEED SALE

Thanks to all of you who purchased seeds this year. We sold 283 sacks, which raised about \$1600 to support the local programs of Flathead Audubon. The birds will appreciate your seeds all winter, and you will enjoy watching the birds.

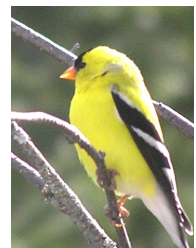
Birdseed Sale Chairman, Mike Fanning

(continued from page 2...) his journal: "**The river bottoms affording all the timber which is to be seen in the country they are filled with innumerable little birds that resort thither either for shelter or to build their nests. when sun began to shine today these birds appeared to be very gay and sung most inchantingly; I observed among them the brown thrush, Robbin, turtle dove, linnit goaldfinch, the large and small blackbird, wren and several other birds of less note.**"

Interestingly, Goldfinches also commonly appear in illustrated manuscripts from the Middle Ages where they were associated with the Christ child. In southern Italy and Sicily, Goldfinches were commonly released at the same time that a figure representing the risen Christ appeared at Easter celebrations and it is thought that the fondness of goldfinches for prickly thistles may have recalled the crown of thorns and thus led to their association with Christ.

Last year's CBC reported 24 American Goldfinch in the Bigfork circle and 121 in the Kalispell circle. Consider joining us for our annual Christmas Bird Count and perhaps you too will spot one of these beautiful valley residents this Christmas season!

By Jeannie Marcure



Jeannie Marcure photo

## AUDUBON HEROES REMEMBERED

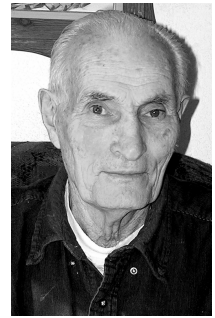
**Jack Joy Whitney** passed away on September 25, 2006. Jack was born October 31, 1916, in Ronan. His family moved to Bigfork and Jack graduated from Bigfork High, where he was a star athlete in track and football, then attended the University of Montana where he studied art and played football. He married Ursula Dorochoer on April 22, 1939, and they have lived in Bigfork ever since. Jack served in the Navy during World War II; he was stationed in the Aleutian Islands.

Jack Whitney was widely renowned for his skill and knowledge as wood craftsman, naturalist, conservationist, bowhunter, outdoorsman, and storyteller. He was a self-taught expert in all these areas, and was generous and enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge and his skills with others. He always found time to whittle out a whistle from a dogwood branch for the children, identify a bird or plant in the forest for his hiking companions, or skillfully weave a basket to present to a treasured friend.

He has left a great legacy of love for the outdoors through his numerous contributions to conservation and nature appreciation in the Flathead. Jack was one of the founders of the Flathead Audubon Society, and FAS was honored to recognize him for Outstanding Conservation Achievements in March, 2004. Jack helped found and served as President of Flathead Wildlife, Inc. He helped establish the Swan River Trail, the Jewel Basin Hiking Area, and the Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail. Jack was a founding member of Montana Hunting Heritage, which honored him with a lifetime achievement award. And he and Ursula established a conservation easement on 120 acres of their land above the Swan River Nature Trail, to ensure that future generations would forever enjoy the natural beauty of the area that Jack so loved.

Jack remained an active member of Flathead Audubon from the time he helped found the organization, and continued to participate in FAS general meetings into his 89<sup>th</sup> year. It was a pleasure to see this tall, smiling, gentle man walk into the meeting room, to listen as he swapped stories with long-time friends and new ones, and to learn from him as he asked insightful questions of the evening's speaker.

We are fortunate to have had such a man as Jack Whitney in our midst. He will be dearly missed.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Willard Rodman 'Rod' Ash** passed away Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006, two days after his 78th birthday following a brave battle with cancer. He was at home, surrounded by family.

Rod was born in Southern California and attended schools in Oakland, CA, receiving his B.A. and M.A. in anthropology and teacher's credential from U.C. Berkeley (1947-1954). He met and married June Ellen Fischer at Cal Berkeley and moved to Shasta County in 1954, where he taught for 30 years at Enterprise High School. He was teacher, counselor, chairman of the District Social Studies Department and initiated an ecology program for the students at the high school. While in California, Rod helped organize the Teachers Local 1320 A.F. of T., and served as the editor of the Local Five Counties Labor Council. He organized Winter Audubon Chapter, in which he served as Conservation Chairman for many years. He was chairman of the Shasta County Democratic Committee and was county chairman of the Robert Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey campaigns.

