



# the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 35

NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 2010



## NANCY ZAPOTOCKI Receives Special Award

By Linda DeKort

Our Conservation Educator, NANCY ZAPOTOCKI, received the "Friend of Education" Award at the Northwest Montana Reading Council Conference this fall. Each year this award is given to someone who isn't directly linked to a school, but supports literacy efforts. Nancy was nominated by Eliza Sorte, Director of the Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative. According to Eliza, "Nancy was nominated for a variety of reasons. Some include, but aren't limited to:



- ◆ Focus on standards/benchmarks and objectives in the Audubon trunks,
- ◆ Use of writing in trunks,
- ◆ Fellowship mentoring,
- ◆ Building a trunk around an Indian Education For All book entitled Gift of the Bitterroot,
- ◆ Attendance at trainings related to reading and writing to better incorporate Audubon in the curriculum,
- ◆ Overall partnership, and
- ◆ Recommending books personally, like Robert the Quail, ... to name just a few.



We agree with Eliza that no matter how long the list, it cannot begin to enumerate all the contributions Nancy makes professionally and personally. Congratulations, Nancy, we are so grateful for your passion and talent that you so generously share!

**RENEW YOUR FLATHEAD AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP NOW!**  
**DETAILS ON PAGE 4!**

### Free Educational Trunk Workshop for Educators

Please join us in exploring and learning about Educational Trunks in the Flathead on October 21, 2010, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office/Tally Lake Ranger District Office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell. A variety of Education Trunks will be on display and presented, including trunks on birds, wildlife, forestry and much more. Lots of hands-on opportunities with the Trunks and items to take home with you. The Trunks are available for loan to use in the classroom or with youth groups. PIR credit is available, as well as 6 OPI renewal units. Brown bag lunch. Sponsored by the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE). Contact Teresa Wenum at 758-5218.



### OCTOBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday, October 11, 2010: Flathead Audubon General Meeting.** 7 PM, Conference Room 3, The Summit. Tom Ulrich presents a program on his trip to Costa Rica. See page 3 for details.

**Monday, October 4, 2010: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting.** 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome.

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

By Dennis Hester

## The Tail of a Bird Some People Love to Hate The Black-billed Magpie

“WOW! What is that bird?”

These are often the words of amazement uttered by a first-time-from-back-east visitor to the Flathead Valley when they first see a Black-billed Magpie. While it is a large eye-catching black and white bird ( 17 1/2 -22"/44-56 cm) with a dark bill, head, breast, and under parts, with green iridescence on wings, white belly and shoulders, white primaries conspicuous as white wing patches in flight, it is the long black tail that first attracts the eye. When I first saw a magpie, my eyes were immediately and involuntarily focused on its tail. Until that first sighting I had seen nothing with a tail like it except for the scissor-tailed flycatcher. Indeed, it is the long black tail that makes the magpie so distinctive among our local feathered friends.

Lewis and Clark probably had the same reaction when they first identified the Black-billed Magpie in North America. It was in September 1804, in the Mandan Nation on the upper Missouri in what is now North Dakota that Meriwether Lewis recorded: “One of the hunters killed a bird of the *Corvus* genus and order of the pica . . . the beak is black, and of a convex and cultrated figure . . . it(s) note is not disagreeable though loud – it is *twait twait, twait.*”

Lewis lavished a page of description including measurements on this magpie. The bird, an integral part of the Mandan creation story, had never before been identified by Europeans in North America. Over the winter the expedition kept four captured magpies in a cage, and in the spring sent them and a live prairie dog back to President Jefferson. The birds successfully completed the trip back east and one of the specimens was sketched by Alexander Wilson and later engraved and reproduced in Wilson’s pioneering work *American Ornithology* published between 1804 and 1814.

But the tale of the magpie is a tale of a bird that some people love to hate. Through at least the 1930s, organized contests were held to “exterminate” the magpie; in more recent times many thousands died from poisoned baits intended for other predators.

Perhaps people dislike magpies because they are loud aggressive birds that often travel in groups and can be seen mobbing other birds, usually predators. However, this is nothing more than a group effort



Photo of Monte Dolack painting

at piracy with the purpose to cause the raptor or occasional gull to drop its food or to chase it away from the group. Magpies also do not help their public relations campaign by occasionally preying on eggs and nestlings of other more cuddly species. And as anyone knows who has had the privilege of residing in close proximity to recently fledged magpie young, the constant rapid nasal “mag, mag, mag” or “yak, yak, yak” can be, to put it mildly, irritating.

