



# the **Flatheaded Post**

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 35

NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2010



## FUN AUDUBON ACTIVITIES FOR FALL!



### 4th Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash

Please join us on **Saturday, September 11** at Lone Pine State Park for the **4th Annual Raptor Day, in Memory of Rod Ash**, sponsored by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park, with partial funding from Art Ortenberg. The event celebrates the many species of birds found in Northwest Montana, with a special emphasis on raptors, and honors the memory of Rod Ash for his conservation legacy in Montana.

An early morning bird walk starts at 8 AM, followed by a family bird walk and scavenger hunt at 10 AM. From 11 AM until 4 PM, enjoy education booths on birds, wildlife management, and habitat. Each education booth will also have a children's activity, such as wildlife origami and "exploring owl pellets." Lynn Vaught of Wildlife Return will also share the wonder of raptors through live birds at her education display.

Informative presentations will be held throughout the afternoon. Author Donna Love will present a family program, "Awesome Ospreys," from 12 to 1 PM. Join us in celebrating Rod Ash at 1 PM with inspirational thoughts from June Ash. Dan Casey from the American Bird Conservancy will give us an update from 1:30 to 2:30 on the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch and a look forward to this migration season on the ridge. To close the day, from 3 to 4 PM, Dr. Heiko Langnar from the University of Montana Environmental Biogeo-  
(Raptor Day, continued on page 5 ...)

### WORK DAY AT OWEN SOWERWINE

Mark the morning of September 25 (Saturday) from 9 AM to about noon for the funnest good time you've had in a year! That's Flathead Audubon's Volunteer Work Day at the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. You will see your friends, both from Audubon and the neighborhood that borders the Natural Area. You can also scarf down some lip-smackin' goodies and beverages and get instant gratification of seeing what you've accomplished in just a few short hours.

Our local Jane Lopp & Associates Prudential agency is submitting an application for a \$1000 grant for us, in recognition of Global Volunteer Day and our good work and stewardship at Owen Sowerwine. Over the years, Flathead Audubon has benefited so much from the Prudential grants we have received, and our volunteer work crew grows in number every year. We only work a couple of hours, so you can be off to your other activities by noon, but as many of you can recall – we work Rain or Shine!

This year we will have some of Nancy Zapotocki's Together Green participant school kids, with their parents joining them, helping us with our projects. The kids spent time this past spring in OSNA, identifying birds, pulling noxious weeds, and creating nature journals about their experiences. With Nancy's guidance, the kids will be showing their parents the fine art of weed pulling while enjoying time in the woods.  
(OSNA Work Day, continued on page 5 ...)



## SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday, September 13, 2010: Flathead Audubon General Meeting.** 7 PM, Conference Room 3, The Summit. Gary Swant presents a program on his "Big Year 2007." See page 3 for details.

**Tuesday, September 7, 2010: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting.** 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome.

**Saturday, September 11, 2010: Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash.** See article above for details.

**Saturday, September 25, 2010: Owen Sowerwine Work Day/Prudential Global Volunteer Day.** Meet at 9 AM, Montessori School. See article above for further details!

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

By Ben Young

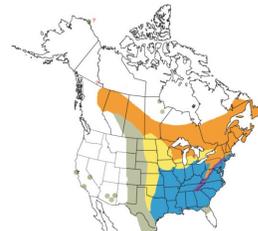
## THE “NEW” PACIFIC WREN

Birders have enjoyed much activity in the world of the wren in recent years, months, and weeks. Over a year ago I found myself chasing a Sinaloa Wren, originally found near Patagonia, AZ, a bird that would later be accepted as a new ABA record. More locally, Montana birders were treated to the state's first accepted record of a Carolina Wren, which remained for some time this spring near Arlee, MT.

Most recently, bird listers picked up an extra species on the state list when the American Ornithologists' Union split the Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) into two species this past July: Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacifica*) and Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*). New range maps for the two species (below) show the western terminus of the Winter Wren's range to presumptively extend into eastern MT (Sibley 2010). Overlap in the breeding ranges of the two formerly recognized subspecies may be found in eastern British Columbia. A major impetus for the split likely came from research by Toews and Irwin (2008), who found that hybridization of eastern and western birds did not occur in this region of breeding range overlap, citing song type differences and nuclear DNA divergence as evidence that the two species are reproductively isolated.



