



# Pileated Post

the  
Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

September 2015  
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1



allaboutbirds.org

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Raptor Day — Saturday, September 12

Join us for a *Migration Celebration* at Lone Pine State Park

Live birds from Montana Wild Wings!	Educational Exhibits on Bird ID, Habitat, Management.
9:30 am	Community Bird Walk – all ages welcome!
11:00 am	Keynote address by Flathead Audubon President
11:15 am	Fun-filled Family Program: Dr. Avian Guano by Doc Wild
12:00 pm	Bird AID – apps and guidebook guidance by Joe Batts
1:00 pm	Bird Photography Basics by Joe Batts
1:30 pm	Montana Peregrine Falcon Population Study, Jay Sumner, MT Peregrine Institute, - featuring a live Peregrine Falcon!
	FREE Kids Fun and Ranger-guided activities.

Lunch available from *Benny's Dog House* — or bring your own picnic.



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## From the President



Kay Mitchell

It's a bird ... It's a plane ... Oh, heck with the planes – It's all about birds!

Welcome to a new season of Flathead Audubon! Even though we work on projects year round, our newsletter, meetings, and very popular monthly programs follow the school year calendar, September through May. If you're new to Flathead Audubon, you need to know that we deal in 2 things: fun and serious business. (And we usually try to combine the two.)

Speaking of fun and serious business, do we have a surprise for you! **Flathead Audubon is now operating the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch.** JHW was started by Dan Casey and his employer, American Bird Conservancy in 2008. Since Dan has now relocated and ABC has closed the local office, Flathead Audubon is stepping up to the plate to continue this important data gathering project.

Jewel Basin Hawk Watch is two months of citizen science at its best, completely run by volunteers who watch, identify and count migrating raptors from a magnificent site on the east side of the Flathead Valley. Even if you can't tell a hawk from a hummingbird, a visit to Hawk Watch is an experience you'll never forget, like seeing 500,000 snow geese lift

off of Freezout Lake, or watching a grizzly bear and cubs playing in a lake in the distance.

September is the beginning of migration season and these birds come in so close that you can almost touch them. The site is open to the public and free to visit, so lace up your hiking shoes and head for the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch. It will be an adventure to add to your Life List!

Do you ever shop on Amazon.com? If you do, or know someone who does, here's a nice way that you can help Flathead Audubon without spending even an extra penny. Type "[Smile.Amazon.com](#)" into your browser and **designate Flathead Audubon Society** as your nonprofit organization. It's a simple, free and automatic way for you to support FAS. The selection and prices on Smile.Amazon.com are exactly the same, with the added benefit that Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to Flathead Audubon. So sign up now, while you're thinking about it – thanks for helping the birds!

September is packed full of Audubon fun. Next up is Raptor Day at Lone Pine Visitor Center on September 12. Two days later is our first Flathead Audubon meeting at the Gateway Community Center, with a fantastic photography show by Tom Ulrich. Better get there early for a good seat! And bring a friend!

## SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

- Monday, September 14, 2015. 7 PM.** Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. See page 3.
- Monday, September 8, 2015. 6 PM.** FAS Board of Directors Meeting, 295 3rd Ave EN. All welcome.
- Saturday, September 12.** Raptor Day. See page 1.
- Saturday, September 19.** West Valley Sandhill Crane field trip. See page 5.
- Thursday, September 24.** Wild Wings Recovery Center field trip. See page 5.

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

By: John Hughes

## The Ferruginous Hawk –North America's Largest Hawk

The Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*, whose name means a kingly or royal hawk, is so named for its large size and eagle-like appearance. Its common name Ferruginous comes from the Latin word *ferrugo*, meaning rust, to describe the rusty brown color of the species' light morph. While uncommon west of the continental divide, keep your eyes peeled for the occasional vagrant in the Flathead and Mission Valleys.

Ferruginous Hawks are large, heavy buteos with robust chests and long, broad, pointed wings. Length ranges from 20 to 27 inches and wing span from 48 to 60 inches with females noticeably larger than males. Their big, pale head has a dark cap and gray cheeks with a large bill and a long gape. The cere and mandible margins are yellow on an otherwise dark bill. Like Rough-legged Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks have feathers on their legs that extend to their yellow toes. Adult light morphs have a rufous-red (ferruginous) color on their back and shoulders. When viewed in flight, look for a dark V formed by rust-red leg feathers folded against a whitish body and tail. The upper surface of the wings is brownish gray with prominent white streaks in the primaries. The underside of the wings is light with varying degrees of rufous and gray flecking. The dark morph, less than 10 percent of the population, is various shades of brown and ferruginous on the upper and lower parts of its body but retains a white un-banded tail, white streaking in the upper primaries and white on the trailing edge of the underside of the wing feathers.