Missoula artist Monte Dolack captured this contradiction in his painting entitled “*Magpie*,” which depicts this elegant bird perching almost defiantly and with perfect posture on top of a highway sign pock-marked with bullet holes. Behind the magpie, the Big Sky landscape spreads out far into the distance.

But not everyone rejects the magpie. Montana Audubon has adopted this truly western bird as the namesake for its newsletter *The Magpie Muse*. Besides its inherent physical beauty, the Magpie has much to recommend it. First, it has a lot of great relatives. It belongs to the Family *corvidae*, which includes in Western Montana the Steller’s, Grey and Blue Jay, the Clark’s Nutcracker, the American Crow, and the Common Raven. These are some of the most intelligent and resourceful birds on the continent. In early August, I experienced these two attributes first hand. We have a pie cherry tree in our orchard which robins, starlings and, yes, magpies love to feast on. So using our advanced human intelligence, we wrap the tree in netting just before the fruit matures. Once our tree was wrapped securely over the top and around the sides the robins and starlings were held at bay. But a day or two later, I heard a magpie ruckus in the orchard and found four magpies inside the netting having a great time. They had apparently found an opening no more than 2 feet in diameter just off the ground around the trunk and came up through it. You can imagine the fun I had extricating the four thieves from inside the netting and closing the hole. Over the next ten days until the cherries were harvested, the magpies returned every day and tried to figure out a way to get inside the netting.

The magpie’s intelligence has been demonstrated in several human induced experiments. It has (*Black-billed Magpie, continued on page 5*)



## September 2010 Program COSTA RICA'S "PURA VIDA" THROUGH THE LENS OF TOM ULRICH



What's one of the top destinations in the world for adventurous birders? What country pioneered "ecotourism?" What country has over 5% of the world's biodiversity? Nearly 1/4 of what country is within a "Protected Areas System?" What country has the greatest density of species in the world? The answer to each of these questions is COSTA RICA!!!

Freelance nature photographer Tom Ulrich will present photographs of Costa Rica's unique environment at our October general meeting. Tom has travelled many times to this small, tropical nation to photograph the flora and fauna of Costa Rica's diverse habitats--coastal mangrove swamps, pristine rainforests, high elevation cloud forests and active volcanoes. We will marvel at scenic photographs of mammals like the Howler Monkey, amphibians like the Poison Arrow Frog and insects like the Morpho butterfly and, naturally, birds like Costa Rica's iconic Resplendent Quetzal, as well as the Fiery-Throated Hummingbird. In fact, Tom says he will be showing a "serious number of hummers."

Tom travels to remote parts of the world in pursuit of award-winning photographs. He has presented programs to Flathead Audubon about the Falkland Islands and Africa's Serengeti. Tom's photographs have been published in *AUDUBON*, *SIERRA*, *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*, *MONTANA OUTDOORS* and numerous other publications. His books include *MAMMALS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES*, *BIRDS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES*, *MAMMALS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES*, *BIRDS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES*, *ONCE UPON A FRAME*, *PHOTO PANTANAL* and *MT REYNOLDS: THE STORY*. He lectures at universities around the country and conducts international photo tours. However, Tom calls West Glacier home.

Please join us at 7 PM on Monday, October 11, in the Community Room of The Summit, 205 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell. (Coffee, bananas and pineapples could be served to Flathead ecotourists inspired by this program!)



## Fourth Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash

Report from Nancy Zapotocki, Conservation Educator



On a beautiful Saturday, over 175 people gathered at Lone Pine State Park for the 4th Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash. The event commemorated Rod Ash's life and contributions to conservation and education. It was also a day to enjoy and learn more about the birds found in northwestern Montana, with a special emphasis on raptors.

The festivities began with an "Early-risers" Bird Walk led by Ben Young, Flathead Audubon Board Member. Bird sightings included: Merlin, Northern Harrier, Northern Pygmy Owl, Vaux's Swift, Cassin's Vireo, Pileated Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers, Spotted Towhee and a large flock of Clark's Nutcrackers. There was more; contact Ben for the complete list! What a great bird-filled morning! The Early-riser's Bird Walk was followed by a "Family Bird Walk and Scavenger Hunt" by Ansley Ford, FAS Board Member and Education Committee Chair. Twenty-two adults and children explored nearby trails in search of birds and bird signs. Ansley created a special "Bird Search" activity that really caught the eyes and attention of the young birders.