Pacific (Western) Winter Wren



(Eastern) Winter Wren



So, why not make the most of the change and go find a “new” bird in the Flathead Valley? You'll want to head for the understory of moist coniferous forest, the kind easily found along the foothills of the Swan Range, or along the lower portions of Going to the Sun Road, especially near Avalanche Creek. As for detection, an apt description for this species was penned by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940)—“a pert little bit of brown fluff” and “a mouselike mite ... that ... mounts to the top of a convenient stump and bursts forth in the most amazing, loud, clear song that ever came from a brown protuberance.” Such a song (up to 36 notes/sec according to Sibley), consists of up to 30 uniquely organized and repeatable sequences or types for the Pacific Wren, compared to only 2 types for the eastern Winter Wren (Kroodsma 1980), and will no doubt stop you in your tracks the first time you hear it. Described as the bird at the pinnacle of song complexity, the Pacific Wren boasts “the longest definitely reiterated” song pattern among North American birds (Hartshorne 1973).

When not singing from a fairly prominent perch, Pacific Wrens are fairly reclusive, remaining exposed for brief moments only to retreat to thick cover. I recall chasing the perpetrator of a sharp coupling of chip notes, as well as a quick sequence of high staccato notes coming from within an English ivy-laden understory of a mixed coniferous forest in western Oregon during my fledgling birding days. After ten minutes of seeing nothing, my eyes caught a dark brown speck pop out of the ivy. Just as soon as my binoculars were mounted to my eyes, it was gone. Convinced I had seen something new in my neighborhood, I continued this cat-and-mouse game for nearly a half hour, until I finally decided to just wait and watch, rather than chase. Before long the bird alit on an old hemlock stump—it was a Pacific Wren—and then proceeded to give me a physics lesson on resonance as it burst forth in singing. I had become familiar with its song, but I'd never been acquainted with its call.

Plumage characteristics of this diminutive and nervous bird may be closely admired by a patient, quiet observer. I've had numerous occasions of Pacific Wrens approaching within arm's reach, revealing a dark, rich brown interrupted by darker barring on wings, flanks, and tail, with a distinct supercilium. Its short tail is often held erect as it flits in and out of nooks and crannies in search of beetles, flies, spiders, and caterpillars.

#### REFERENCES:

\* GABRIELSON, I. N., AND S. G. JEWETT. 1940. Birds of Oregon. Oregon State College, Corvallis. (Reprinted in 1970 as Birds of the Pacific Northwest by Dover Publ., New York.)

\* HARTSHORNE, C. 1973. Born to sing. An interpretation and world survey of bird song. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

\* KROODSMA, D. E. 1980. Winter Wren Singing Behavior: A Pinnacle of Song Complexity. *Condor* 82,357-365. SIBLEY, D. 2010. New draft range maps for Winter Wren. Accessed Online 18 Aug. 2010: <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2010/08/new-draft-range-maps-for-winter-wren/>.

\* TOEWS, D.P., IRWIN, D.E. 2008. Cryptic speciation in a Holarctic passerine revealed by genetic and bioacoustic analyses. *Molecular Ecology*, 17(11), 2691-2705.



## September 2010 Program MY BIG YEAR -- 2007



Birder extraordinaire Gary Swant of Deer Lodge will begin Flathead Audubon's 2010-2011 program year with an entertaining presentation of 24,000 miles and 152 days of birding in a single year.

In 2007, Gary made an effort to find 300 species of birds in Montana in a single year. The previous Montana ABA record of 293 was set in 2004. Gary reached 300 species in July and went on to set a new record of 328 species. His program will show the method he used to set this record, and he will relate stories of some of the species he encountered and the people he met.

Gary earned both Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Montana in biology and field ecology. He went on to teach biology and field ecology for 25 years at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge. During his tenure as a teacher, he served in many educational groups, including several environmental education organizations. He also taught summer courses for Montana State University, Montana School of Mining and Technology and the University of Montana. Awards he received during his career include: Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year Award, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, and Montana Environmental Educator of the Year.

Since retiring in 1993, Gary has served as an educational consultant for schools, state and federal health departments, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the National Park Service.

