



President's Column

My, how time doesn't fly when you have a winter like we've just had! We are being rewarded for our enforced patience now with the return of our birds of every size, color and song. And after a siege like we've gone through, we can even begrudgingly appreciate the ones who peck holes in the house, poop on the deck and build messy nests on the lights over the outside door. They make us forget the huge drifts of snow, the slippery roads, the sore backs from shoveling.

On one of those days with about a half hour of daylight, I realized that in the winter, our world gets smaller. I found myself really looking forward to Audubon meetings, seeing smiling faces, hearing laughter, and learning about everything from the peaks of Yellowstone Park to the rats of the southern Pacific islands. And no matter how bad the weather is, we always have a tough, committed bunch of members who show up for our meetings. Hats off to you intrepid folks!

The other thing I look forward to when the weather closes in is receiving each month's new *Pileated Post*. I always hope to find out what's been happening with other groups, which field trips are coming up soon, who got an award, why the Yellow-Rumped

Warbler may actually be 3 separate species, even how to make homemade suet for birds. What do you expect from your newsletter? Do you get it? Flathead Audubon has by far the best Audubon newsletter in the state of Montana. We try to include the usual and the unexpected. Lewis Young, with help from Linda Winnie and John Hughes, produces our *Pileated Post*, reliably and always on time. When you see these folks, give them a big Thank You!

So now we head into spring and summer. Soon you will be hearing about the FAS Tally Lake campout, the FAS Birdathon, Hawk Watch, Birds of Prey Festival. These are all annual activities, and they are run by the energy of your board members and conservation educator. You have elected very good people to the FAS Board of Directors and it's because of their enthusiasm that we enjoy such a wide

variety of bird activities each year.

Thanks for joining us for another exciting, diverse season of Flathead Audubon. We value you, every member, for your friendship and your understanding that birds and conservation make the world go round. We hope to see lots of you over the summer, sharing the sky, looking for wings!

Kay Mitchell, FAS President



John Ashley Receives Award

John Ashley, well known to Flathead Audubon members, recently received the **Bob Watts Communication Award** from The Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society at their annual meeting. The award is given for significant communication in media such as professional publications, popular wildlife articles,

books, movies, or videos that have a relatively wide audience. John's book *Glacier National Park After Dark: Sunset to Sunrise in a Beloved Montana Wilderness* was the basis for the award. The book is widely available in small book stores, on Amazon.com, in Costco (Kalispell), and in numerous online outlets.

MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, May 8, 2017. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell, See page 3.

Monday, May 1, 2017. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, 295 3rd Ave EN. All welcome.

Multiple field trips in May and beyond. See pages 8 and 9.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

The Yellow Warbler

By Linda de Kort

Be looking soon for a woodland bird that weighs less than two nickels, is yellow like a canary (or the cartoon character "Tweety Bird") and sings in a tumbling series of whistles that sounds like "sweet sweet sweet I'm so sweet".

These Yellow Warblers are among the first of the warblers to move up the North American continent in the spring from their wintering grounds. Many birders start looking for their FOY (first of year) warblers about this time.

Warblers are small insectivorous songbirds. There are about 14 species of warblers that breed in Montana and several more that migrate through in the spring and the fall. Contrary to their name, most warblers do not sing in trills; the Yellow Warbler is one of the beautiful, conspicuous exceptions.

As their common name implies, these warblers are extensively yellow, with face, throat and underparts a very bright lemon color. Upperparts are a more yellowish green, and males have chestnut streaking below the throat on the breast. Studies at Cornell Lab suggest that the more aggressive males may exhibit more streaking. Females and young are not quite as bright yellow as the males. All are also easily identified by their brilliant unmarked faces accentuating the very dark eye.

As the range map indicates, Yellow Warblers have a wide distribution in the Americas. Most varieties are migratory and leave their wintering grounds of mangrove forests in early spring. According to the newly published *Birds of Montana* (by Jeffrey S. Marks, Paul Hendricks, and Daniel Casey, and sponsored by Montana Audubon), the migrants appear by the first week in May; the earliest recorded sighting in our state was at Rainy Lake on April 29, 2005. The southward migration peaks in August and virtually all have left the state by September, though there has been a verified sighting as late as November 15 in Missoula in 2012.

Like most warblers, they prefer the native willows and cottonwoods along stream banks and wetlands. They are found in abundance in these habitats from one end of the state to the other. Removal of na-

tive plants and the increase of Russian Willow have a negative impact on the nesting pairs. They can also be seen in shelterbelts and urban parks, especially those with native plant species. A pair will mate and stay together for the season. The nest is usually constructed by the female as the male persistently proclaims his sweetness from the treetops.