Educational Booths displayed natural history information and children's activities from FAS, Lone Pine State Park, Flathead Conservation District, US Forest Service and Wildlife Return. Children (and adults!) were making "flying raptors" and origami animals, puppeteering with Sally the Snag and investigat-

ing owl pellets. Wildlife Return's Lynn Vaught wowed the crowd with her Peregrine and saw-whet owl.

Lois Drobish welcomed and introduced June Ash and said a few words in memory of Rod Ash. Lois went to college with Rod and June! Rod passed away in 2006, but left a legacy that will impact Montana's wildlife, forests and land for years to come. In her welcoming comments for Raptor Day this year, June reminded us to be engaged in conservation and to make a conscious effort to take children outside in nature, especially in this world of computers and technology.

The afternoon presentations began with author Donna Love and "Awesome Ospreys," which included a slide show on Ospreys and children's activities such as making Osprey masks. Dan Casey from the American Bird Conservancy followed with a presentation on the "Jewel Basin Hawk Watch," which incorporated a broadcasted phone call from the volunteer on the ridge to Lone Pine Visitor Center, noting birds sighted that day! Heiko Langner from UM Geosciences Department ended the day with an enlightening presentation on the effects of lead and heavy metals on raptors. We are hoping for a summary article for a future Pileated Post on his presentation.

*Sponsored by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park and funded in part by Art Ortenberg, the 4th Annual Raptor Day in memory of Rod Ash was a tribute to Rod, as well as a celebration of our bird neighbors. Thanks to all who participated!!*



oiscaux.net

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 of \$20 covers the basic expenses of the chapter: newsletter, monthly meetings, field trips, etc. This amount will still not cover special programs such as Owen Sowerwine and our education program. To begin to meet these expenses, Flathead Audubon offers 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 local chapter.** With a National membership you re-

ceive 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 raffles 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!

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.*



Geogiavirtualassistants.com



## PRESIDENTIAL CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

From FAS President, Bob Lee



I hope that everyone had a good birding summer, and welcome to another season for Flathead Audubon Society. Early indications are that it will be a great year. We have several things in the works. The Owen Sowerwine Work Day will have come and gone before this goes to print. But if past performance continues, we had a banner turnout. And thanks to Jane Lopp and Associates for supporting an application for a Prudential Community Grant for the project.

Monitoring reports this summer show that use of Owen Sowerwine Natural Area continues to grow. If you haven't been there, please visit, and download a monitoring form from the FAS website, too. After many years of co-chairing the OSNA Committee, Brent Mitchell is stepping down. Dick Kuhl has agreed to take over the helm with Linda Winnie. Speaking of committees, we could still use someone to steer both

the Website Committee and the Wetlands Committee. Talk to any Board Member if you can help us out.

Our Education Coordinator, Nancy Zapotocki, is doing a great job. Already this season, she, along with Lone Pine State Park, organized the Rod Ash Raptor Day. She is also working with CORE on several projects with teachers.

We started off the new Audubon year with a great program by Gary Swant showing us how to organize our own Big Year endeavor. Future programs are planned to keep members enthralled, so keep an eye on *The Pileated Post* for details. Field trips will be getting underway soon. Even the Christmas Bird Count is just around the corner ... now is the time to start keeping tabs on the changing avifauna.

So as we all settle into fall, get involved with Audubon and good birding!



Two slight changes this year: the FVCC team who collect our recycling before general meetings will be coming about every other month. So you will need to save up a little longer, or take your recyclables to the Recycling Centers yourself on the "off" months. The months that we will have collections are: November, January 2011 and April 2011. You are encouraged to recycle paper, aluminum, steel cans, plastics #1 and #2, cardboard, and boxes with grey or brown on the inside, like cereal boxes. And don't forget – take your glass recycling to the bin at Target, your plastic grocery bags back to the grocery store, and bubble wrap to The UPS Store. And make sure your articles are fairly clean, so that they don't attract bugs or bears!

And—Because of the economic downturn, Flathead Audubon will not have a sponsored sunflower seed sale this year.



# Thanks!

...to all those below who have made special donations to Flathead Audubon from April 19 through September 17.

## Merlin \$100+

Robert & Elizabeth Bowman  
*In Memory of Loren Kreck*



## Kestrel \$50+

Marty Cohen  
Bob Lee  
Leslie Kehoe



## Supporting Member + donation

Kay & Brent Mitchell  
Donna Tayler & Randy Schwickert



## 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



Dave Menke, USFWS

\* \* \* \*

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 a notification of this gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \*

Donor's 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.**

*(Black-billed Magpie, continued from page 2...)*

been reported that magpies can be taught to mimic human voices as parrots do. Interestingly, they have recently been shown to recognize themselves in a mirror. The author of the experiment (cited below) stated: "A crucial step in the emergence of self-recognition is the understanding that one's own mirror reflection does not represent another individual but oneself. . . . Mirror self-recognition has been shown in apes and, recently, in dolphins and elephants. Although experimental evidence in non-mammalian species has been lacking, some birds from the *corvid* family show skill in tasks that require perspective taking, a likely prerequisite for the occurrence of mirror self-recognition."

