



# Pileated

## the Post

### Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 15

Number 8

November, 1990

## President's Corner

It is the diversity in life that gives us stability. For biological communities to exist for any length of time they need to be diverse in their composition. For the economic stability of NW Montana we must encourage economic diversity. If individuals want to survive in the job market, they must diversify their skills. And so it is with Flathead Audubon. Our key to success and respect and stability in our environmental, economic and social community is the undisputed fact that we have a diverse membership and a similarly diverse executive board.

Education is largely a matter of choosing your friends wisely ... and listening. (Notice I did not say choosing friends with the very same goals, perspectives, interests and abilities.)

Flathead Audubon listens. We educate ourselves. We sift reams of information through the most diverse "filter" in the Flathead: our executive board and our membership. When Flathead Audubon takes a position, it has been thought out by people with backgrounds in biology, teaching, retail business, research, industry, trade unions, recreation, management, etc. We are not to be taken lightly. We have a local membership of 480 +.

If an individual or spokesperson for a group wishes to address our board and needs some time to explain their position, we will listen. We will send the information through our sophisticated "filter" and we will comment. To best be heard, we need to put the speaker and subject on the tentative agenda, which usually goes out a week before the board meeting. If you wish to speak at a

board meeting, call an officer to place the matter on the agenda so we can be prepared for your subject.

For the record, our diverse group of conservationists has supported the Kootenai and Lolo Accords, the process that arrived at the accords and the individuals that had the guts to do what was desperately needed. Industry workers benefitted, conservationists benefitted and our way of life in NW Montana benefitted by the accord process.

Let's come together and talk over our areas of agreement as well as the areas where we may differ. Flathead Audubon is always ready to listen.

Brent Mitchell

## Mark Your Calendar

1990 NOVEMBER 1990						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 FM 2	5 LO 9	6 NM 17	7 FO 25	1	2	3
11 VETERAN'S DAY	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

11/12/90 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, 5 pm at the Korner Kitchen in Bigfork. Open to all interested members.

Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church, Commerce and Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Open to all. Program: 8 pm.

Program: Nancy Warren, Flathead National Forest Wildlife Biologist will present "Protection of Habitat for Old Growth Dependent Species on the Flathead National Forest." She will feature the habitat requirements of such old-growth indicator species as the pileated woodpecker, barred owl and marten.



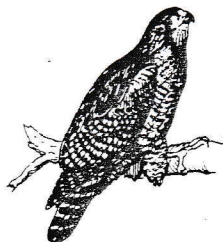


## Thru The Editor's Spotting Scope

As I sit at the typewriter, I can raise my eyes and look out the window at the garden. I planned it that way.

The bird feeders are within eyesight of the typewriter and they are a definite distraction. The chickadees and nuthatches like the feeder near the apple tree. I tend to think of these feisty little birds as my birds. When I'm working in the garden, they swoop and fly around me, apparently not considering me to be adversarial. When I'm filling the feeder, they can't wait for that first luscious seed and hop on the feeder before I'm through. I talk to them and like to think they talk to me. We're friends. However, a question occasionally arises over whether friendship should be set aside when nature takes its course.

One afternoon at the typewriter, I suddenly sensed a new presence in the garden. I looked up in time to see a Cooper's hawk glide in and land on the feeder. The chickadees and nuthatches quickly scattered and the hawk flew from the feeder into the apple tree in pursuit, but he wasn't quite fast enough. He paused on a limb briefly, as if to analyze what went wrong, and then quietly flew away.



I was stunned and yet fascinated as the drama unfolded before me. My immediate concern was for my birds, but I didn't move. I couldn't move. This was my first Cooper's hawk, a young one and, fortunately for the little birds, an inexperienced hunter. He was beautiful and exciting and you could almost sense his frustration.

Later, when it was over and I paused to reflect, I had a guilty feeling. Did I abandon my little friends? Where was my loyalty? Then I concluded that I have already done what can be done in the name of friendship. The feeder is near the apple tree, which serves as a haven for them until the leaves fall. The other feeders are near undergrowth which can be used for protection. They will have to rely on their instincts for survival, as nature intended. As for the hawk, he doesn't offer friendship nor expect it. I can watch him and other birds and learn from the experience as nature takes its course at the bird feeder.