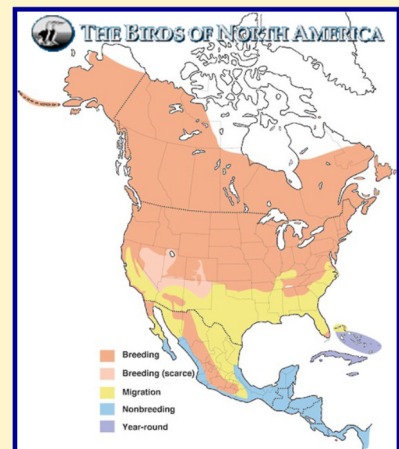
The nest begins with a woven ring in an upright fork of a tree and is filled and flattened with grasses, bark bits and plant fibers. Nest building can take a week or more but is usually completed in a couple of days. The first clutches are usually laid by early June and fledglings can be spotted by early July. Both parents feed the young, the female twice as often as the male; for he keeps other competitors and predators from his nest by exclaiming from the tree tops how sweet he is. The young and adults feed on insects, so you will not find them at your bird feeder. Look for them foraging frenetically in bushes as they glean caterpillars, spider egg cases and other delicacies. The tent caterpillar seems to be one of their favorites and possibly they help keep this annoying insect in check.

The Yellow Warbler has an interesting method of dealing with parasitism from Brown-headed Cowbirds. The female Cowbird lays her eggs in the warbler's nest, attempting to pawn off the task of incubation and rearing to warbler parents. The warbler, however, will bury the interloper's eggs and possibly her own by building another nest lining. The record is a six-storied nest with a total of eleven cowbird eggs buried between the layers.

A group of Yellow Warblers are collectively known as a "stream" or "sweetness" which is appropriate since by a stream is where you will find them, and "sweet sweet sweet" is what he will sing. Good luck in searching out YOUR "FOY" this month.



Dan Casey



May Program

Ospreys and What They Tell Us About the Environment

Presented By Erick Greene

The May 8, 2017 Flathead Audubon meeting will have a special program on Ospreys presented by Erick Greene, professor in the Division of Biological Sciences and the Wildlife Biology Program. His program will provide interesting information about these amazing fishing raptors that are found on every continent except the Antarctic. Their natural history, ecology and behavior is fascinating and they have many adaptations for their unique role as fishing raptors. This talk will be a broad overview of some very neat



John Armitage

Osprey biology, as well as providing details about how Ospreys have been important environmental sentinels for over 50 years.

Erick Greene dropped out of high school and lived for a year in the Galapagos Islands, helping out on studies on Darwin's Finches. He then worked on seabirds 800 miles north of the Arctic Circle with the Canadian Wildlife Service. He returned for undergraduate studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he studied biology, music and mathematics. He worked on Ospreys in Nova Scotia for his undergraduate senior thesis. He then received a PhD from Princeton University. He has been able to come full circle and return to studying Ospreys in Montana. In addition to his research, Erick is passionate about teaching and public outreach. He has been awarded the Most Inspirational Teacher Award, the Distinguished Teacher of the University of Montana, The National Outstanding Teacher Award from the Mortar Board National Honor Society, The Tom Boone Town and Gown Award for public outreach, the UM Teaching Across the Curriculum Award, and the Arnold Bolle Award for Lifetime Achievement in Conservation.

MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON MEETING

Monday, May 8, 2017

Whitefish Community Center, 121 Second Street, Whitefish

Doors Open 5:00 PM, Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM, Meeting Begins 7:00 PM. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Be sure to arrive early enough to look over and bid on silent auction items! Officers and Board Members will be elected.

Please bring your own plates, utensils, and cups.

SILENT AUCTION

It's Coming! - The annual Silent Auction at the Flathead Audubon May Potluck. Now's the perfect time to gather all of the valuable "stuff" that you might be able to live without. Popular items at past Silent Auctions have been bird books, outdoor gear, art work, live bedding plants, homemade pies and cookies and bird houses and feeders of all kinds. This is your opportunity to be a Primo Recycler!

CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

Highlights from April 3, 2017 Board Meeting

- ◆ Reviewed the treasurers report.
- ◆ Heard about numerous grant proposals already submitted or in the works.
- ◆ Held discussion on what would be required of FAS to host the 2018 State Bird Festival.
- ◆ Heard Education Conservation Educators report including the need for a Chairperson for the Education Committee and that numerous activities are ongoing and coming up.
- ◆ Heard that 2018 calendars will be available in mid-April and Lana Batts is handling distribution and sales.
- ◆ Heard that the Wiley Slough blind is expected to be usable later in the summer. Still needs some work on the pier braces and design and construction of an accessible ramp.
- ◆ Heard that Montana Audubon's search for a new executive director is ongoing.

Photo by Jake



Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

By the time you read this, Beauty of Birds Class at Flathead High School will be wrapping up, Earth Day Celebration in Whitefish will be over,

the Arbor Day Education Day for area 3rd-graders with tree plantings at Kidsport may be done and we will be looking forward to Family Forestry Expo Day on the 6th of May. Ah, spring in the Flathead!