The attribute of intelligence complemented by perseverance gives the magpie essential tools for survival. We experienced this tenacity over a three year period during which a one-legged magpie returned to our winter bird feeders and held its own against its two-legged relatives in the contest to gather seeds that had fallen to the ground. Last winter it didn't return and sadly we miss its presence and can't help but wonder about its fate.

Like most of its cousins, the Black-billed Magpie is an omnivore. You name it and the magpie will probably try to eat it. 85% of its diet consists of insects, carrion, invertebrates and small vertebrates, and 15% consists of nuts and berries. Because it is the most insectivorous of the North American *corvidae*, magpies are more beneficial than destructive to agriculture. These birds frequently associate with cattle and sheep, perching on their backs and picking off ticks and maggots. Those living in western rangeland appear shyer of humans than those living in more suburban settings.

Magpies are very gregarious and maintain loose communal roosts throughout the year. They construct large and conspicuous nests, often of sticks which enclose a bowl made of mud or dung lined with softer materials such as plant stems and hair. The entire structure is covered with a bulky dome. This spring we had the opportunity to see several nests close up during the Cohen Stroll along the Whitefish River led by Linda deKort. Come next year and Linda will show them to you. Inside the typical nest, 6-7 brown-spotted greenish blue eggs are incubated for 16-21 days. The male provides the female with food throughout the incubation period and after hatching, both parents share the feeding duties of the nestlings for the next 4 weeks. Thereafter, the young birds stay with their parents for a long time, loudly demanding food and learning the lessons of ...

*(Black-billed Magpie, concluded on page 7)*



## PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

### Watch Your Favorite Birds – Help Science!



#### What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. The website is [www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw).



#### Who can participate?

Anyone with an interest in birds! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.



#### What will I do?

Count birds that appear in your count site because of something that you have provided (plantings, food, or water). For each species, report only the highest number of individuals that you see *in view at one time*. By following this procedure, you are certain to avoid counting the same bird more than once. You will report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology, either over our web site or on paper data forms. Learn more about how to count birds for FeederWatch in the [instructions section](#) of the web site.



#### Does it cost money?

There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members), which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.



#### What will I get?

Participants receive a [Research Kit](#), which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and a tally sheet—everything you need to start counting your birds. U.S. participants receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, BirdScope. Kits are shipped in the fall (or about 2 weeks after you signup when you signup during the FeederWatch season). You provide the feeder(s) and seed.



#### Where do I count the birds?

You designate an area that you can consistently observe throughout your count days. Participants are advised to choose obvious boundaries, such as the border of a yard or the area within a courtyard. Learn more about setting up a [Count Site](#) in the [instructions section](#) of the web site.



#### When does the season start?

The survey is conducted each winter starting on the second Saturday of November and running for 21 weeks, through the first Friday of April. You may join at any time of year. The last day to sign up for any given season is Feb. 28 or 29. On Mar. 1 we begin taking sign-ups for the following season.



#### How much time does 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 you choose to count that often). Count during all or part of those days. Learn more about selecting [Count Days](#) in the [instructions section](#) of the web site.



#### Why should I participate?

FeederWatch results are regularly published in [scientific journals](#) and are shared with ornithologists and bird lovers nationwide. The counts you submit will make sure that your birds (or lack of birds) are represented in our papers and in the results found in the [Explore Data](#) section of the web site. As a Feeder-Watcher, you will learn more about winter birds and how their populations are faring. Read [what our participants say](#). You will also contribute to the science and conservation of North American feeder birds.

KIDZ



### Fabulous Fall

Fall is here and animals are everywhere stuffing themselves with food, preparing for the cold winter days. With fall here, there are many things to **observe**. Take your time to observe nature. This week, listen, look, and smell nature's gift of fall. Keep an eye out for animals, bears, birds, and deer. The air is cold and crisp, the leaves are gold, and the deer are reddish brown.

### The Weekly Pet

This week, we focus on the rat! Rats are amazing creatures. So skillful, they can climb out of the cage! They eat anything a human can eat (except chocolate)! Colors can differ from white to black! Most rats have soft fur and scaly tails. Old rats have trouble getting around. When you hold rats, get ready for claws! If you're not careful, they can jump away from your hands! Some are smart enough to escape their cages and mazes. As I said, rats are really smart! So if you want a pet, choose the rat.