Arriving as early as mid to late March in some areas of the state and leaving in August to early September, Ferruginous Hawks are primarily breeding migrants in Montana. Look for Ferruginous Hawks in the wide-open spaces east of the continental divide, where they inhabit mixed grass prairie, shrub-grasslands, grass-sage complex and sagebrush steppe. The highest concentration of Ferruginous Hawks in Montana is at the Kevin Rim IBA, located south of the Alberta border and 20 miles northwest of Shelby.



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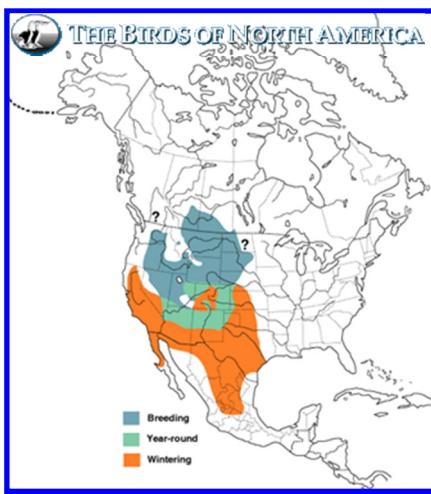
Ninety percent of Ferruginous Hawks' diet consists of prairie dogs, rabbits, hares and ground squirrels, but they will take the occasional bird, reptile, amphibian and insect. Low, rapid flight over an open area is most often used when hunting, but pouncing from a perch, swooping from above and hovering are tactics also employed to catch prey.

Prior to the elimination of bison on the plains, bison bones and wool were often found in Ferruginous Hawk nests. Today, from mid-April to mid-May, huge stick nests lined with turf or cow dung are constructed in lone trees, on cliff faces and rock outcrops, or on the ground if no elevated sites are available. Ferruginous Hawks will also build nests on man-made structures such as power poles, abandoned buildings, haystacks and artificial nest structures. Nest sites are fiercely defended against predators. Nest building is secretive; both male and female participate in the process and will often abandon sites if disturbed. Several sites, including old nest sites, will be explored before the final location is selected.



© Brian E. Small

Ferruginous Hawks produce one clutch per season. Clutch size is prey density dependent averaging two to four eggs but can range between one and eight eggs. Females incubate the eggs much of the day and night with some early help from the male. For his part, the male patrols the area around the nest and brings food to his mate. Incubation is estimated to be 32-33 days. During brooding and after hatching, the female rarely leaves the nest until the chicks are older, and even then she doesn't go far. The male continues to hunt and patrol the nest area. The young leave the nest at 38 to 50 days with the smaller males leaving first. Fledglings remain in the nest area about 28 days before striking out on their own.



Ferruginous Hawk populations are presently stable in Montana, but there are reasons for concern. These include fragmentation or loss of habitat associated with oil and gas exploration and with agricultural development. Due to prey specificity, the use of rodenticides to control prairie dog populations, along with other rodents, also poses a great threat to Ferruginous Hawks by increasing the risk of secondary poisoning and decreasing prey availability.

*continued on page 3*

# September Program

## STOCK AND WHAT NOT TOM ULRICH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Tom Ulrich, the Flathead's own globe-trotting acclaimed nature photographer, is celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a full-time nature photographer. Tom will showcase his stock photography and articles written over the years in an entertaining and educational program at our September meeting.

Tom's photographs have appeared in numerous magazines, including *AUDUBON*, *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*, *MONTANA OUTDOORS* and *RANGER RICK*. His photos have earned him many awards. He has led photography tours, conducted seminars and workshops and lectured at institutions of higher edu-

cation. Tom has published *BIRDS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES*, *MAMMALS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES*, *MT REYNOLDS: THE STORY, ONCE UP-ON A FRAME* and *PHOTO PANTANAL*. When not photographing wildlife in remote parts of the world, Tom returns home to West Glacier.

Let's celebrate with Tom at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 14 in the *United Way Conference Center at the Gateway Community Center on US Highway 2 West in Kalispell*. Note that the entrance to the United Way Conference Center is accessed directly from the parking area on the west side of the mall.



