



The Pileated Post

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NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 1988

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS dinner meeting, 5:30 PM at the Korner Kitchen in Bigfork. Open to all interested members.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 Business meeting. 8:00 Program: Ken Wolfe, founder of the Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Condon will speak on his experiences with injured birds of prey, discussing his facilities and his recovery techniques using a live patient from the raptor hospital.

TURKEY DAY!

EDITOR'S DESK

Leo Keane

After ten years of arguments, hand wringing, hashing and rehashing, land swaps, button-holing, false starts, restarts and back-to-the drafting table, letters, phone calls, rallies and log hauls, dotting I's crossing T's and splitting infinitives. After ten years of hammering out compromise legislation a Montana Wilderness Bill sits on President Reagan's desk. Nobody likes it. That's the good news. Obviously, compromise means all sides take it in the shorts, a little bit, so that ultimately a decision may be reached and action taken. In my opinion, the Montana Wilderness Bill, as it now exists, represents that compromise.

I respect Montana Senators Max Baucus and John Melcher and Congressman Pat Williams for their perseverance in seeing this legislation enacted. They have each placed themselves on the horns of a dilemma, a no win situation in this election year, to formulate a Wilderness Bill that represents something for everybody. I appreciate the fact that these men have risen above politics to genuinely act in the best interest of Montana. My impression. Sure, I'd like to see the whole Front Range set aside as a national treasure, while maybe "Joe Montana" would just as soon roar up Deep Creek in his 4X4. Nobody wins, but we've all garnered some of what we'd hoped for and, more importantly, at last we're out of limbo--we can get on with managing resources, rather than arguing them to death. Now let's hope that President Reagan has the presence of mind to sign this Montana Wilderness Bill into law.

A round of applause to everyone who has participated in the process, in whatever form and whichever side--but especially to those who are now willing to let the dust settle and get back to the real work of sustaining Montana's forests.



Environment Rises as Issue in Campaign

For me, one of the positive elements in the 1988 Presidential election campaign has been the emphasis placed upon environmental issues by the candidates and by the media.

Vice President Bush has called himself an environmentalist and pledged an increase in funding for parks and action on acid rain and the "greenhouse effect". Governor Dukakis has stressed his strong environmental programs for Massachusetts and expressed much criticism for the lack of action on environmental issues during the Reagan years.

The Wall Street Journal, editorially a conservative paper, but with a strong, fair reporting staff, recently discussed the positions of the presidential candidates on environmental issues. According to the Journal article, Bush would set a "clear timetable" to cut million of tons of sulfur dioxide emissions by the year 2000, pledges to end ocean dumping by 1991, promises to expand the National Park Service and to convene a global conference on the environment to study the problem of the "greenhouse effect".

The Journal notes that the Vice President's big weakness is the Reagan Administration record on environmental issues. The article quotes Lester Brown of World Watch, "after eight years there isn't much one can point to that the Reagan Administration has done in the environmental area." Brown, on the other hand, is quoted as saying that Massachusetts under Governor Dukakis has an "exceptional environmental record", and notes that Massachusetts is tied with Wisconsin for the lead among the states on environmental protection.

In his national environmental program Governor Dukakis promises to establish national standards on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen-oxide emissions to cut acid rain and would establish a cadre of certified toxics auditors who would act like public accountants in helping companies meet environmental laws. Dukakis also promises to end low-cost timber sales in national forests and opposes off shore drilling in critical environmental areas and fishing grounds. He also, unlike Bush, opposes oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The League of Conservation Voters in rating Presidential candidates, based on their previous environmental records and actions, gave Dukakis a B and Bush a D+.

The writers of the Wall Street Journal article note that perhaps more significant than the specific stands taken by the candidates is the fact that the "attention focused on natural resource issues now probably guarantees that the government will be more active in the area no matter who wins."

Wouldn't that be a refreshing change after the past eight years.

The Can and Bottle Bill, Initiative 113 has received the endorsement of the Montana Audubon State Council. At the Council's recent fall meeting, chapter delegates voted to support the bill which is intended to reduce litter and encourage recycling by placing a minimum 5 cent deposit on all beverage containers. The Bill's proponents point out that in spite of volunteer recycling efforts beverage containers, according to EPA figures, still make up 40 to 60 percent of all litter. Montana taxpayers spend nearly \$685,000 on litter cleanup, and more than \$1,830,000 on the disposal of beverage containers each year, say supporters of I-113. Supporters also say that the nine states with bottle bills enjoy recycling rates of 90 to 97 percent. Montana's recycling rate is about 5 percent for glass and 50 percent for aluminum.