In 1984, Rod and June retired to their log cabin in the Swan Valley in Condon, which they had bought in 1969 and where they had camped with their family in the Mission Mountains since 1960. They became active in Flathead Audubon immediately, and Rod served as president of Montana Audubon for five years. He was also an officer of the Grounded Eagle Foundation, and served as the president of the Upper Swan Valley History Group. In 1995, Rod served as precinct chairman and ran on the Democratic ticket for the Montana State Senate.

Rod was a founding member of the Swan Citizens' Ad Hoc Committee and became president of the Swan Ecosystem Center, which occupied his work and passion to the last days of his life. He was a true believer in bringing people together to achieve a harmonious balance in living, working, enjoying and conserving the beauty and special qualities of the Swan Valley. Rod and June received the prestigious Flathead National Forest Danny On Award in 1993. Rod was "Conservationist of the Year" for Montana Audubon in 1999. In 2000, both Rod and June were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Montana Audubon and "Volunteer of the Year" from the Swan Ecosystem Center in 2003.

Rod loved his Swan Valley home, where his passions included gardening, birdwatching with June, hiking and fishing in the Mission and Swan Ranges. He leaves June, his soul mate, best friend, and wife of over 55 years, 4 children, 4 grandchildren, 6 nieces and nephews, and innumerable friends and admirers in Flathead Audubon and elsewhere.



Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904-9173

DECEMBER, 2006



Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
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Kalispell, MT  
59904-9173

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 electronically, email your request to: [lindawin@centurytel.net](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net). **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: [pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org)**

## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

Website: [www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org)

John Kyle: [Flockmaster@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:Flockmaster@flatheadaudubon.org)

### OFFICERS

|                |                 |                                     |          |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| President      | Bob Lopp        | 52 West View Drive, Kalispell 59901 | 257-6886 |
| Vice-President | Mike Fanning    | (shrdu@centurytel.net)              | 862-8070 |
| Secretary      | Gail Sullivan   | 932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish 59937  | 862-5775 |
| Treasurer      | Bruce Tannehill | 239 Deer Trail, Whitefish 59937     | 862-4548 |
| Past-President | Linda deKort    | (dekort@montanasky.com)             | 755-3704 |

### DIRECTORS

|           |                  |                                 |          |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 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 |
| 2006-2007 | Marcy Mahr       | (marcymahr@centurytel.net)      | 752-6837 |
| 2005-2008 | Paula Smith      | (paulabobsmith@centurytel.net)  | 837-0181 |
| 2005-2008 | Shirley Harrison | (shirley107@centurytel.net)     | 844-2291 |
| 2006-2009 | Lewis Young      | 50 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917   | 889-3492 |
| 2006-2009 | Barbara Grove    | (grove10@centurytel.net)        | 862-6086 |
| 2006-2007 | Leslie Kehoe     | (kehoe11@centurytel.net)        | 837-4467 |
| 2006-2007 | Leo Keane        | 514 Pine Place, Whitefish 59937 | 862-5807 |
| 2006-2007 | Linda Winnie     | (lindawin@centurytel.net)       | 755-1406 |
| 2006-2007 | Brent Mitchell   | (bkmitch@centurytel.net)        | 756-8130 |

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

|                      |                |          |
|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Birdseed Sales       | Mike Fanning   | 862-8070 |
| Christmas Bird Count | Dan Casey      | 857-3143 |
| Conservation         | Lewis Young    | 889-3492 |
| Education            | Ansley Ford    | 857-6788 |
| Field Trips          | Leslie Kehoe   | 837-4467 |
|                      | Bob Rost       | 837-2255 |
| Hospitality          | Lois Drobish   | 756-7405 |
| Membership           | Mike Fanning   | 862-8070 |
| Owen Sowerwine       | Brent Mitchell | 756-8130 |
| Natural Area         | Linda Winnie   | 755-1406 |
| Newsletter           | Linda Winnie   | 755-1406 |
|                      | Kay Mitchell   | 756-8130 |
| Nominations          | Linda deKort   | 755-3704 |
| Program              | Leo Keane      | 862-5807 |
|                      | Rob Ford       | 857-6788 |
| Publicity            | Paula Smith    | 837-0181 |
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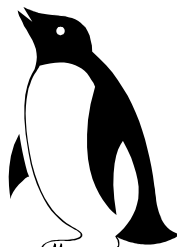
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