Gary has birded for many years, but concentrated on birding after retirement. He has had many opportunities to bird internationally, as well as across America. He takes every opportunity to go to the field and watch birds. He operates a small bird guide service called GoBirdMontana ([www.GoBirdMontana.com](http://www.GoBirdMontana.com)). The guide service offers personal and custom birding tours where the emphasis is on habitat/bird relationships.

Please join us at 7:00 PM at The Summit, 205 Sunnyview Lane in Kalispell on Monday, September 13, to learn about Gary Swant's **Big Year!** Enjoy shade-grown organic coffee and homemade munchies, pick up a free "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" brochure, and learn the latest bird sightings in the Flathead!



### Recycling Glass at Target!!

Target in Kalispell has a glass recycling bin; they are accepting all glass FREE OF CHARGE. The recycling bins are located just inside the store by the guest services desk. Apparently the management at Target decided to help out our community by filling up their empty trucks as they returned to distribution centers - a win-win situation. Be sure to tell them THANKS!

From Linda de Kort

### Remembering Loren Kreck

Dave Downey has kindly offered to make DVDs of Loren's memorial service as well as cherished videos of Loren and Dave recounting tales of their early adventures. If you are interested in purchasing a DVD, please contact Linda de Kort at 755-3704.



### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR YOU!

The start of a new FAS year is the perfect time to get involved in FAS activities and projects. **Most of our Committees are looking for new members** to help with their activities. Please take a moment to look through the list of FAS Committees to find one you would enjoy working with. Most FAS Committees meet only once or twice a year and then communicate via email. Some Committees organize or participate in special activities or events; others play a more informational or advisory role. If you see a Committee that looks interesting, please contact the Committee Chair to find out how to help.

**We urgently need volunteers to head up two important Committees:** the Wetlands Committee and the Website Committee. The **Wetlands Committee** helps FAS stay informed about wetlands issues in the Flathead, and advises the Board of opportunities for FAS to submit comments or take action that might help further wetland conservation in the Valley. The

Chair may identify projects or wetland education activities to participate in. The Chair may shape the activities of this Committee according to her/his own interests and time schedule. For more information, please contact Bob Lee (837-4467).

The **Chair of the Website Committee** is the contact for persons who have questions, suggestions and comments related to the FAS website ([www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org)). The Chair monitors the website occasionally for needed changes and updates, and works with a strong support group of Website Committee members, the Flockmaster and our website designer, to keep the website accurate and current. The Chair also schedules the annual website review. Moderate computer skills are needed, but the technical web work is done by the Flockmaster and website designer. The job averages 2 -5 hours a month. Advice and support will be generously provided by former Website Chair Paula Smith. Please contact Paula (837-0181) for more information.





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## BOARD MEMBER CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

From Bill Schustrom, Field Trip Chair



Spending summers in Glacier National Park as an interpreter/naturalist has many perks. The best part of this world is the opportunity to interact with the thousands of folks who come each year. Interests vary, and yet universally all are first drawn by the towering, majestic mountains, the opportunity to see glaciers, and the diverse flora and fauna found throughout the 1.2 million acres that make up this place.

Once here, visitors all seem to be immediately hooked! There is an overwhelming sense of awe as they travel over the Going to the Sun Road arriving at Logan Pass some 3,500 feet above the valleys below. And then there is the realization of being surrounded (as John Muir commented) by "The best care-killing scenery in the world." Watching visitors taking in the grandeur and listening to their hushed comments about this wilderness almost makes one feel you are in a church. The perk here is having the opportunity to explain what happened over the years to give us the subalpine and alpine environments found here today. It is so gratifying to watch visitors' eyes light up, as they begin to understand the billions of years it took of mountain building, uplift, and eventually glaciation to create this site.

It isn't just the alpine and subalpine that awe folks: this place is so diverse. Glacier National Park has a distinct personality. The west is dominated by pacific weather systems, while the east is dominated by polar continentals. Cedar, hemlock, and larch make up the major tree types on the west, giving a more west coast kind of a feeling. The east is predominantly subalpine fir and limber pine, with a more windy environment, and somewhat dryer.

I work primarily on the Westside of the park and another one of my perks is hiking to Avalanche Lake with visitors. (Yikes - I've been up there three hundred times over the years!) Folks are, again, amazed to hear that in this valley much of the soil was derived from Mt. Mazama (Crater Lake) ash which fell over the basin more than 6,000 years ago.

