



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 34

NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

Renew your local membership now!
\$20 for basic membership, \$35 for supporting membership.

GEAR UP FOR FLATHEAD AUDUBON'S FALL ACTIVITIES!



3rd Annual Raptor Day
in Memory of Rod Ash
September 12 at Lone Pine State Park

The birds are migrating, Fall is the air and it is time for our 3rd Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash. What a wonderful day we have planned, in partnership with Lone Pine State Park, with funding in part by Art Ortenberg. This community event celebrates the many unique species of birds found in Northwest Montana, with a special emphasis on raptors, and to commemorate Rod Ash's life and contributions to conservation and education. The event will be held at Lone Pine State Park on Saturday, September 12, starting with a bird walk at 8:00 AM, Family Bird Walk and Nature Scavenger Hunt at 10:00 and educational booths starting at 11:00, with children's activities by Flathead Audubon, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead National Forest, Lone Pine State Park and Wildlife Return. As an added bonus, Lynn Vaught of Wildlife Return will have live birds on site.

Our workshop this year will be on bird banding by Matt Seidensticker from the University of Montana. Matt will share with us the equipment that banders use in the field and what they can learn from the birds and their travels. He is currently banding owls ...



Owen Sowerwine Natural Area
Work Day
September 26 at Montessori School

It's been a great nearly fire-free summer in the Flathead and Fall is looking fantastic! Now is the time to mark September 26 on your calendar for the annual fun Work Day at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, which Flathead and Montana Audubon lease and manage. Jane Lopp & Associates of Prudential Financial will again apply for a \$1000 grant through Prudential's Global Volunteer Day celebration. If we are fortunate enough for our project at OSNA to be chosen, Flathead Audubon will reap a financial reward, in addition to the satisfaction of knowing we indeed are making a difference in our local environment.

Management at OSNA requires some Audubon money and the volunteer labor of about 30 people for just 2 hours of work. This year, we will be taking a short float trip to OSNA's Big Island. Many folks have never been on this island, so it will be a new adventure for them. All of the islands in the braided sections of the Stillwater and Flathead Rivers have weed problems. Flathead Audubon has used bio-controls (bugs) against weeds on the Mainland and the Big Island, and we did 3 years of weed pulling on a part ...

Raptor Day, continued on page 7 ... Owen Sowerwine Work Day, continued on page 7 ...

SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, September 14, 2009: Flathead Audubon General Meeting. 7 PM, The Summit, Conference Room 3. Chris Peterson presents "Wildfire, Birds and Glacier National Park." See page 3.

Tuesday, September 8, 2009: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome. (Note one-time-only change of day, due to Labor Day holiday.)

Saturday, September 12, 2009: Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash. See article above.

Saturday, September 26, 2009: Owen Sowerwine Work Day/Prudential Global Volunteer Day. See article above.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article & Photos by Jeannie Marcure

SUMMER VISITORS

Because we live in such a desirable tourist destination, many of us have frequent visitors during our beautiful short summers. In fact, a common joke around the Flathead describes our climate as nine months of winter and three months of relatives!

At our home south of town, we've been privileged to have the same couple return to a small guest space just outside our back door for several years now. Typically, the male arrives first and announces his arrival with joyous song. This year that arrival happened on May 5th and shortly afterward we watched as he checked out several guest "cabins" that we had cleaned and readied in anticipation of his visit. To prepare for the arrival of his spouse, this industrious little fellow staked out a territory and readied several of the "cabins" by carrying stick after stick to each of them until he deemed them suitable for his partner. This activity lasted several days and during this whole time, our yard and garden were filled with his singing. When the female finally arrived about a week later, this industrious little fellow took her from house to house, proudly displaying his handiwork and allowing her to choose the one she wanted to use for the summer.

Well, by now I'm sure that most of you have



House Wren delivering a morsel to the babies!

guessed that our visitor is not one of the human variety, but rather one of our feathered friends and that our guest "cabins" are the many bird houses that dot our property!