TONS OF FUN !

That's right, 15 tons to be exact, or 600 bags of sunflower seeds delivered to Flathead Area bird feeders during our chapters' sunflower seed sale this year. On Saturday, October 15, a troop of cheerful volunteers distributed seeds across the valley, and we would like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks a ton"!

In Kalispell, **Dick Fretheim**, **Brent Mitchell** and **Barb Baxter** took charge of the big truck. **Dan Casey** brought in a flatbed trailer and hauled hundreds of bags to Whitefish where **Ferne Cohen** and **Gail Leonard** took over. **Vy Stark** of Whitefish contributed her garage for the extra sacks (which are available for sale, incidentally, by calling Vy at 862-5560). In Columbia Falls, **Dale Wick**, **Trent Miller**, **Howard Piper** and **Dewey Lind** manned the deliveries. The Bigfork volunteers were **Ursala** and **Jack Whitney**, **Neal** and **Patti Brown**, **Robin Magaddino** and **Tommie Clark** (Tommie also has some extra sacks, give her a call if you'd like to buy more, 837-6615). **Jim Rogers** and **Bob Ballou** kept things rolling out of Polson, and **Rod** and **June Ash** up at Condon. Without all this volunteer help our seed sale would be impossible to accomplish.

If you bought sunflower seeds from Flathead Audubon, thanks a bunch too. We sure appreciate your support.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE FLATHEAD:
Member Response Requested

The tie plant at Somers is a well-publicized hazardous waste site and has been selected for Super Fund clean up. But did you know we have several other hazardous waste sites within the city of Kalispell? EPA tests have shown occurrences of PCP's, Dioxin, and BTX (benzene, toluene, and xylene, products of waste oil).

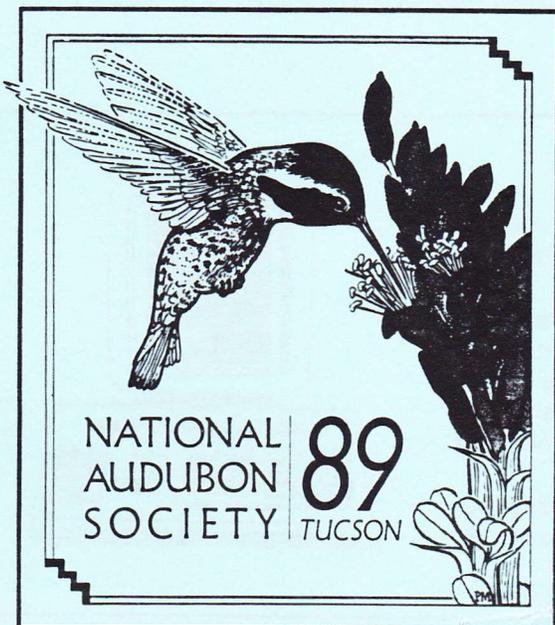
An ad hoc coalition of citizen groups, including Flathead Audubon, the League of Women Voters, and the Flathead Basin Commission have organized to educate Valley residents about this issue. Right now the coalition is interested in hearing from concerned citizens. In particular: What more do you feel you need to know to be informed about hazardous waste in the Flathead? Is a public forum a desirable method of disseminating information? Would you be interested in being active with this group? Should Flathead Audubon continue to be involved? If you have comments please drop us a line at Flathead Audubon, P.O. Box 715, Bigfork MT 59911 as soon as possible.

Tucson to Host '89 Audubon Convention

The Tucson Audubon Society, ably assisted by five other Arizona chapters, will be hosting the Biennial National Audubon Society Convention, from Tuesday through Saturday, September 12-16, 1989, at the Doubletree Hotel at Randolph Park in Tucson. An impressive array of field trips to various Southwestern ecosystems will be offered before, during, and after the convention. Programs will be designed around the convention theme, "Our Southwest—Challenged by Growth."

Audubon's convention office in Boulder, Colorado, will be handling the administrative details, including registration, and will be glad to answer your questions. A brochure giving full registration and field trip details will be available after the first of the year. Audubon President Peter A.A. Berle is asking all chapters to consider sending at least one representative to the convention to help chart the Society's future course.

For more information, contact: Gail Turner, Convention Coordinator, 4150 Darley, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303, or your local chapter leader.



Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata

It was late autumn, four or five years ago, a cool and drizzly day in Kalispell and I had some time to kill so I went for a walk. Then I was new to the valley. I found myself wandering through the neighborhood around the Conrad Mansion--Kalispell's grand old city center. Its tree-lined boulevards, old homes and plush gardens reminded me of home, and then a familiar call rang out of the maples that nearly put me on my front porch! It was a tremulous, bell-like whistle followed by a raucous Jay! Jay! Jay! Unmistakably, it was a blue jay, and I quickly spotted him hopping around in maple branches, eyeballing me and apparently following my progress down the sidewalk. This bold and brilliant creature brought a splash of life to a somber autumn day, and I was warmed as by an old friend who had paid me a visit.



More and more frequently now we hear of blue jays showing up in the Flathead Valley: at bird feeders along foothills road, around Creston and up against the Swans near Bigfork. Very likely too, there is a Kalispell population taking hold in the neighborhood where I first spotted mine. Dick Fretheim of the Flathead Chapter has seen several around Woodland and Conrad Drive. Perhaps the blue jay I saw those four or five years ago was the progenitor of our present population. Or have blue jays been around the Flathead much longer?

The Encyclopedia of North American Birds (my field guide companion) explains that the blue jay, *Cyanocitta cristata* (I love Latin names, it says it all--literally: "blue, chattering and crested") is mostly found east of the Rockies, usually east of the Great Plains, its native habitat being oak and beech forests, but has adapted well to urban environments with enough shade trees and gardens, and is rapidly expanding its range west and north.

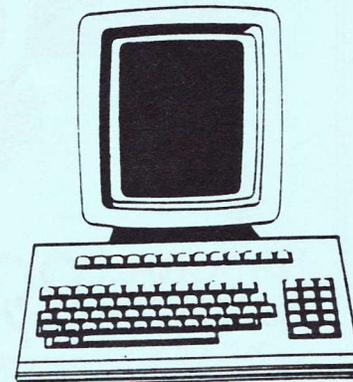
I call that good news for bird lovers. The blue jay is an inquisitive and spirited, as well as eye-catching, immigrant to our Flathead's landscape.

Announcing Audubon Wildlife Adventures

Audubon Television has just released all-new computer software to complement the TV series. The first disk, entitled "Grizzly Bears," introduces players to that magnificent animal through a series of four interactive stories.

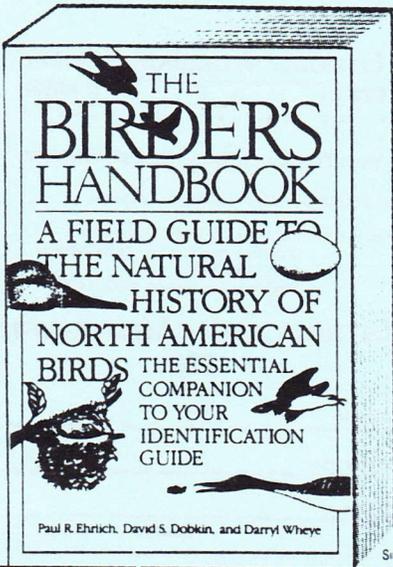
Taking the part of a park ranger, a research biologist, or a natural resource developer, the player searches for creative solutions to the conflicts between people and the bear. Additional software in the *Audubon Wildlife Adventures* series includes "Whales," "Sharks," and "Poacher Patrol." Each title comes with a curriculum guide with expanded activities. "Grizzly" is now available from your local software retailer; "Whales" will be out next year.

For more information, contact: Christopher Palmer, Vice-president and Executive Producer, Audubon Television Programs, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 547-9009.



“Required reading for all birders, naturalists, and conservationists.”

—David S. McIvor,
Ecologist, The
Wilderness Society



“Serious birders will gain enormously from this extraordinary new guide.”

—Roger Tory
Peterson

Fireside Books **F**

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Birders Hail New Field Guide

The *Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds* is a new book by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. Originally previewed in *American Birds*, National Audubon Society's field-birding journal, the *Handbook* is a major new addition to every birder's bookshelf. Its 800-plus pages are a cornucopia of information, yet the book is compact enough to earn the "field guide" in its title.

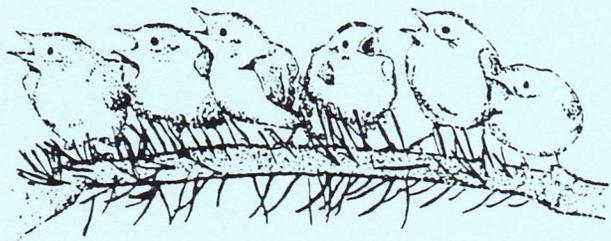
Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the *Handbook*; they summarize with words and symbols the key information on each bird's biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation, etc. The right-hand pages contain fascinating essays on related topics, from bird migration to brood parasitism. The curious can find out how owls hunt in the dark or about birds and the law. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographical information make this book an invaluable resource.