In case you hadn't noticed, the FAS Board (and interested others) are constantly "volunteers extraordinaire" – and their energy, help and belief in our free-of-charge education program inspires me every single day. Bob Lee, Leslie Kehoe, Kari Gabriel, Lana and Joe Batts, Kathy Ross, Barbara Summer, and Gail Linne – thank you for being wonderful teachers on just the spring events. Couldn't have done it without you! Here's what is still coming:

**The "Language of Birds" One-day Workshop
May 13, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Kalispell Montessori School and
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area**

In keeping with our efforts to partner with other conservation and education organizations when it works better that way, Flathead Audubon and Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center are hosting and teaching a FREE full-day outdoor experience on the "Language of Birds". This workshop is not to be confused with only "birding by ear" (identifying birds by their songs and calls), although that may be a part of the day's process.

In the woods, *birds miss nothing!* Their survival depends on that. Their vision and hearing are beyond our understanding. Their language – both between species and among their own – is complex, sophisticated and effective. Best of all, the patterns of their songs and calls can tell stories as they happen, and it only takes some patience and sensory awareness to understand what is going on in the woods – beyond what we can usually observe through our binoculars. When a chickadee sees a weasel, the pattern of its alarm calls can tell us how close it is, when it enters a chipmunk tunnel, when it emerges, and when it moves out of the chickadee's danger zone. There are hundreds of stories like this happening, sometimes simultaneously, every hour and day in the wild.

Bruce Tannehill, our own bird song recorder, bird song CD author and expert on the science of bird song, will present on the complexity, variety and detail

in bird language. And true to Audubon tradition, will teach us some of the "who's who" out there.

I was born with a (so-far) non-lethal mutation. I can mimic quite a few bird songs. (My voice changed at puberty, I guess.) I will teach some strategies for learning songs and calls, and help participants begin to learn the differences between the sounds of a single bird. I can also talk back to birds, because of that mutation, but I'll share with the group about when it is appropriate to do that, and when it is not in the birds' best interest to talk to them. (You have to know what you are saying, for example.)

Jennifer Bresee and Brett Holmquist have both studied under a well-known expert on the language of birds, Jon Young. Jen and Brett will acquaint us with the special techniques of becoming "invisible" (or at least "not scary") in the woods, so the stories that birds tell can unfold around us.

From there, we will be practicing what we preach. The four of us will each take a small group to a different spot in OSNA, sit quietly, let the birds and other residents acclimate to our presence, take some notes and do some mapping of "the events of the day". We will be practicing "hyper-observation", and also getting some peaceful quiet time in a beautiful area. We will be concentrating less on the "who" of bird sounds, and more on the "what's happening" – the stories being described by birds.

This will be a grand start to a new way of appreciating birds, and it will enrich your appreciation for our feathered friends and confidants! Please join us -- and dress for outside!

TO REGISTER: Contact brett@ravenwoodolc.org or go to ravenwoodolc.org > FAQ > How to Register. Look for the May 13th Language of Birds class at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

**International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
May 25, Salish Kootenai College**

FAS will have a booth with family activities (some from our new Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River educational trunk – see article elsewhere in this newsletter) at the IMBD celebration in Pablo MT at Salish-Kootenai College on May 25th. Between autumn Hawkwatch on the Aeneas Ridge and the corridor along the Flathead River, we are a migration hotspot! Come join us at a wonderful bird festival.

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OUR DONORS THIS YEAR!

We again thank all our donors who have been so generous throughout the year. As a result, Flathead Audubon has been able to continue our many fine programs that reach a broad spectrum of people.

wings across the big sky

June 9-11, 2017 Great Falls, Montana

Montana Audubon will conclude the marking of its 40th Anniversary year with a "birthday celebration" at the June Bird Festival. Join us and learn how Montana Audubon began as a fledgling organization and hear highlights from four decades of conservation successes! David Ringer, Chief Network Officer with National Audubon, will share insights on bird protection and how he engages people with practical conservation solutions in his keynote address, "Protecting Birds and the Places they Need: Today and Tomorrow."



Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon (UMBA) has worked steadfastly to bring extra fun to this year's festival with a Bird Calling contest, local vendors and great custom field trips. There will be many beautiful and creative desserts to choose from for our Dessert

Auction, so come prepared to bid on one to enjoy at the banquet.

UMBA has also put together a diverse roster of field trips – but they are filling up fast, so please register as soon as possible. You can do so by mail, or online at www.mtaudubon.org. Also—if staying overnight, be sure to reserve your rooms at the Best Western Plus Heritage Inn by calling 1-406-761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. (Please mention that you are part of the Montana Audubon Bird Festival to get the group rate.) Contact Montana Audubon at (406) 443-3949 if you have any questions.

Recognize Your Peers!

Each year Montana Audubon recognizes individuals who work for the conservation and protection of birds and other wildlife by presenting **Awards** at the Saturday evening Bird Festival banquet. We are currently seeking nominations in the following categories: Lifetime Achievement Award, Educator of the Year, Conservationist of the Year, Citizen Scientist of the Year, and Special Achievement Award. To make a nomination, download a nomination form from www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards/. Nominations are due by May 19, 2017. Mail completed forms to Montana Audubon, PO Box 595, Helena MT 59624.