What about the plants and animals of Glacier? Instead of me mentioning these in this article I suggest you log onto the Internet at [www.nps.gov/glac/naturescience](http://www.nps.gov/glac/naturescience) for updates. Remember, this is our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is still plenty of time to help us celebrate this historic event. My wish is for YOU to become part of this wonderful community.

## FLATHEAD AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Each year Flathead Audubon offers and beyond. You can find us, on any given shores of Flathead Lake, in the Bigfork area, Many of our field trips are so popular they are another year, I want all of you who have offered your time to lead field trips to know how much I appreciate your willingness to spend your time on these worthwhile endeavors. Your enthusiasm is much appreciated.

As always, we are looking for new volunteers who may have a favorite birding spot they are willing to share. If you would like to lead a trip, please call me at 250-5205 or 257-2359. Stay tuned as we gear up for the 2010-2011 year. Thanks!

Bill Schustrom, Field Trip Chairman



www.tce.sjohns.k12.fl.us

many field trips throughout the Flathead Valley weekend, at the National Bison Range, along the and all the way up to Glacier National Park. offered every year. As Flathead Audubon begins

Despite chilly weather, 4 people joined me for the Flathead Audubon field trip to Glacier on Saturday morning, May 8, celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. We birded the oxbow, Fish Creek, and Lake McDonald, and were rewarded with over 40 species. Highlights included 4 species of grebes - red-necked, horned, eared & western, 2 adult & 2 subadult Bald Eagles, 1 Killdeer, 1 Red-naped Sapsucker, a Dusky Flycatcher (heard vocalizing along lower McDonald Creek near the oxbow), Chestnut-backed Chickadees, several Townsend's Solitaires, and Yellow-rumped Warblers (male Myrtle & Audubon). As a snow squall approached up lake, we found 4 Ruddy Ducks among a small group of N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Gadwall, Bufflehead, & Common Goldeneye near the lake inlet.

Steve Gniadek



kvr.state.wi.us

*In a persistent drizzle, 16 people participated in the Flathead Audubon field trip to Glacier Park on Saturday May 29th.*

*Fifty-three species of birds were detected in the 3 areas we visited. Highlights included a juvenile Saw-whet Owl in a snag near Lower McDonald Creek, at least 14 Red-necked Phalaropes in the oxbow on Lower McDonald Creek, a Tennessee Warbler among the 8 species of warblers singing in "warbler heaven" at the oxbow, a Rufous Hummingbird in flight display, and a Bald Eagle. At Fish Creek we found Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers and a Spotted Sandpiper. At McGee Meadow Overlook, we watched several snipe.*

*(GNP Field Trip, continued on next page)*

LITTLE WRAP-UPS

*(GNP Field Trip, continued from page 4)*  
 During the morning we heard a few Swainson's Thrushes, mostly calling. At the conclusion of the field trip around noon, about 50 Chipping Sparrows were foraging on the ground near the Alberta Visitor Center in West Glacier.  
 Steve Gniadek



*Bring your recyclables to the September 13 meeting! The FVCC Recycling Club will again be at the west side of the Summit parking lot from 6:30—7:00 PM.*

To explore Important Bird Areas and beautiful landscapes online, see the Audubon and IBA features on the new, dynamic Landscape web site, where Audubon is the featured partner. LandScope America is an online resource for the land-protection community and the public. Developed in collaboration by NatureServe, the National Geographic Society, and numerous partner organizations including Audubon, LandScope America is designed to increase the pace and effectiveness of conservation action and investment throughout the United States.

- \* [http://www.landscape.org/focus/understand/bird\\_conservation/audubon\\_iba/](http://www.landscape.org/focus/understand/bird_conservation/audubon_iba/)
- \* <http://eidertrk.audubon.org/trk/r.emt?h=www.landscape.org/focus/understand/>

 As we went to press, we did not yet know whether we will have a sponsored sunflower seed sale this year. More information in next month's *Pileated Post!* 

REMINDER!

**Keep your bird feeders empty and attractants out of your yard until the bears start their long winter's nap. Be sure to clean up under your fruit trees. Even if you live in town, please help keep our wildlife WILD!**

*(Raptor Day, continued from page 1 ...)*  
 chemistry Laboratory will discuss his and others' research on the effects of heavy metals on the health of our birds of prey.