Sharon Bergman

## Member Of The Month

**\*\*Tommie Clark\*\***

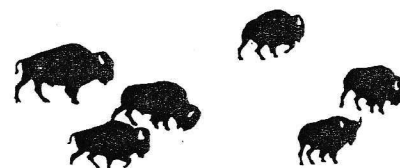
"I first became interested in birds when I lived in southern Africa." That was Tommie Clark speaking. The Tommie Clark who has served as treasurer of the Flathead Audubon Society since 1983, and the same Tommie Clark who has handled the sunflower seed sale almost from its inception. Her's is a familiar face on the Flathead Audubon scene.

It was not a simple matter of going directly to south Africa to start her life. Tommie was born in central Montana and graduated from Lewistown High School. She worked for her B.S. and M.S. degrees at Montana State University. As time went on, she married Ralph W. Clark who followed a career in the foreign service. Their travels and ventures found them in such countries as Chile, Costa Rica, Thailand, Vietnam, Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana. This went on for some 22 years and during that time they raised two sons: Jack, an architect now working in Billings and Hawaii; and Lee, a forester in Powell, Idaho. (There are now four grandchildren in the family.)

During the 1970's, the Clark family visited friends in Bigfork and were so impressed with the area that they had to have a piece of it. For the next several years, while on vacation they worked on what was to be their retirement home. Ralph and Tommie have lived here now for about 14 years.

"Elly Jones really got me started in learning more about birds," Tommie said. "Back around 1983 there was an ornithology class conducted at Yellow Bay and she talked me into going with her. I then became more active in the chapter work as I attended regional conferences and got into some of the projects."

Tommie Clark is honored as the Flathead Audubon Society's first Member-of-the-Month for her selfless dedication to the chapter and devotion to its causes.







## Bird Sightings

Jacqueline Brewer of Lakeside reports she spotted a blue jay at her bird feeder on October 17 and again when it returned on October 21. She commented there were no doubts in her mind about the species as she lived in Virginia for many years and was totally familiar with them. In support of her sighting, the FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA states that the blue jay is a "casual fall and winter visitor to the west, especially the northwest."

## Welcome To Those New Among Us



J. Adams of Kalispell; Jay Aiken of Bigfork; Robert Cushman of Condon; Allyson Daich and Patricia Gilmore of Columbia Falls; Wendell Dunn of Whitefish; Betty Bache of Libby; W. S. Robson and Margo Bates of Fortine; S. Giroux of Martin City; B. Sieges of Charlo and Don Smith of Pablo.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits—and AUDUBON magazine—at a special new-member rate of \$20.

Mail to:  
Flathead Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 715  
Bigfork, Montana 59911

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment enclosed ☐ Bill Me ☐

Allow 4-6 weeks for first issue of AUDUBON.  
Membership dues include \$20 for AUDUBON magazine.

**NEW MEMBERS ONLY!**

Join today and receive:

A YEAR—6 BIMONTHLY ISSUES—of the stunning photography and absorbing articles in AUDUBON magazine.

MEMBERSHIP in one of the 500 local Audubon chapters nationwide (if there is one in your area) with access to field-trips and other activities.

FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION to Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.

INVITATIONS to Audubon's ecology camps and workshops.

ELIGIBILITY for wide-ranging Audubon tours.

DISCOUNTS on nature books, collectibles, and gifts. And with your membership you're supporting the National Audubon Society's vital efforts at protecting wildlife and environment.

## For Ducks, "Think Habitat"

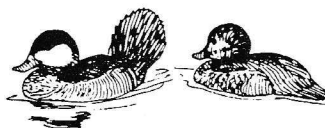
According to Tom Palmer of the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the struggle to keep fish and wildlife populations abundant and in good health is directly connected to abundant and healthy habitats. This can be seen in the plight of the continent's ailing duck populations.

Last year breeding duck numbers across North America declined again and remained well below the 35-year average. Mallards also dropped in number in 1989 and declined to an all-time low in Prairie Canada for the second straight year. Numbers of northern pintails, blue-winged teal and scaup all reached record lows in 1989.

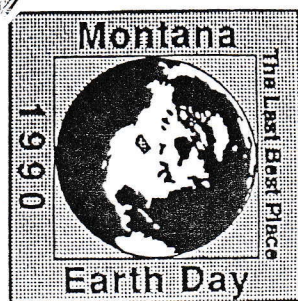
In Montana, a duck-production super-state of late, pond numbers declined 27% from 1989 and dipped 7% below the state's 15-year average. Waterfowl habitat conditions were generally good throughout western and central Montana, but conditions were drought-dry in the northeastern part of the state.