Pre-Festival and Post-Festival Field Trips

This year, Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter (UMBA) is offering two Pre-Trips and one Post-Trip that are designed to extend your stay in Central Montana. As these trips are separate from the Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival, you register and pay for the trips directly to the UMBA Chapter. The Chapter will provide transportation from Great Falls and experienced leaders.

American Prairie Reserve: June 7 – 9, 2017

Few places on earth have as intact prairie habitat and ecosystems as the American Prairie Reserve and Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge. View wildlife in rich environments, while learning about conservation and restoration efforts in the grassland region. Take a guided tour of the American Prairie Reserve. Enjoy a private excursion on Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge.

InFARMation: June 9, 2017

The InFARMation Pre-Trip is a community Ag Advocacy Project to showcase Montana's rich agricultural production. Signs are placed in fields to identify the different crops growing in the area, helping to make the traveling public more aware of the agriculture around them.

Missouri River Float Trip: June 12, 2017

Join UMBA Chapter on an exciting birding adventure with beautiful mountain scenery on the Missouri River. This is a relatively leisurely float in the Wolf Creek Canyon area, with a fast current and a few riffles, with no rapids or white water.

UMBA's website (www.umbaudubon.com) has a button on the main page with detailed information on the three trips.

The Peregrine Fund's 2017 Bosch KestrelCam is Live!

We are excited to announce that our American Kestrel pair welcomed their first egg to the world on, March 27, 2017! Our Bosch KestrelCam is located in Boise, Idaho at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds

of Prey. This is our sixth year of providing a window to the world of American Kestrels. Our nest box has fledged a total of 28 kestrels! Go to: <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/webcams>

Great Gray Owl Webcam

Check out the new webcam mounted by FAS member Rosemary McKinnon showing the nesting Great Gray Owl at Lost Prairie: <http://explore.org/live-cams/player/great-gray-owl-nest>



Fifth Annual Flathead Audubon Birdathon



For the fifth consecutive year, the Tanagers and the Jays will face off, searching mountains, meadows, streams and backyard bird feeders to see which team can find the most bird species on June 3, 2017. For three consecutive years, the Tannehill Tanagers won the contest. Last year the Jays pulled off a startling win. The composition of this team may be a real threat to the Tanagers. There is talk that Tanager team members are already cleaning their binoculars, practicing with their scopes and putting new batteries in their hearing aids. It is going to be a day and competition to remember. Who will be the winning team?

But the real question of the day is who will have the most fun? Of course, it is the team finding the most species of birds from morning to night on that momentous Saturday or the team member finding that rare species. There is no doubt, fun will be had!

Flathead Audubon invites you to join in supporting one of its teams. Each team must complete the count within 24 hours. Team members can bird all day

or for an hour to two at their feeders or favorite birding habitat. The competition will end in a tallying of species, a declaration of a winning team, as well as a discussion of favorite sightings.

The Birdathon works like any other "athon," where team members seek donations either per bird species seen or as a pre-determined amount. In the last three years, we had exceptional days for birding with teams seeing from 130 to over 160 species. We hope to repeat these high numbers, but weather is always an issue that we can't control.

Funds from pledges received will be applied to our education and conservation efforts: our education trunks, workshops and Beauty of Birds classes as well as the licensing and maintenance of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

When contacted, we hope you will support Flathead Audubon's efforts. If you would like to join one of the Birdathon teams or support a team with a donation, email Bruce Tannehill at tan-neland239@gmail.com.

40 years of Presidents

Coming in May – another special event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Flathead Audubon! At our May 8 meeting, we will honor all who have served as President of Flathead Audubon during our 40-year history.

In these 40 years, Flathead Audubon Society has more than doubled its membership, and has made huge increases in the size and diversity of programs we offer to our members and to our community. It was lots of dedicated volunteers contributing countless volunteer hours that made these advances possible, but it is the 17 volunteer Presidents who have led us on this amazing journey.

Our Presidents have served anywhere from one year to 4 years. They have come from all over the Flathead, and brought skills gained from a wide variety of career backgrounds. And they have served Flathead Audubon in a variety of capacities before they became President, and in many cases for a number of years afterwards. Flathead Audubon is fortunate and proud to have had such a dedicated and hardworking group of people in this position.

Flathead Audubon's 40 years of Presidents are listed below in their order of service, along with

their home towns and years of presidency.

Dan Sullivan, Yellow Bay	1977
Rick Trembath, Bigfork	1978
Wanda Jamieson, Kalispell	1979-80
Dave Hudak, Bigfork	1981-83
Lynn Kelly, Polson	1984-86
Robin Magaddino, Bigfork	1986-90
Brent Mitchell, Kalispell	1990-94
Leo Keane, Whitefish	1994-98
Jim Rogers, Polson	1998-99
Neal Brown, Bigfork	1999-2001
Linda Winnie, Kila	2001-03
Linda de Kort, Kalispell	2003-05
Bob Lopp, Kalispell	2005-07
Mike Fanning, Whitefish	2007-09
Bob Lee, Bigfork	2009-11
Paula Smith, Bigfork	2011-13
Bob Lopp, Kalispell	2013-15
Kay Mitchell, Kalispell	2016-present

Most of these former Presidents will be attending our May 8 meeting. We will give them a hearty "Thank You" and snap a picture of the group for the FAS website.