## Birdathon Results

By Bruce Tannehill

In June, Flathead Audubon members participated in their third fundraising Birdathon, with two teams attempting to identify as many bird species as possible in Northwest Montana on a single day. Participants pursued pledges for one of the teams by phone and in person. Thanks to the generosity of Flathead Audubon members, friends and family, the 2015 Birdathon raised over \$3,200.

June 13th began before sunrise for anxious birders and developed into a very productive day for the competing Birdathon teams. Both teams topped their previous records with the Tannehill Tanagers racking up **165** species, and John's Jays identified **159**.

Members of each team searched from the east side of the Rocky Mountain Front and Glacier National Park to the Bison Range and Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area, along with the Eureka valley, Smith Lake and local birding hot spots for riparian, alpine, plains and city species. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak along the Teton River was one of the highlights in the avian sightings while members of both teams were greeted by an unexpected mammal, a grizzly, while they searched for owls in the Nine Pipe area. Both teams met at the end of the day, excitedly exchanging stories.

But the day was about more than having a good time. It was about raising money to continue Flathead Audubon's commitment to conservation education in the valley as well as help pay the lease and expenses associated with the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

A special thanks to all participants and donors for a memorable day in the great outdoors of Northwest Montana and for supporting Flathead Audubon's conservation goals.

### *continued from page 2, Bird of the Month*

Equally troubling is the increased proliferation of wind farms. At the Kevin Rim IBA, Montana Audubon successfully lobbied NaturEner, a Spanish-owned company, to move 25 wind turbines one-half mile from nesting raptors to cut down on bird collisions. We can only hope that continued efforts to set aside large areas of land, eliminate the use of rodenticides and institute bird-safe wind programs will be effective.

In the meantime, take a closer look at any large, light-colored hawks you see as you drive around the valley. Who knows, you might be lucky enough to spy a Ferruginous Hawk.



### Monarch Butterfly Conservation

By Lois Drobish

Growing milkweed in Flathead County this summer was our attempt to help create a new "flyway" for these amazing "critters" on the verge of extinction. The Monarch larvae feed only on milkweed which has been pretty well eradicated by pesticides. A parent Monarch can smell milkweed up to 20 miles away!

Folks in Missoula and Kalispell coordinate their efforts to extend Montana's migratory flyways by extending the growth of milkweed. Your observation both in 2015 and 2016 will assist in furthering our beginning efforts.



**Birds and Drones Don't Mix** Jeannie Marcure has emailed us about a recent experience she and her husband had at the Swan River National Wildlife Reserve. Someone was flying a drone at the Reserve, and they watched as the birds disappeared! As a result of conversations with Bob Johnson who handles law enforcement for that area (as well as for Benton Lake and Lost Prairie) Jeannie found out that this is illegal. Bob advises that anyone who sees such drone activity report it to the law enforcement officer for the area involved. He suggests taking a picture of the license plate if possible, and providing that to the officer also. Bob's number is 406-727-7400. Ex226.

## SUMMER 2015 FIELD TRIPS

See also page 7 for this summer's Wild Wings trips.

### Mission Valley/Montana Waterfowl Foundation - April 26

From Kathy Ross

Mission Valley and Montana Waterfowl Foundation Field Trip was attended by 17 avid participants despite cool, damp weather. Janene Lichtenberg and Amy Cilimburg led this informative and fascinating trip into bird rich areas of the Valley that may often be overlooked. John Jarvis of the MWF shared his expertise and led a tour through the unique, forested riparian habitat of the Foundation, with a beautiful Northern Goshawk pair flying overhead.

There were up-close experiences with rehabilitated Sandhill Cranes and Trumpeter Swans. John's foundation is closely involved with SKT successful reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans in the Mission Valley. The Montana Waterfowl Foundation, a non-profit,

is a valuable asset to all avian residents in and around the Mission Valley and needs more funding to keep up its great work.



Janene continued the trip with a visit to Pablo Reservoir in the afternoon where eagles, grebes, owls and wide variety of ducks and even loons were viewed. It was a most incredible trip and we look hopefully to next year for another opportunity to explore new areas of the Mission Valley.

Thank you Janene and Amy for sharing your valuable time with our group.



Bike and Bird Smith Lake Area was a great success. We had 42 participants and observed 46 species of birds including Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Mountain Bluebird, and Red-tailed Hawk.