The guest that returns so faithfully year after year to our yard is the tiny but dynamic House Wren. Breeding from Canada through the West Indies and Central America and southward to the tip of South America, the House Wren has one of the largest breeding ranges of any songbird, so it is certainly not a rare bird to see. Because of this abundance and its rather drab brown appearance, this small (5 inches and 0.4 oz.) bird may not seem very interesting at first, but I think that after a season of observing its behavior and listening to its almost constant singing, it just might become one of your favorites and that you, like I do, will regard its return as one of the landmark events of spring.

Once the male House Wren has taken the female on the tour of available nesting places, she chooses one and adds a small cup of grass, feathers and hair to the twigs that the male has placed. At our house, all the nests that he had prepared were in nest boxes, but House Wrens will also use old woodpecker holes or almost anything else around your property

that contains a cavity. According to my research at Cornell Lab—www.birds.cornell.edu/, wrens often add spider egg sacs to their nesting materials. It is thought that once these spiders hatch, they help combat the mites and other parasites that would otherwise endanger the baby wrens.



Male House Wren checking out guest accommodations soon after arrival.

"Our" wrens choose the nest box closest to our house, an east facing location that is directly above one of my flower beds and close to several 10-12 foot Douglas Firs. It is amazing to see how quickly the wrens could go to these trees or the ground directly below the nest and return with a mouthful of delicious bugs!

After the nest has been chosen and completed, the 5-6 white and brown eggs are laid and incubated for 12 to 15 days by the female. The success of the hatch is very dependent on temperature and my sources at Cornell report that if a sun-drenched box warms up to about 106 degrees Fahrenheit for an hour, the eggs will begin to die. Since wrens begin nesting in May, a more common problem in the Flathead is the cold, as temperatures below 65 for more than a day will also kill the eggs. During the time of incubation, the male feeds the female with regular deliveries of a variety of insects which it forages from the ground or the lower canopy. Once the eggs hatch, both parents share the feeding duties and the 16 to 17 days before the babies fledge is my favorite time for observing the activity; there is an almost constant delivery of all sorts of delicious looking bugs to the nest. One day when some black beetles had infested my Blanket Flower plant, the wrens cleaned them off within hours. No insecticides were needed!! I also saw the parents removing waste sacs from the box regularly. As they mature, the babies can be heard demanding more food as the parents approach the box.

Last year I was lucky enough to be watching with my camera on the day when the baby wrens fledged and not only did I get some good pictures, but I also learned that they were not allowed to return to the nest even once. I saw the female wren take her position on the roof of the house and actually chase the babies away as they tried to return. Now that's what I call TOUGH LOVE!! Within days, the reason for this behavior became apparent, as the parents began a second nest in the same box. The juveniles seemed to adjust to this rather abrupt entry into the ...

Bird of the Month, continued on page 6 ...



September 2009 Program
WILDFIRE, BIRDS AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



In 2003, huge wildfires swept across the landscape of Glacier National Park. These fires created new habitat for a host of interesting birds and creatures, from the Black-backed Woodpecker to the Northern Hawk Owl. Join noted wildlife photographer Chris Peterson as he takes us through the post-wildfire forests of Glacier and looks at the cool creatures that live there.

Chris Peterson is the editor and photographer of *Glacier Park Magazine*, the quarterly journal of the park, as well as the photographer for the *Hungry Horse News*. In addition, his work has appeared nationwide commercially and in *National Geographic* publications. He recently completed a project to commemorate Glacier's Centennial in 2010. He photographed Glacier's flora and fauna for 100 straight days. He used cameras that span the 20th century, from a 1909 Kodak Pocket Vest Camera to a modern Nikon Digital SLR.

Please join us at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 14 for a unique view of Glacier National Park. We meet in the Community Room of The Summit at 205 Sunnyview Lane in Kalispell.



3rd Annual Sunflower Seed Sale

FAS will once again partner with WBC (Western Building Centers), a locally owned and operated business for the purchase of sunflower seeds. The Sunflower Seed Sale will run from October 1 through December 31. A portion of the profit from each bag sold will be donated to FAS. You may purchase your sunflower seeds in 20-lb or 40-lb bags from WBC's four locations in Flathead Valley: Evergreen, Columbia Falls, Whitefish and south Kalispell.