Science on Tap—Mountain Pine Beetles

"What you have never been told about mountain pine beetles", a presentation by Dr. Diane Six, University of Montana, is the next program in the *Science on Tap* series -- May 2, 6 PM, at the Flathead Lake Brewing Company in Bigfork.

For information about the summer schedule, visit www.scienceontapflathead.org/.

Candidates for Officers and Board Members

At the May meeting, FAS will elect the President, Vice President and several Director positions. Nominees (with biographies) for these positions are:

President—Kay Mitchell: The nominating committee has asked me to run again for president, and I have agreed to do so. The past 2 years have gone by very fast. We have added the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch to our scientific activity portfolio, raised \$15,000 for the West Valley ponds conservation easement, and navigated our Education program through 3 Conservation Educators to its current very high standards. Over the next year, we will host the Montana Audubon Birds Over the Big Sky Festival. I am happy to be able to help Flathead Audubon move forward to more successes."

I've never felt that it's right to volunteer for a job and then spend the next 2 years trying to get out of it. Some Audubon chapters in Montana operate without a president, but they don't get too much accomplished. My approach over the last 2 years has been to provide structure, encouragement and organization to an awesome, active board of directors who are totally, actively committed to the Audubon way of life. My favorite part of the job is sharing and receiving the excitement of birds and conservation with you, the members. Flathead Audubon has made some major steps forward in the last 2 years. We still have more to do, and the list isn't short. I guess we could muddle through without a president, but maybe it's better to have somebody who really wants to do it?

Vice President—Gael Bissell - Gael has been on the FAS board for the last 6 years and has served as Vice President for the last 3. She has been co-chair of the Field Trips Committee, member of the Financial and Owen Sowerwine Committees. She has helped with Conservation Achievement Recognition program, Phenology Calendar, Conservation/Education grants, Jewel Basin Hawk Watch, membership surveys, and contributed to the Pileated Post. Gael retired as a wildlife biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in 2015 and is now Conservation Manager for the Vital Ground Foundation.

DIRECTORS

Rod Walette—Having lived in the valley for most of my life, I have seen a tremendous amount of change along with the impacts of those changes. To be able to work with the officers/board members of FAS with the goals of preserving our resources along with educating others of the value of those resources would be a great opportunity I would embrace. Besides being a member of FAS, I am also a member of and support Swan View Coalition as well as Headwaters Montana. As a member of FAS, I have assisted with the old bird seed sales, participated in the Bigfork and Kalispell Christmas bird counts, assisted with the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch for the past couple of years and am currently participating with the Curlew survey in Mission Valley. Following a work-related injury in the mid-eighties, I was told to find less physical work so I returned to school at FVCC and went on to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at MSU. A year later I returned to school to obtain a Master's Degree in Vocational Counseling from EMC. I worked in that field for 20 years, the last five of which I operated my own business. I spent the last 2 ½ years, prior to retiring in 2015, working as a Case Manager where I assisted and advocated for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. After retiring, I became a volunteer for the NW Montana Veterans Food Pantry for nine months and then went on to become a volunteer for the Museum at Central School where I continue to volunteer twice a week.

THE WARBLER WEEKEND AT TALLY LAKE

Thursday afternoon through Saturday 11 AM, June 15-17

Come join FAS at the Tally Lake Campground for an extraordinary two days of birding and relaxing. The pavilion campsite at the campground has been reserved for us. We will be focusing on bird identification, birding by ear, and photography. This is an ideal time of year to find a wide variety of migrant and resident birds; most notable is that all of the warbler species which can be found in NW Montana are found here. Several of our expert birders will be available to lead us around the campground. Plenty of other activities can be enjoyed at Tally Lake as well. There is a covered pavilion for rainy weather.

We would like to have an optional potluck

meal Friday evening around 6 PM.

Please bring something to share if you want to join in. All other meals are up to you. Someone will show up Thursday afternoon to get a fire going, scout the area and start creating a bird list. Please bring FIREWOOD if you have it, or tools to harvest it from the woods.

Cost of camping is FREE, courtesy of FAS. Just tell them at the gate that you are with Flathead Audubon at the pavilion. Contact Jill or Mike Fanning at 862-8070 or shrdlu@centurytel.net if you have questions about this outstanding adventure into the world of birds.

By Mike and Jill Fanning



SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All Flathead Audubon 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 at 837-3837 or Cory Davis at 257-3166, or the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" is available at the Flathead Audubon general meetings and on www.FlatheadAudubon.org.



Always check the FAS webpage (<https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/activities-and-field-trips/>) for updated information on field trips. Also see the webpage for the Flathead chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society for additional local field trips: (<http://www.mtnativeplants.org/Flathead>).