The Birder's Handbook costs \$14.95 and is available in bookstores. ■

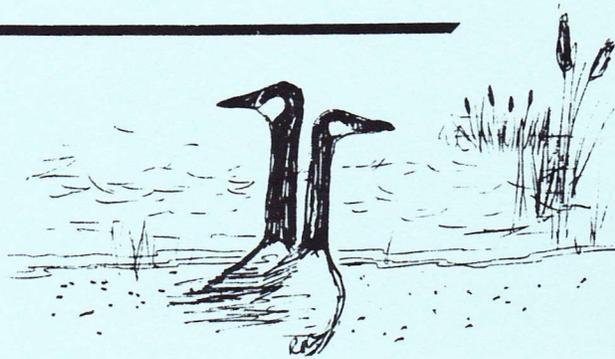


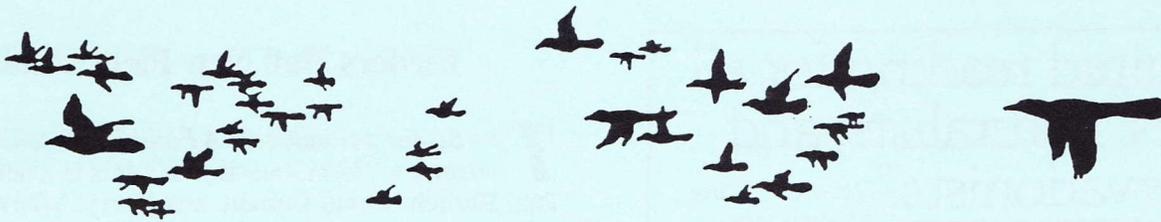
AUDUBON WILDLIFE FUND OF MONTANA: Education, Research, and Habitat

The Audubon Wildlife Fund now stands at \$4,100. Our goal is to procure \$20,000 in contributions, at which time we will begin to award interest generated from the fund as grants for projects deemed beneficial to Montana wildlife. A big fund raiser for 1988 was summer field trips sponsored by local chapters which charged a \$5 contribution earmarked for the Fund. This raised \$500. Fund-raisers in 1989 include an art auction, an a Wild Missouri Canoe Trip, professionally guided and scheduled to embark June 26-July1, 1989. Lynn Kelly has organized this exciting field trip. The cost for seven days on the Missouri is \$700, \$250 of which is a tax-deductible contribution to the Fund. Only 25 reservations are available. Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lane, Bigfork, MT 59911 is handling reservations for the Flathead Chapter. If you'd like to go on this tour next summer you should reserve a spot early.



Barbara J. Breen





1989 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork MT 59911	837-4294
Vice-President	Jack White, 1235 Swan River Road, Bigfork MT 59911	837-6157
Secretary	Barb Baxter, 255 Oldenburg Road, Somers, MT 59932	857-3738
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lane, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

DIRECTORS

Bob Ballou, Box 11881, Rt.1, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Bob Shennum, 2888 Swan Hwy., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6208
Lynn Kelly, P.O. Box 2289, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797

CHAIRS

Conservation	Rod Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Education	Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611
Field Trips	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Hospitality	Susannah Casey, Box 2922, Kalsipell, MT 59901	857-3143
Audubon Adventures/ Library	Nancy Trembath, 6065 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6298
Membership	June Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59862	754-2289
Newsletter	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Program	Brent Michell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalsipell, MT 59901	756-8130
Schools/Clubs	Jean Robacker, 1655 Montford Road, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344

National Audubon Society

CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I'd like to join. Local Chapter:

FLATHEAD AUDUBON N 54 7XCH8

Mail to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
\$20

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

7XCH8

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Regular monthly meetings are preceded by an Executive Board meeting, the time and location of which are published in the preceding newsletter. The business meeting (7:30) and program (8:00) are held in the downstairs meeting room of the Flathead Bank of Bigfork. These are all open meetings and all interested people are invited to attend.

THE FLATHEAD POST is published nine times a year, September through May, and is sent to all members of the Flathead Audubon Society as one benefit of National Dues. For others who would like to receive the newsletter, the cost is \$4.00 per year.

*WHILE THEY LAST!
extra seeds 50# @ 15.00
call 837-6615 or 862-5560*



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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