### Quote of the Week

"Listen to the sounds of nature; it has a lot to offer."

### WILD WORDS

Today's wild word is **Orchid**.

Orchid: 1: (adj.) a light purple

2: (n.) a flower formed of three petals sepals

You may have to wait until spring to find an orchid, but there are plenty of fall flowers to enjoy. Look around for the purple Asters and the yellow Goldenrod of autumn.



### Movie Magic

The latest movies for nature lovers are **Alpha and Omega** and **Legend of the Guardians**. **Alpha and Omega** is about two wolves, an alpha and an omega, with two completely different attitudes, who must work together to get back to their home. **Legend of the Guardians** is about a group of owls who escape from a band of evil owls to find a legendary group of owls called the guardians. They then take the biggest adventure of their lives.

**About the Authors:** (from their teacher, Ansley Ford) "Brenna and Roxy are sixth graders at Somers Middle School. They are animal lovers, book lovers, and nature lovers. When finished with their school work, you might find these two gals reading a book from the **Guardians of G'Hoole** series, holding a class pet, or happily volunteering to help their teacher with chores. They are two fantastic students!"



*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!"*

(Black-billed Magpie, concluded from page 6...) ...successful living from their parents and relatives.

The magpie ranges from Alaska and western Canada south to east-central California and east onto the Great Plains. It is also found in Eurasia. Its primary habitat is grassland with scattered trees and riparian thickets. Magpies live successfully in agricultural areas and towns. Almost anywhere in our valley you will find these intelligent and adaptable birds. They will constantly entertain you with their raucous behavior and in so doing, you may come to appreciate and enjoy this ubiquitous year-round resident of the Big Sky landscape.

And finally, special thanks to Monte Dolack for generously allowing FAS to use his work "Magpie" in this article. More of his wildlife works can be seen at [www.dolack.com](http://www.dolack.com).



#### Sources:

Ehrlich, P., Dobkin, D., Wheye, D. 1988. *The Birder's Handbook*. 159, 414, 345, 615. Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Gilman, C. 2003. *Lewis and Clark, Across the Divide*. 89-90, 363. Smithsonian Books.

Icenogle, R. 2003. *Bird in Place*. 181. Farcountry Press.

Prior, H., Schwarz, A., 2008. *Mirror-Induced Behavior in the Magpie (Pica pica): Evidence of Self-Recognition*.

*PLoS Biology*, 6(8), e202. DOI: Reported online in *Greg Laden's Blog*. August 20, 2008.

Sibley, D. A. 2009. *Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. 302-309. Alfred A. Knopf.



OCTOBER 2010



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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](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
Vice-President	Paula Smith	( <a href="mailto:paulabobsmith@centurytel.net">paulabobsmith@centurytel.net</a> )	837-0181
Secretary	Gail Sullivan	932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	( <a href="mailto:tanneland@centurytel.net">tanneland@centurytel.net</a> )	862-4548
Past-President	Mike Fanning	( <a href="mailto:shrdu@centurytel.net">shrdu@centurytel.net</a> )	862-8070

**DIRECTORS**

2008-2011	Melissa Sladek	( <a href="mailto:msladek72@gmail.com">msladek72@gmail.com</a> )	
2008-2011	Richard Kuhl	867 North Main, Kalispell 59901	257-5793
2008-2011	Bill Schustrom	( <a href="mailto:schustrom@centurytel.net">schustrom@centurytel.net</a> )	257-2359
2010-2011	Ben Young	( <a href="mailto:youngb@sd5.k12.mt.us">youngb@sd5.k12.mt.us</a> )	257-2286
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
2009-2012	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
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**

Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
Education	Ansley Ford	857-6788		( <a href="mailto:mtkat@montanaport.net">mtkat@montanaport.net</a> )	
Field Trips	Bill Schustrom	257-2359	Website	Vacant	
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070	Wetlands	Vacant	
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678			
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
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			

**MONTANA AUDUBON**

P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624  
443-3949

[www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org)

Executive Director: Steve Hoffman  
[shoffman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:shoffman@mtaudubon.org)  
Board President: Dan Sullivan  
443-4229



**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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you wish to receive the Pileated Post?**  
Electronic copy/email  Paper copy/U.S. mail

**Mail this form with your check to:**  
Flathead Audubon Society Membership  
30 Hanson Doyle Lane  
Whitefish, MT 59937