SWAN RIVER NATURE TRAIL STROLL WITH ANNE MORLEY, every Tuesday in May, 10 AM. Meet Anne at Showthyme Restaurant by the bench between the Playhouse and Showthyme. It is a fun morning adventure filled with native plant information and many opportunities to ID birds, so be sure and bring binoculars! For more information contact Anne at 406-886-2242.

BIKE AND BIRD THE WEST VALLEY PONDS, May 13, 9 AM-12:00 PM. This will be a joint field trip with the Flathead Land Trust to visit several ponds in the West Valley area including the conservation project in progress and future public bird viewing area. Because we will be traveling on both paved and gravel/dirt roads we recommend mountain or fat tire bikes which can be rented from Wheaton's (Kalispell) or Glacier Cyclery (Whitefish) for the day. Wear a bike helmet and appropriate clothing and bring water and binoculars. RSVP to Laura Katzman at 752-8293, or lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org. If you are not up for biking but would like to attend please let Laura know. **Trip is limited to 40 participants.**

SPRING ARRIVALS IN THE SMITH LAKE AREA, May 14, 8 AM-12 PM. Join Paul Rossi and Cory Davis for a spring morning of birding west of Kalispell. We'll drive Smith Lake Road looking for recently arrived sparrows, orioles, warblers, and other breeding migrants and then make our way to Smith Lake to look for waterfowl and wetland species. We should have a good diversity of habitats and species! Meet at the southwest corner of the Gateway Mall in Kalispell and we'll carpool from there. Bring binocs and scopes and appropriate weather gear. For more information contact Paul Rossi 406-253-7193.

SWAN RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE AND NEARBY BOTTOMLANDS, May 20, 8 AM-12 PM with BBQ to follow. Join the folks from Swan Valley Connections as we explore the refuge and the wetlands and forests nearby. We'll learn about conservation projects in the Swan Valley and see some great birds (maybe bitterns, snipe, and redstarts). We'll plan to BBQ and potluck at the Swan Lake picnic area afterwards, weather permitting. Knee-high boots highly recommended! For more information call Cory Davis (406) 257-3166 or pi-ranga99@gmail.com. **Trip is limited to 30 participants.**

EXPLORING THE CAMAS ROAD IN GLACIER PARK AND THE NORTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, Sunday May 21, 8:30 AM to mid-afternoon. Join Craig Hohenberger and Pete Fisher for an incredible day of birding along the Camas Road and looping back into Columbia Falls on the North Fork Rd along the Flathead River corridor. Diverse habitats will offer the opportunity to see an incredible number of different species from warblers and flycatchers to hawks and eagles with the possibility of catching a glimpse of an elusive Hawk Owl. Meet at 8:30 at the Columbia Falls "Park and Ride" at the junction of Hwy 206 and Hwy 2. Bring appropriate gear for weather, lunch, and optics. To sign up or for more information contact Craig, aso-leado2003@yahoo.com. **Trip is limited 15 participants.**

CELEBRATING MIGRATORY BIRDS AT THE COMMUNITY BIRD FESTIVAL IN PABLO AND BIRDING NINEPIPES AREA, Thursday, May 25, 11 AM to 6 PM. We will meet at the Harry Horn Parking Area in Wayfarer's Park (by the new FWP park office), Bigfork. From there we will carpool to the Ninepipes area south of Ronan in search of migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, nesting owls and hawks. Most of the day will be spent birding. Then we make a stop at the 5th annual Community Bird Festival which begins at 4 PM, sponsored by the Salish Kootenai College and CSKT Natural Resource Dept. This is a family oriented event to celebrate migratory birds and bring the community together. Many interesting displays, live birds and native culture make for a great learning experience as well as an entertaining celebration of birds. All ages will enjoy the

continued on page 9.

Field Trips continued from page 8.

experience and kids are encouraged to join. Refreshments are served at this event but please bring what you might need for lunch. **Trip is limited to 12 people.** To sign up or have questions, contact Kathy Ross at mktat67@gmail.com or call 406-837-3837. The Community Festival includes a continuing celebration of International Migratory Bird Day, May 13, 2017. IMBD is a yearly celebration of the incredible journey made by bird species around the world traveling from breeding to non-breeding habitats. During this amazing journey the birds must be able to find habitats for stopovers where they can feed and refuel, whether it be an island, a quiet coastline or your own backyard. IMBA not only honors the journey of our avian friends, but emphasizes awareness and promotes protection of all the ecosystems that sustain them along the way.

LOST TRAIL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Sunday, June 4, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM. Join refuge wildlife biologist Beverly Skinner and tour the incredible wetlands and grasslands of this hidden jewel west of Kalispell. See restored Dahl Lake with nesting Trumpeter Swans and an abundance of shorebirds and waterfowl species. We will also spend time looking for bird species associated with Palouse prairie, riparian/wetland, and larch/pine forest habitats of the 9,000+ acre Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge northwest of Marion, MT. We will drive and walk along some of the refuge's closed roads with short hikes to the best viewing sites. Meet at the Lost Trail Refuge Headquarters (about 45 miles northwest of Kalispell) between 8:15-8:30 AM. For location and more information about the refuge, go to http://www.fws.gov/refuge/lost_trail/. To sign up for the field trip or get more information about the trip contact Beverly at 406-858-2286 or beverly_skinner@fws.gov.