**All programs meet at the Lone Pine Visitor Center and are FREE for Montana residents, \$5 park fee for non-residents.** You may bring a picnic lunch or purchase food and drink from a local concession.

For more information, contact Nancy Zapotocki at [naz@centurytel.net](mailto:naz@centurytel.net) or call Mary Beth Chappelow at Lone Pine Visitor Center at (406) 755-2706. Look forward to seeing you at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual event!

*(OSNA Work Day, continued from page 1 ...)*  
 We will also have the usual trail clearing, fence repair, and quite a few other activities necessary to keep Owen Sowerwine in top shape for both man and beast. Your monitoring forms have given us good information about where we need to do some work.

Bring a friend; this will be the best time, with the best people, in the best riparian Natural Area in north-west Montana! Meet at 9 AM at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive. Details of what to bring will be provided at our first Flathead Audubon general meeting of the season on September 13. Get to know our lo-Brent Mitchell, OSNA Co-chair

SPECIAL GIFTS

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



Dave Menke, USFWS

- 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

\* \* \* \*

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Seven 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 covers the basic expenses of the chapter: newsletter, monthly meetings, field trips, etc. The finance committee has decided upon a basic membership fee of \$20. This amount will still not cover special programs such as Owen Sowerwine and our education program. To begin to meet these expenses the finance committee 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 nation-wide education and conservation programs, **but you will not be supporting your**

Our memberships all renew in October rather than on the month the membership started. All memberships except those made after April 2010 must be renewed now. Without renewal, October will be the last month you receive *The Pileated Post*. We really need support this year, especially for our education activities.

*Please include your e-mail address so we can contact you when special events come up, especially during the summer. And please consider signing up for the e-mail (color) version of the Newsletter. It's a good way to save your chapter \$20 a year and receive The Pileated Post conveniently straight to your computer.*

And we never rent or sell our e-mailing list to ANYONE.



What are the differences in wild bird seed products and how many wild bird species prefer one seed ingredient over another?

Black-oil Sunflower seed is preferred by the widest variety of wild birds. It can be fed either in the shell or out of the shell (sunflower hearts). Regardless of your habitat, this seed is a must when feeding wild birds.

White-proso Millet is the second most desirable seed for wild birds. Millet is preferred by ground-feeding birds such as Gambels Quail, Mourning Dove, Spotted and Canyon Towhees, White-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. For ground-feeding birds in your habitat, white-proso millet is a must.

Another very popular seed enjoyed by wild birds is nyjer/thistle seed. Nyjer/thistle is typically fed in either a nylon mesh feeder (a thistle sock) or in a metal mesh feeder. Providing nyjer/thistle seed will attract a large number of finches and siskins, as they absolutely love this one ingredient.

Cracked corn is primarily a filler ingredient and should be used sparingly. A small amount of this ingredient in a seed blend is best. Cracked corn is preferred by ground feeding birds living in oak/chaparral habitat where there are a lot of scrub oak, pinyons and junipers.

Safflower is a great ingredient to feed in a forested habitat. If you live in an area with ponderosa pines, have some safflower in your seed mixture. This ingre-

## JOIN OUR LOCAL CHAPTER!!

**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 members 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.

Use the form on the last page to join now!



dient is desirable to Juniper and Bridled Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches and Mountain Chickadees.

Peanut pieces are also a great ingredient to feed if you live in a forested habitat. Many species of forest-dwelling birds such as woodpeckers, jays, nuthatches, titmice and chickadees enjoy peanuts.

The key to attracting a wide variety of birds is that as you expand your offering to include other seed and nut products, you will attract a wider variety of birds. If you feed only one ingredient, you will only attract those types of birds that prefer that one ingredient.

After feeding the birds, if you notice a lot of any one ingredient left over, then you are probably not feeding the right mix of seed for your habitat. However, if the feeder is completely empty, and all of the different seed ingredients are gone, then you are probably feeding the right mix of seed. Keep in mind; this can change seasonally as the bird population changes with migration activity.

One important thing to remember is that, ultimately, habitat drives this whole process. If you want to attract wild birds to your yard, your yard needs to be attractive to birds. Your yard should be a reflection of the natural habitat that existed there originally. Your yard needs to provide shelter, protection and food. Too many yards are landscaped with decorative rock. This leaves wild birds exposed to predators, with little protection and no place to rear young.