Montana's best waterfowl habitat conditions occurred in the area between Malta, Lewistown, Great Falls and Havre, where streams and potholes were full and nesting cover abundant. The Flathead Valley also exhibited very good spring and summer pond conditions. Overall, however, the splotchy effect of good conditions here and dismal conditions there resulted in a 15% reduction in the number of broods observed on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's production survey. The USFWS predicts that Montana won't graduate quite as many ducks in 1990 as it did in 1989.

Much has been said and written about the plight of ducks in recent years. Remember, funds generated from the sale of the \$12.50 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and Montana's own \$5 Waterfowl Stamp are poured back into waterfowl habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System and Montana wetland improvement projects, respectively.







## Earth Day . . . Continued

Flathead County has purchased land which will double the size of the landfill. Some of the land will be used for a composting plant for sludge from the new Kalispell treatment plant. Other new space will allow for a berm to hide the landfill from view, provide for a tree-covered buffer zone and be used as an off-site space for buildings.

At a recent Refuse District board meeting, private refuse haulers stated their intent to start collecting recyclable materials. They proposed that the Refuse District construct a tipping floor where recyclable materials could be separated from regular trash. The recyclables would be sold and the trash would be bailed for dumping in the landfill, saving space and maintenance work in the landfill. The Refuse Board was interested in the proposal and details of the plan are to be discussed by a committee composed of board members (including Mayre Flowers and Ferne Cohen), refuse haulers and city representatives.

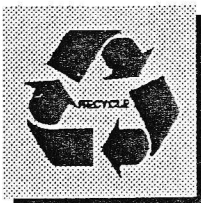
Methods of collecting the recyclables is to be determined. There may be bins or drop boxes for collection in certain areas. These might be in selected locations on certain days, with volunteers from community organizations to assist those who leave recyclables. Bags for the recyclables would be distributed to residents and these could be picked up with the trash. The Refuse Board was willing to contribute bags, which might be reusable.

The board of directors of Flathead Audubon Society continues to support recycling as an Earth Day goal. Community education is essential for recycling participation and all individuals and organizations participating in Earth Day are requested to join in the recycling and educational activities. This column is being used as a communication channel with individuals and organizations who participate in such activities.

According to the CELEBRATION NEWS, the newsletter of The National Celebration of the Outdoors, that organization, which is the largest coalition ever assembled for the purpose of saving open space, will be merging with the National Parks and Conservation Association's annual "March for Parks", which is to become an annual event that celebrates America's park lands. These organizations wish to guarantee that land issues, from Yellowstone to the field next door, be of paramount concern in the environmental decade of the 1990's.

If you have information that pertains to recycling, please contact

**Ferne Cohen, Earth Day Coordinator**

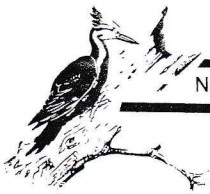


**RECYCLING** - Did you know that recycling can help keep our air clean? It's true - recycling of garbage reduces emissions of air pollutants that occur during manufacturing of new products. It costs much less and requires less energy to manufacture goods using existing materials than it does using raw materials. Recycling also reduces the amount of garbage that threatens to overwhelm our landfills.

The following are simple things you can do to make a difference: \*Recycle glass, aluminum, newspaper, cardboard and paper. \*Avoid plastics. \*Avoid disposable plates, cups and utensils. \*Use cloth diapers rather than disposables. \*Use rags instead of paper towels. \*Use a coffee mug instead of a disposable cup. \*Use both sides of paper sheets. \*Recycle used motor oil. \*Compost food wastes and yard debris. \*Mend and repair instead of discard and replace. \*Buy packaged goods in bulk. \*Take your grocery bags back to the store for reuse. \*Buy products in recyclable containers (or better yet, with minimal or no packaging).

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.





## Conservation Comments

Battles Still to Come. On the eve of the general election, planning is already underway for conservation battles in the 1991 Montana legislature. Conservation causes can expect some tough challenges from a state administration that often seems more concerned with resource exploitation than resource conservation.



The Montana Audubon Council and the Montana Audubon Legislation Fund committee have raised several issues as a focus for the legislative effort. Montana Audubon positions are still in the planning stage so are

open to suggestions and comments from chapters and members.