Craig Hohenberger of Flathead Audubon did a great job of identifying birds on the trip. A highlight of the trip was Carley Iverson speaking to the group about the conservation easement that is in process on her land with Flathead Land Trust that will protect 93 acres of wetlands bordering the Smith Lake Waterfowl Production Area. The group also learned about the Kila Community Park, Rail Trail, work of the Flathead

### Smith Lake Bike and Bird Smith Lake Area - May 16

By Laura Katzman, Flathead Land Trust

Lakers and Flathead River to Lake Initiative helping to restore Ashley Creek riparian vegetation, and other land conservation by Flathead Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance and the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the Smith Lake area.

We ended the ride with delicious pizza and drinks at the Kila Pub.

Thank you to Flathead Audubon for helping promote and lead the event! This trip was also supported by volunteers from Flathead Land Trust, Flathead River Stewards, and the Flathead Lakers who helped ensure safety and by Wheaton's who was quite helpful making bike repairs that were needed on the trip.



### Tally Lake Warbler Weekend May 29-31

By Jill and Mike Fanning

 We had a great turnout, and great weather (including one enormous but short thunderstorm). Some highlights: Talks by Denny Olson on bird migration (and non-migration), Mike Fanning on Ravens, and Jill Fanning on the legend of Raven stealing the sun; also, birding expeditions around the campground led by Denny, Josh, Bruce, and John Hughes. We encountered 55 species, several were firsts for Warbler Weekend, and had a great potluck on Saturday night. There were a number of novice birders who learned a lot, and fun was had by all. Don't miss the next Warbler Weekend!

### Tobacco Valley Birding Field Trip - June 6

By Lewis Young

 Fourteen people attended the Eureka Field Trip on a "bluebird" day of clear, warm weather. Both the target species Lewis' Woodpecker and Long-billed Curlew were sighted. Along the Tobacco River more than 25 species were sighted or heard on a short walk. A highlight was a flycatcher on a nest, but it was silent so it could not be specifically identified. Other flycatchers along the way were Least and Willow Flycatchers. Some other birds identified were yellow warblers, Townsend's Solitaire, Chipping Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, and American Dipper.

## FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All FAS field trips are free and open to the public and are geared for all ages and levels of field experience. They are led by area biologists, retired professionals, and some of the best birders in the region. For all Field Trips, dress for the weather, bring binoculars or spotting scope if you have them, wear sturdy footwear, and drive and pull off the road safely. All drivers must have their own vehicle insurance. For more information, contact Kathy Ross, 837-3738, or Gael Bissell, 261-2255, or the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "BIRDING HOTSPOTS OF THE FLATHEAD" is available at the FAS general meetings and on [www.FlatheadAudubon.org](http://www.FlatheadAudubon.org).



**RAPTOR DAY.** Saturday, September 12, 9:30 AM-3 PM. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Raptor Day at Lone Pine State Park is a fun-filled day of activities, programs and educational exhibits for kids and adults. Sponsored by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park, this event celebrates northwest Montana birds of prey and their habitat needs. All programs are free to Montana residents; there is a \$5 Lone Pine State Park fee for non-residents. Contact Lone Pine State Park at 755-2706 or Patti Mason at [AudubonEducation@gmail.com](mailto:AudubonEducation@gmail.com).

**WEST VALLEY SANDHILL CRANE BIKE/WATCHING.** Saturday, September 19, 4:00-7:00 PM. Learn about sandhill cranes around many unique West Valley wetlands and see up to 100 of these magnificent birds with Flathead Land Trust, Flathead Audubon, the West Valley Naturalist's Association, and Bike Saturdays. Meet at 121 Crane Drive (off Clarke Dr. between Stillwater Rd. and West Valley Dr.), then bike about 7.5 miles to view these spectacular birds, standing four feet tall with a wingspan over six feet, at close range. Bruce Tannehill of Flathead Audubon is the bird expert to help lead this trip. After biking (6:00 PM), view cranes from the home, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and socialize as the sun sets. Come for the bike tour and/or the evening crane watch. Mountain or fat tire bikes recommended (can be rented from Wheaton's (Kalispell) or Glacier Cyclery (Whitefish) for the day). Wear bike helmet and appropriate clothing; bring water and binoculars. Please RSVP to and obtain maps from Laura Katzman at 752-8293 or [lkatzman@bigsky.net](mailto:lkatzman@bigsky.net).

**WILD WINGS RECOVERY CENTER FIELD TRIP.** Thursday, September 24, 10 AM. Once again we will tour the facilities at the Recovery Center, where eagles, owls and other raptors are lovingly cared for and rehabilitated after injury in the wild. It is a wonderful opportunity to see these beautiful birds up close and meet some of the volunteers that give so much to this great project. Patti Mason, FAS Conservation Educator, will lead the trip. Meet at 10am in the Shopko parking lot to carpool to the Center. Space is limited to 25 participants so please sign up by contacting Patti at 270-0831 or [AudubonEducation@gmail.com](mailto:AudubonEducation@gmail.com).