This Seed Sale is one of Flathead Audubon's major fundraising events of the year and your support is needed to ensure our ongoing commitment to environmental and educational programs in the Flathead Valley. Be sure to thank these fine folks for their ongoing support of Flathead Audubon!

Mary Nelesen, Seed Sale Chairperson

SILENT AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS!

The Silent Auction that was held during our May Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck set a new record. Buyers went home with smiles on their faces and our FAS treasury became \$516.50 richer! Special thanks to Rod McIver for bringing his big trailer of plants, many of which are now sprouting all over the Flathead Valley!

9TH ANNUAL MISSION VALLEY HAT PARTY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT THE OWL RESEARCH INSTITUTE!



All Auduboners and friends are welcome!

The Hat Party begins at 4 PM with live music until midnight, with three bands playing, and campfire music continues into the morning! Food service starts at 5:30. **\$15 donation gets you** barbecued pig and smoked beef brisket, pasta and green salads, pies and pastries, beer, wine, and soft drinks. It guarantees you a site for overnight camping, for both trailers and tents. **Don't forget your hat!** The more creative, the better! Forgetting a hat will cost you \$5. **Address:** Ninepipes Center, 35490 Ninepipes Lane; Charlo, MT



Duck Migration

Josh Covill holds the FAS Duct Tape Duck at the conclu-

sion of the Young Birders Conference. As of the May FAS potluck, The DT Duck has migrated to the care of Steve Hoffman, MT Audubon.



DRINK UP!

Every Flathead Audubon meeting features a great program, fellowship, and a terrific cup of coffee. The coffee provided on the table at the back of the meeting room is 100% shade grown and organic, Fair Trade coffee. The treats are brought by our own members. If you would like to provide goodies for a meeting, just sign up on the clipboard that goes around the room at each meeting. And enjoy that cuppa joe!



Recommended Bylaw Change

In order to make clear in our Bylaws that FAS can offer two types of membership, Sustaining and Supporting, the Finance Committee recommends the following bylaw change: Replace the wording of Article II, Section 2, which currently reads: "*There is only one class of Local Chapter Membership, available equally to individuals, families, or groups*" with "**Various categories of Local Chapter Membership may be offered, but all must be available equally to individuals, families, or groups.**" A vote on this change will be conducted at the September General Meeting.

The new, updated "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" brochures are now available at FAS meetings!



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.

CAN YOU TOP THIS?



If you put a turkey vulture in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a turkey vulture always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

Great Backyard Bird Count Highlights

Bird watchers break record for fifth straight year

The 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) featured two invasions this year: voracious Pine Siskins and a whole new crop of citizen-science participants! Bird watchers shattered last year's record by submitting **more than 93,600 checklists** during the event, held February 16-19. Participants identified 619 species and sent in thousands of stunning bird images for the GBBC photo contest. The GBBC is sponsored by the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Wild Birds Unlimited** and **National Audubon Society**. See complete GBBC results at **www.wildbirds.org**.

"Each year the GBBC provides the most detailed real-time snapshot of bird distribution across North America," said Rob Fergus, Senior Scientist with National Audubon Society. "We can see birds responding to changing weather patterns, available food sources, and other factors from around the continent."

One of the big stories coming from the GBBC this year was the massive invasion of Pine Siskins over much of the eastern United States. These feisty little birds moved southward because of seed crop failures in their usual wintering grounds in Canada and the boreal forests. The GBBC also continued to show declines in grassland and shrubland species.

10 most-frequently reported birds in the 2009 GBBC:

- 1) Northern Cardinal
- 2) Mourning Dove
- 3) Dark-eyed Junco
- 4) American Goldfinch
- 5) Downy Woodpecker
- 6) Blue Jay
- 7) House Finch
- 8) Tufted Titmouse
- 9) American Crow
- 10) Black-capped Chickadee



SPECIAL GIFTS

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

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



The FAS activity which most interests me is:

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

I want my gift to recognize another:

In memory of _____
In honor of _____

Please send notification of this gift to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Please do **not** acknowledge my gift in the Pileated Post

Please make checks payable to:

Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

Your gift is tax deductible.