EXPLORE THE BIRD DIVERSITY IN THE LUBEC-COONSA CREEK AREA OF GLACIER NP, Tuesday June 6, 7 AM to 1 PM. Meet at 7 AM at the Columbia Heights Park and Ride. **Trip is limited to 15 people.** Contact Steve at 892-7406 to sign-up.

WARBLER WEEKEND AT TALLY LAKE, Thursday through Saturday, June 15-17. Join FAS at the Tally Lake Campground for an extraordinary 2 days of birding and relaxing. All the warbler species of NW Montana can usually be found here. Camping fees paid by FAS. For more information see article on page 7.

TOUR THE FLATHEAD LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION WITH DOUG MACCARTER AND TOM BANSK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, Monday, June 19, 2017, 10 AM to 12:30 PM. FLBS is one of the oldest active biological field stations in the country, established in 1899, by Dr. Morton J. Erod. This is an incredible opportunity to experience in the lab and on their Flathead lake research boat, how this dynamic facility operates. To date it is one the finest freshwater research facilities in the country as well as having one of the best long term ecological and water quality records in the world. Meet at the visitor parking area at Yellow Bay Station on the east shore of Flathead Lake promptly at 10 AM. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. **Trip is limited to 15 people**, so please contact Doug at 602-633-8611 to sign up.

SOUTHERN BORDER OF GLACIER NP AND SOME EASTSIDE SPECIALTIES, Saturday, June 24, 7 AM-6 PM. We'll be hitting a variety of habitats as we drive Hwy 2 to East Glacier. Then we'll look for some east-side birds such as McCown's and Chestnut Longspur, Loggerhead Shrike, and Ferruginous Hawk. Meet at the Columbia Heights Park-n-ride at 7 AM. **Trip is limited to 15 participants.** Contact Paul Rossi at 406-253-7193 to sign-up.

GOING BATTY! Friday, July 28, 8:30 PM-11 PM. This cooperative trip between Flathead Audubon and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks will go to a site with known bat activity where electronic equipment will be used to detect the ultrasonic calls of bats flying overhead, and mist nets will be used to capture bats for closer inspection. Wildlife biologists Lewis Young, Lisa Bate, and Chris Hammond will demonstrate the equipment, handle bats captured in mist nets, and talk about the amazing adaptations bats have for navigating, catching food, and hibernating. Participants will not be allowed to touch or handle bats. Headlamps or flashlights are necessary and come with suitable clothing for the evening temperatures as the day cools. **Trip is limited to 25 participants.** To sign up contact Kathy Ross at 837-3837 or mktat67@gmail.com.

EXPLORE OWEN SOWERWINE NATURAL AREA'S LEISURE AND BIG ISLANDS WITH JEANETTE OLIVER, Saturday, August 19, 9 AM to noon. Again have the opportunity to join retired Biology Professor Jeanette Oliver for an information packed stroll in the portion of OSNA just north of her property on Leisure Island, followed by an easy walk across a mostly dry portion of the Stillwater to explore OSNA's Big Island--a part of OSNA that is usually only accessible by boat. Focus will be on identifying OSNA vegetation, including typical flood plain vegetation and also spotting birds along the way. **Trip is limited to 20 participants.** Meet at 9 AM at Jeanette's house--you will get directions when you sign up. Contact Jeanette at jopjoliver74@gmail.com or 755-8622.

Last Call for Curlew Volunteers!

The Long-billed Curlews are back in Montana for the summer, and already a dedicated slough of volunteers has been out on the road seeking out their whereabouts. Fortunately the majority of the Mission Valley's routes are already being covered, with the exception of a few of the Mission Valley routes (1-9) and the Camas routes. That's where you come in! We still need a few volunteers to pick up these routes so that we can have them all surveyed by May 31st.

Luckily, the weather is getting nicer, and surveying for curlews is easy! Routes consist of early morning road-side stops repeated every half mile. At each stop, you will get out of the car for five minutes and look and listen for curlews. Along the way you will collect important data on the time, habitat, and presence or absence of curlews. And, the great thing is that you only need to look for one big beautiful bellowing bird, though you'll see many great species on the way. So, choose a route, catch up on Curlew identification and you are all set to go!

To pick up one of these remaining routes, please visit our weebly website: <http://missionvalleycurlews.weebly.com/>. Here you will find survey details such as the protocol, data sheets, and route maps. You can also contact Amy or Janene if you would like us to send you a route packet or if you have any questions. Feel free to take a partner, do a route more than once, or do more than one route. The Curlews are just waiting to be found!