**FOURTH ANNUAL FALL HAWK WATCH AT BAD ROCK CANYON,** Sunday, October 11, noon-4 PM. From the comfort of your lawn chair and with experienced guides and quality spotting scopes, you can enjoy the annual eagle and hawk migration at Bad Rock Canyon! Join Kathy Ross, Craig Hohenberger and others at the House of Mystery Fishing Access Site along Highway 2, just west of Bad Rock Canyon, from noon to 4 PM. At this time of year, we expect to see Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, hawks, accipiters, and possibly migrating or resident Peregrine Falcons. This is the fourth annual FAS simultaneous count for Hawk Watch at both the Bad Rock Canyon and Jewel Basin Hawk Watch sites. If weather permits, we will compare our observations for Hawk Watch at both Bad Rock Canyon and Jewel Basin Watch sites in real time. Bring binoculars, scopes, chairs, and appropriate clothing. Contact Kathy Ross, 837-3837, for more information or just stop by during the afternoon. You may also volunteer with the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch. If neither of these options works for you, stop by the House of Mystery Fishing Access Site any time on your own and you will likely see Golden Eagles and other raptors cross Bad Rock Canyon throughout the month of October. We hope you will be able to enjoy this incredible experience!

**AUTUMN BIRDING IN THE MISSION VALLEY,** Sunday October 25. Join Leslie Kehoe and Bob Lee for a great day of birding around Ninepipes and other bird rich areas of the Mission Valley. It is a great time to see Raptors on the move and winter residences like Rough-legged Hawks making their annual appearance in the valley. Depending on the weather it will be interesting to see who still lingers in this amazing birding area. Time, meeting place and contact information will be announced in the October Pileated Post.

**LATE FALL BIRDING IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY,** Sunday November 8. Join Doug MacCarter and others as we explore the landscape for year round residents and migrants still moving through to their winter homes. Watch for details and location of field trip in the October Pileated Post.

### West Valley Naturalists—September Meeting

West Valley Naturalists will meet on Wednesday September 9 at 7 pm in the brand new library of West Valley School Library, 2290 Farm to Market Road. Laura Katzman, Land Protection Specialist with Flathead Land Trust, is the kick off speaker for the West Valley Naturalist Fall and Winter Programs. Laura will talk about the Sandhill Cranes which grace our valley during migrations and breeding season. These impressive birds depend on wetlands and agricultural lands as they travel back and forth to their breeding grounds. All are welcome. There is no charge. For more information call Linda de Kort @ 755 3704.

# CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

## Highlights from May 2015 Board Meeting:

- ◊ Reviewed and approved a budget for 2015-2016.
- ◊ Heard plans for both the Warbler Weekend at Tally Lake and Birdathon.
- ◊ Heard report on progress of permits for Wiley Dike Blind from Flathead County, Conservation District, and Corps of Engineers.
- ◊ Saw an example of what the 2016 calendar will look like and discussed plans to distribute it.
- ◊ Heard report from the Website Committee that they continue to learn how to manage the website and that it's an ongoing effort.
- ◊ Heard report that field trips continue to be very popular and that many are planned for the summer.

### Montana Legislature 2015

By Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

The 2015 Montana Legislature was a bit wacky, a little bright, and luckily a little less dreadful for wildlife than the previous few. We wish we could say the same for climate and clean energy bills.

Our rookie lobby team was led by Associate Director of Conservation, Amy Seaman. Team members were Amy's Assistant Jill Feldhusen, Director of Conservation Amy Cilimburg, and contractor Jake Troyer. It took a lot to fill our veteran lobbyist turned legislator, Janet Ellis's shoes.

In total we testified on 68 bills, opposing 24 and supporting 44. We helped defeat 10 anti-environmental/anti-wildlife bills, while 7 passed and 7 were vetoed. We helped pass 20 bills that strengthen environmental and wildlife laws, while 24 positive bills failed to pass.



For Montana Audubon, the session's biggest effort was moving the Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act, SB261, from first draft to law—signed by the Governor on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This bill established the Montana Sage-Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) and a process to manage the stewardship fund.

Now Montana will be able to move forward in creating a strong sage-grouse conservation program. We anticipate Montana Audubon will play an important role providing expertise to MSGOT as the sage-grouse plan is developed.