JOIN YOUR LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTER!!



Six years ago we announced a new category of membership, a membership in Flathead Audubon Society. 215 families are current members of FAS. Our membership fee has been \$15 for 6 years. This amount is no longer sufficient to cover the basic expenses of the chapter: newsletter, monthly meetings, field trips, etc. The Board of Directors has decided on a Basic Membership fee of \$20. This amount will still not cover special programs such as Owen Sowerwine and, especially, our education program. To begin to cover these expenses, the Board has decided to offer a Supporting Membership at \$35. We encourage all who are able to subscribe to the supporting membership.

You can still join National Audubon, of course. Your membership fee will support National's many excellent nationwide education and conservation programs **but you will not be supporting the local chapter.** With a National membership, you receive both the Audubon magazine and the Flathead Audubon monthly newsletter. The National Audubon fee is \$20 for first-time members (\$15 for Seniors and Students), and then \$35 to renew your membership

after that.

We strongly suggest that you join Flathead Audubon and then choose either to join National Audubon or not. Without local memberships, the chapter will have to reduce its programs in the future.

Over the years, Flathead Audubon has been well supported by valley residents through donations and activities such as our annual seed sale and auctions. We hope this support will continue in the future and be supplemented by a large group of local chapter members.

Our memberships now all renew in October. All memberships except those made after April 2009 must be renewed now. Without renewal, October will be the last month you receive *The Pileated Post*. We really need support this year because we have doubled our budget for education activities. Please include your e-mail address so we can contact you when special events come up, especially during the summer.

Use the form on the back page to join now!
Mike Fanning, Membership Chair

Birdwatchers No Featherweights in Contributions to Economy



A new report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows one of every five Americans watches birds, with birdwatchers contributing **\$36 billion** to the U.S. economy in 2006, the most recent year for which economic data are available. The report – *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* – shows that total participation in bird watching is strong at **48 million**, and remaining at a steady **20 percent** of the U.S. population since 1996. Participation rates vary, but are generally greater in the northern half of the country. The five top states with the greatest birding participation rates include **Montana (40 percent)**, Maine (39 percent), Vermont (38 percent), Minnesota (33 percent) and Iowa (33 percent).

The report identifies who birders are, where they live, how avid they are, and what kinds of birds they watch. In addition to demographic information, this report also provides an estimate of how much birders spend on their hobby and the economic impact of these expenditures. The report is an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

The 2006 survey is the eleventh in a series of surveys conducted about every 5 years that began in 1955. The survey, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with state wildlife agencies and national conservation organizations, has become the reference for participation and expenditure information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States. The survey helps quantify how enjoyment of the outdoors and wildlife contributes to society and promotes a healthy economy – and further strengthens the Service's commitment to conserve the nation's wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of the American people. A copy of the *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis* can be downloaded here: http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/birding_natsurvey06.pdf. In conjunction with the release of the birding report, the Service also issued another similar addendum to the 2006 Survey entitled, "Wildlife Watching Trends: 1991–2006, A Reference Report." This report shows similar trends in wildlife-watching, a broader category that includes large and small-mammal viewing. An overview of the Survey, and a wealth of other information, can be found online at: http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/National_Survey.htm.

GO "E!"



This year, we hope that everyone who has a computer will opt to receive *The Pileated Post* by email. You can write your preference on your membership form when you "re-up," you can call, tell, write, or email Linda Winnie or Kay Mitchell, or you can send your favorite carrier pigeon with the message. And just to reassure you— we never share your email address with anyone else. So keep some \$\$\$ in our FAS treasury—Go "E" and save a tree!

Kay Mitchell, Co-Editor



Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People

Connection with nature promotes wellness



More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! For more than 20 years, participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch have been doing just that --- benefitting themselves and the birds. "If you have children, they will come to love watching the birds," says Alaska FeederWatcher Nancy Darnell. "All of this is fun and a chance to contribute to scientific studies, too!"