Possible new state legislation being considered includes a law requiring that all subdivision be reviewed and that such review include protection of wildlife habitat and water quality.

Forestry issues will undoubtedly be a center of attention this season. Audubon will support timber taxation that removes incentives to cut old growth timber. A proposal to charge a fee on raw logs exported from Montana is being researched. It is likely that a forestry practices act will be introduced.

The creation of markets for recyclables and stronger controls on solid waste disposal will be high on Audubon's list of legislative concerns. We may initiate legislation to develop markets for recyclables within state government and to encourage state agencies to recycle.

Just as National Audubon is kicking off a national campaign to protect wildlands, Montana Audubon will support and possibly initiate legislation to protect wetlands and riparian areas within the state. Such legislation may include a tax disincentive for ploughing up wetlands and a wetlands restoration program.

While native wildlife receives considerable protection from the state, there is no similar protection for native plants. Audubon is looking at proposals for a Native Plant Protection Act and a law to prohibit introduction of horticultural

species that threaten native vegetation.

Audubon also intends to support improved funding for the state's Watchable Wildlife Program and for a healthy State Parks system.

The state council agreed that Audubon should resist efforts to use funds from the Critical Wildlife Habitat program for other Fish, Wildlife and Parks programs.

Addressing the noted agenda will take much effort by Janet Ellis, our legislative advocate, and by our loyal members. Ways in which we can help this effort will be detailed in future newsletters.

Rod Ash

## Incidentally . . .

Field Trips - Did you enjoy one or more of the field trips conducted this past spring or summer? There was a wide variety offered and many of our members took part. The following is a short report on field trip participation:

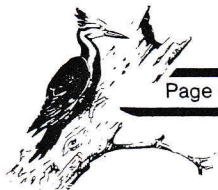
Rails to Trails Hike - 15; Wild Horse Island Trip - 25; Safe Harbor Marsh - 10; Squeezer Creek Hike - 15; Swan Valley Logging - 8; and Flathead River Float - 12. \*\*\*

Bird Seed Sales - In 1983, Flathead Audubon took on the sale of sunflower seeds as its major fund raising project. In that first year, 5½ tons of seed were sold at \$14 per 50-lb. bag. In 1990, 19 tons were sold at \$15 per bag. Is that progress or what? \*\*\*

Niger Seeds Still Available - Tommie Clark advises that she has a supply of niger seeds that was not sold in the recent bird seed sale. The cost is \$51 for a 50-lb. bag and \$28.50 for a 25-lb. bag. If you're interested, contact Tommie at 837-6615. \*\*\*

Breeding Bird Survey - Do you have the time, energy and interest in taking part in the Breeding Bird Survey? Basically, it requires you to monitor the birds in a specific area, noting the number and kind, and then reporting the information to a national coordinator. If it sounds like a project for you, write to the director of the survey: Sam Droege, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 20708. \*\*\*





# 1990 Flathead Audubon Society Directory

## OFFICERS

President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
Vice president	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Secretary	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Ln, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

## DIRECTORS

Ferne Cohen, P. O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Dick Fretheim, 904 Woodland Ave, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-5768
Lynn Kelly, 905B 5th Ave. E, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Bob Shennum, 2888 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6208

## CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 4870 Hwy 93S, #62, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-7350
Conservation	Rod Ash, P. O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Field Trips	Dan Casey, P. O. Box 2922, Kalispell, MT 59901	857-3143
Hospitality/Sales	Pattie Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
Hostess	Evelyn Kile, 20 Hoffman Draw, Kila, MT 59920	892-4864
Librarian	Marie Shirley, 1016A Park Ave, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-0790
Membership	June Ash, P. O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Newsletter	Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Ln, Big Arm, MT 59910	849-5286
Program	Ferne Cohen, P. O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Refuge Projects	Bob Ballou, Rt 1, Box 11881, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Schools/Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May at the United Methodist Church in Bigfork. The business meeting is held at 7:30 pm, followed by a special program at 8 pm. The regular monthly meetings are preceded by an Executive Board meeting, the time and place of which are published in the preceding newsletter. These meetings are open to all interested people.

THE PILEATED POST is published nine times a year, September through May, and is sent to Flathead Audubon Society members as a membership benefit. Subscriptions for non-members are \$5 per year. Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month.



**the Pileated Post**  
Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. BOX 715  
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 3  
BIGFORK, MT  
59911