In other things wildlife, we worked closely with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to pass a hunting and fishing license fee increase bill, strengthen penalties for hunter transgressions, retain management of any (potentially) relocated Bison, make illegal the import and possession of feral swine, and keep our valuable Habitat Montana programs funded. The fee structure bill will allow FWP to continue many programs required for managing our state's wildlife, including the non-game programs.

Fighting for clean energy and greater energy industry transparency was an uphill battle. In the first 45 days most bi-partisan, widely-supported "net metering" bills were tabled in committee. Also tabled were proactive bills requiring the oil and gas industry to se-



### May Potluck

By Marylaine Pannell

Our annual potluck in May was held at the Whitefish community Center. Steve Hoffman, Montana Audubon Executive Director gave a well-received program on Montana Audubon's priority bird conservation efforts.

Three new board members, Jake Bramante, Doug MacCarter and Jan Metzmaker, were elected to the board and Lewis Young and Paula Smith were reelected. Elected as president was Kay Mitchell and Gael Bissell was elected vice president.

We heard updates on OSNA monitoring, wild-flower walks in Bigfork, Audubon 2016 calendar sales and the Birdathon on June 13.

A great big thank you went to Bruce Tannehill for being our FAS treasurer for the past 17 years. Thanks were also given to Steve Gniadek and Richard Kuhl who are retiring from the board this year.

Outgoing president Bob Lopp was presented with a solar birdbath/fountain for his deck and a gift certificate to Hoopers' Nursery.



cure third party groundwater testing within one mile of proposed oil or gas well, bills prohibiting earthen pits or ponds during oil and gas development, and a bill requiring disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals.

We helped defeat bills attempting to lower water quality requirements for streams and rivers, and supported a bill that would have protected the Smith River from harmful effects of a proposed copper mine which unfortunately did not pass. One good bill that did pass will mandate collection and availability of pipeline-river crossing data in Montana, of which there are over 3,000!

Finally, we worked with partners to table a handful of bills to use taxpayer money to study transfer options, prohibit the sale of state land, and more.

We will continue to be advocates for Montana's wildlife, wildlife habitats, clean water, air, and public lands in the halls of the Capitol, and will renew our lobbying efforts once more when the legislature returns to Helena in January 2017. Please consider joining our *Armchair Activist* network (<http://mtaudubon.org/issues/act/activist.html>) to become an active participant with us during the 2017 Montana Legislature and as critical issues arise in the interim.

## Two Wild Wings Field Trips - June 13

By Patti Mason, FAS Conservation Educator



Both of our June 13 field trips to Wild Wings Recovery Center went really well. People loved it.

Everyone who signed up showed up for both trips, so we had 27 in each group (and there were 16 others who wanted to come, but we didn't have room for!).

Wild Wings got a lot of donations, and we both had good opportunities to share our conservation messages.



## Conservation Education Corner

by Patti Mason

We have worked with 4,500 people in our Education program so far this year! It's been a good summer working with kids on the Whitefish Trail, the Road Scholar Intergenerational program in Glacier Park, and meeting people at the Farmer's Market Community Day in Kalispell. I kicked off the new school year as a Cornell Lab of Ornithology Ambassador with a teacher's workshop on BirdSleuth curriculum. Thanks to John Hughes, Kathy Ross and Mary Jo Gardner for all their help this summer.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Raptor Day is just around the corner. Fall field trips are being arranged, and another FVCC class for seniors on Birds of Montana is on the horizon.

The FAS Conservation Education Program is a great group effort and there is always room for more. Contact me if you want to help, I'd love to have you!

Funding for the FAS Conservation Education Program comes in part from member donations. If you would like to help, please use the Special Gifts form to the right.



## 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.

## 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



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\* \* \* \*

*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:*

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**Pileated Post**  
Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN, in Kalispell. Both meetings are open to all.

**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: [lindawin@centurytel.net](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net)

Website: [www.FlatheadAudubon.org](http://www.FlatheadAudubon.org)  
Conservation Educator - Patti Mason: [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)

SEPT 2015



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### FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

#### OFFICERS

President	Kay Mitchell	<a href="mailto:kbmitch@centurytel.net">kbmitch@centurytel.net</a>	756-8130
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Education	Denny Olson	<a href="mailto:249-3987">249-3987</a>	Wetlands	vacant
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	<a href="mailto:837-3837">837-3837</a>		
	Gael Bissell	<a href="mailto:755-8709">755-8709</a>		
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