The 2009-10 season of Project FeederWatch gets underway November 14 and runs through April 2. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Last season, participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges --- a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.



"Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same time helps generate the world's largest database on feeder-bird populations," says project leader David Bonter. "Since we started in 1987, more than 40,000 people have submitted observations, engaging with the wildlife beyond their windows."

Scientists learn something new from the data each year, whether it's about the movements of common backyard birds or unusual sightings of rarely-seen species.

Highlights of the most recent season include the largest southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the history of the project---part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern

species showing up in record numbers included Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado---the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A December nor'easter deposited a Dovekie in Newton, Massachusetts, the first time this North Atlantic seabird has ever been reported to Project FeederWatch. Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak.

Beyond the benefits to birds and science, however, is the benefit to participants. "Nature is not merely an amenity; it is critical to healthy human development and functioning," says Nancy Wells, Cornell University assistant professor of design and environmental analysis. Her studies find that a view of nature through the window or access to the environment in any way improves a child's cognitive functioning and reduces the negative effects of stress on the child's psychological well-being.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the Feeder-Watcher's Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, "Winter Bird Highlights."

So, if you haven't signed up for Project FeederWatch, what are you waiting for? Be a part of bird conservation. Slow down and watch the birds!

Flathead Audubon's FeederWatch contact person Barbara Boorman says, "I start reporting the first week, but people can join at anytime. It's fun!"

A PAIR OF HOUSE WRENS MAY MAKE OVER 1,000 TRIPS A DAY TO FEED THEIR HUNGRY NESTLINGS.

BIRDS & BLOOMS MAGAZINE, FEB-MAR/05

Bird of the Month, continued

... real world quite well, as I frequently saw them feeding around the yard and garden.

This year "our" wrens fledged in early July and I thought they were going to set up a second nest, but after a few days the female disappeared. I'm not sure whether she was just tired of the whole parenting thing or if something happened to her, but the male continued to sing for a couple more weeks and when he didn't attract a partner he left as well. Our yard has seemed very quiet without his joyful songs during this last part of the summer. Hopefully they'll return next spring!

To attract a pair of House Wrens to your yard next summer, provide a nest box or two and consider using some native plants as ground cover. Leaving a small brush pile the next time you prune your trees might also be helpful, as wrens will be attracted to this as a source of protection and food. We have a small grassy area edged with perennial beds, but most of our property has been left in native plants such as Oregon grape, snowberry, kinnikinnick, and serviceberry. This type of landscaping not only attracts birds and other wildlife, but also requires fewer chemicals and less water than the normal grass lawn. Besides the satisfaction of having an earth-friendly place to live, perhaps you too will get to watch a nesting pair of House Wrens!

KIDZ ORN ER R

Let's Learn More About.... **BIRD MIGRATION**

Nancy Zapotocki, Conservation Educator



It's that time of year! The air is chilling at night, days are growing shorter, school has started and BIRDS are on the move. Have you noticed different birds in your yard, different groupings of birds, or not as many hummingbirds coming to your feeder? Migration is happening in the Flathead Valley. Migration is the movement of the birds between their breeding or summer home and their winter home. Why migrate? Some birds must move in the winter because their northern home gets too cold and harsh to support them. For example, a bird such as a swallow that eats insects will not find as many insects here in the winter as in the summer. Moving to a northern habitat in summer can also provide for better success of the nests. There are also longer days in the summer in the north, which means more daylight time to look for food. Some birds will not move north or south, but migrate instead from high elevations in the mountains to lower elevations in the valley. Other birds, like the Black-capped Chickadee, do not migrate but live here all year. Did you know that some birds migrate at night, starting their flights about a half-hour after sunset and that birds can use the sun and stars, the Earth's magnetic fields and visual landmarks, such as coastlines and mountain ranges to find help find their way? AMAZING! (References: *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* and *International Migratory Bird Day* packet)

To track this fascinating show of nature, try keeping a daily journal. Notice which birds are leaving and coming into your backyard. Check out a book from the library about bird migration and mark the birds' migration routes on a globe or world map. You can use string or different colors of yarn and some tape to connect the migration routes.