# KIDZ

## Let's Learn More About .... *Nature Journaling*

O

"Nature Journaling is your path into the exploration of the natural world around you, and into your personal connection with it," from *Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole New Way of Seeing the World Around You*, by Clare Walker Leslie and Charles E. Roth (with Forward by Edward O. Wilson). This book was used by teachers as we explored nature journaling with the education project, *Finding the Flathead: Discovering the Watershed in Your Backyard*, part of the Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship. Fair Mont Egan, Kalispell Montessori, Kalispell Middle School and Flathead High School students used this technique at one of three education stations at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area and Important Bird Area, as they learned about the watershed (and more about themselves). Nature journaling was quite the rave!!

R

Some comments from students included:

N

"My favorite station was nature journaling because it was so peaceful." "I think the best station was nature journaling... I liked drawing after making my sound map....taught us how to sketch our surrounding. I like to draw." "...nature journaling...I liked the peace and quiet it gave me." "The nature journal spot was my favorite, just to sit and listen was really nice." "I think nature journaling was my favorite. It was a nice way to observe nature around you with no one there to distract you. I'm going to make a goal for myself to get outside everyday and journal."

E

*How to Nature Journal from my Experience*, by Paiton Young (Flathead High School Junior)

R

This has been my first year writing in a Nature Journal but it's a great experience. We found secret spots at Owen Sowerwine, a perfect place to get started. I found a beautiful spot in the trees by the Stillwater River. I'd recommend it to any and everyone. It's a great escape. You can go outside, take a little walk and observe and write about all the beautiful things that catch your attention. Or you could try to draw something that you've noticed that you never really have before. Keeping a nature journal is a really good way to grow as a person because no one judges your journal. It's your writings and drawings and you can always go back and look at it for a reminder. Express yourself! Start a nature journal now! P.S. GO GET LOST! Write about all that you hear and see. Draw what you observe. Use colored pencils and any old notebook will do but make sure you personalize it. Nature journaling is both writing and drawing. Make sure you write down the date too! Or at least the season and the year. But please be careful to express your feelings for the world around you. This experience will make you notice and appreciate the little things around you so much more. Thanks for reading this and I sincerely hope that you start nature journaling because it will improve your life!

**Thanks Paiton and to all the students who participated!**

Nancy Zapotocki, FAS Conservation Educator

*Kids Korner is coordinated by our Conservation Educator, Nancy Zapotocki. If you have a topic of natural history interest and a budding student author, send Nancy an email at [naz@centurytel.net](mailto:naz@centurytel.net). Include the topic, school, grade, student and teacher name. Your idea could be the next article. A teacher may even give extra credit 😊 "Kids sharing nature with kids!"*



### 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.



SEPTEMBER 2010



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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. 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](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)**

**Website: [www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org)**  
FlockMaster - John Kyle: [jkyle@fastmail.us](mailto:jkyle@fastmail.us)  
Conservation Educator - Nancy Zapotocki: [naz@centurytel.net](mailto:naz@centurytel.net)

**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY**

**OFFICERS**

President	Bob Lee	( <a href="mailto:rml3@centurytel.net">rml3@centurytel.net</a> )	837-4467
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2008-2011	Melissa Sladek	( <a href="mailto:msladek72@gmail.com">msladek72@gmail.com</a> )	
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2009-2012	Dennis Hester	( <a href="mailto:kijotee@bresnan.net">kijotee@bresnan.net</a> )	755-4964
2009-2012	Steve Gniadek	( <a href="mailto:grayjaybro@yahoo.com">grayjaybro@yahoo.com</a> )	892-7406
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2010-2013	Ansley Ford	( <a href="mailto:aew333@yahoo.com">aew333@yahoo.com</a> )	857-6788
2010-2013	Jan Wassink	( <a href="mailto:jan@lamaregistry.com">jan@lamaregistry.com</a> )	257-3014

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Birdseed Sales	Mary Nelesen	755-7678	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492		( <a href="mailto:mtkat@montanaport.net">mtkat@montanaport.net</a> )	
Education	Ansley Ford	857-6788	Website	Vacant	
Field Trips	Bill Schustrom	257-2359	Wetlands	Vacant	
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678			
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	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181			
Quality of Life	Linda DeKort	755-3704			



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