A very fun game called **Mission Migration** can be found on National Audubon's website at www.audubon.org/educate/kids/mission_migration.html. There are hazards that you and your flock of birds try to avoid as you try to complete the seasonal migration, different levels of difficulty in the migration, movement through farms, suburbs and cities, resting places to seek out to refuel, and lots to learn about movement of birds!! Have fun exploring and enjoying the wonders of bird migration this Fall in the Flathead Valley!

Raptor Day, continued from page 1

... in the Ninepipes area and conducting research on Flammulated Owls. Our afternoon presenters will be: Byron Crow, Executive Director of the Montana Raptor Institute for Research & Education in Polson, who will discuss raptors and his study of the behavior and ecology of Peregrine Falcons in the Flathead Lake area and Dan Casey, Northern Rockies Bird Conservation Region Coordinator for The American Bird Conservancy, who will share insights on raptor identification and migration, including updates on the local Hawk Watch hot spot in the Jewel Basin. Last year 2113 raptors of 17 species were recorded with over 243



hours of surveys between late August and early November. Raptor Day will come to a close at 4 PM.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be food vendors, but feel free to pack a lunch and picnic at the park. Please join us to celebrate the memory of Rod Ash and to learn more about local birds and birds of prey. For more information, contact Nancy Zapotocki, Conservation Educator, via email at naz@centurytel.net or Mary Beth Chappelow, Lone Pine State Park Ranger at 406-755-2706, Ext. 2.

OSNA Work Day, continued from page 1

... of the Mainland, near the Treasure Lane entrance, eliminating knapweed at that location!

This year we'll pull and bag weeds on the northwest side of the Big Island. Additionally, we plan to put 2 small footbridges over areas along Woodland Creek where water usually stops travelers in the early summer. WBC generously has donated the bridge materials.

Along with the weed pull and bridge installations, we will outfit the kiosk at Treasure Lane with new information, compliments of the Education Committee, and we will add the long-awaited plexiglas to the kiosk. The trail may need mowing and some clipping, too. So think about which project you would like to work on, and meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 26, at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive. We will have some refreshments and drinks for our volunteers, and remember, it's only 2 hours of actual work on one day a year, and you'll see all of your Audubon friends there! Rain or Shine, we guarantee a great time in the outdoors. There will be more details at the September 14 FAS general meeting.



Brent Mitchell & Richard Kuhl,
Work Day Co-Chairs





SEPTEMBER 2009



Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit No. 115
Kalispell, MT
59904-9173

P.O. Box 9173
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. Meetings start at 7:00PM and include 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. **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org**

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FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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2007-2010	Ansley Ford	(aew333@yahoo.com)	857-6788
2007-2010	Mary Nelesen	(mnelesen@centurytel.net)	755-7678
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2008-2011	Richard Kuhl	867 North Main, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-5793
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2009-2012	Dennis Hester	(kiyotee@bresnan.net)	755-4964
2009-2012	Steve Gniadek	(grayjaybro@yahoo.com)	892-7406
2009-2012	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birdseed Sales	Mary Nelesen	755-7678	Refuge Projects	Kathy Ross	
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143		(mtkat@montanaport.net)	
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Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
	Lisa Discoe	837-1456			
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	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181			
Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070			



MONTANA AUDUBON
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443-3949

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Executive Director: Steve Hoffman
shoffman@mtaudubon.org
Board President: Larry McEvoy
mcschmid@mcn.net



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership
Individual or Family

- Basic Membership \$20
(Pays for newsletter and operating costs)
- Supporting Membership \$35
(Extra \$15 funds local projects such as grants, scholarships, meetings, and Christmas Bird Count)
- Additional Donation of \$ _____
to Education Fund
- Owen Sowerwine Fund
- Wherever needed

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How do you wish to receive the Pileated Post?
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