To brush up on your Curlew identification before heading into the field visit Montana Audubon's webpage: <http://mtaudubon.org/birds-science/long-billed-curlew-initiative/> for a link to the Curlew's call and much more. Also visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All about Birds: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Long-billed_Curlew/id. For more information contact Janene Lichtenberg: janene_lichtenberg@skc.edu; 406.275.4896; or Amy Seaman: aseaman@mtaudubon.org, 406.210.9449.

By Amy Seamon, MT Audubon

Black Swift Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy bird-adventures? Willing to hike and gaze at waterfalls? Enjoy scrutinizing wet cliff faces for obscure moss nests? Enjoy birding at dawn and dusk? If you're like the majority of birders in Montana, you've never seen a black swift. THIS SUMMER COULD CHANGE THAT!!

Montana Audubon has funding this year to expand on our citizen science effort to look for additional swift nests in Montana- including potential sites in the Bitterroot. Amy Seaman will be putting on two trainings this summer – 1 in Glacier National Park, and 1 outside the park. Both will be held in mid-July and will be limited to 12 people. And, she even has a little bit of funding for mileage and stipend for those of you who are able to complete a training, and then commit to doing one survey.

If you'd like to participate in this project,

please contact Amy (aseaman@mtaudubon.org). Join the echelon of cool birders out there who tell others that they are "going swifting" and remember that "swifting" is not for the faint of heart. Surveying for this bird requires long hikes, tremendous patience, and difficult terrain navigation even at night. But it sure is fun!

For a taste of what "swifting" can be like - check out our website and blogposts from the last few years' surveys! <http://mtaudubon.org/?s=black+swift>



Kate Stone



CASH REWARDS FOR LOON BAND REPORTS

Montana Loon Society is offering cash prizes for 2017 observations of banded loons or confirmed unbanded breeding Common Loons in Montana. The contest is funded by the Montana Loon Society.

Two \$100 awards will be decided by a random drawing from the names of all individuals who submitted at least one observation. To encourage you to get your observations in early, one drawing will occur in mid-June and the other in mid-July.

Send band observations to Chris Hammond, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks: chammond@mt.gov or 406-751-4582. The most useful band reports are ones that come to Chris as soon as

possible, so send them as you see them, even if you are not 100% sure of your observation or have trouble reading the bands. Qualified observations will be determined and counted solely by Chris. Federal and State employees are not eligible if they observe loons as part of their job.

Winners will be announced at the August 1-2 summer meeting of the Montana Common Loon Working Group. Chris will notify winners soon after.

Further details about the contest, including how to write a report on observed bands and tips for spotting and reading loon bands, are on the Montana Loon Society website www.montanaloons.org.



LOONS AND LEAD you can help!

Here in northwest Montana we are fortunate to have both a population of common loons and good fishing in many lakes that support loons. Unfortunately, the lead sinkers and jigs often used for fishing pose a significant threat to loons. Loons often swallow fishing tackle and lead is toxic to loons. One lead sinker can kill a loon. Lead sinkers and jigs 1 ½ inches or smaller along the longest axis are known to cause loon mortality. In our neighboring state of Washington, 1/3 of loon mortalities from 1999-2010 were attributed to lead poisoning.

Numerous other studies around the country have documented the same adverse effects. Many other species such as waterfowl and fish also suffer from lead toxicity.

The good news is that non-toxic alternatives



for fishing tackle are available at local fishing supply stores and online from many sources. A list of 35 companies that sell lead free tackle is available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website: go to www.pca.state.mn.us then search for nontoxic tackle. Tell all your fishing friends about the problem with loons and lead tackle and be sure to add that non-toxic alternatives are easily available. The quicker more people become aware of the problem and switch to non-toxic fishing tackle the quicker the lead poisoning rate in loons will decline.

More information about loons and lead poisoning is available from the Montana Loon Society (www.montanaloons.org) and the Montana Common Loon Working Group (chammond@mt.gov).

Freezout Lake Field Trip

Duck, Duck, Goose! And goose, and goose, and goose. The annual FAS migration to Freezout Lake, south of Choteau, occurred March 25-26 and included anywhere from 8-17 participants depending on when you checked in with us. Those from the Flathead Valley headed out from Kalispell Saturday

pecks: Tundra Swans, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, and Common Goldeneye. Many of us also enjoyed excellent views of short-eared owls and some got to see them doing their mating flights. In the evening, birders flocked to the few open restaurants in town and there



were a lot of unexpected reunions (I highly recommend the peanut butter pie at the Log Cabin Restaurant!).

The highlight was of course the morning flight on Sunday. It was a partly clear, and chilly, morning. As

morning and enjoyed a thorough day of birding on the way over. Bob Lee and Leslie Kehoe led the caravan into some less-traveled backroads including stops at ponds just south of Browning and at Bynum Reservoir. We were snowed-out at Marias Pass but traveled through a broad range of habitats including grasslands, farmlands, foothills, and forests. Some folks from as far as Missoula had seen our posting and joined us when we got to Choteau.

A good diversity of birds was seen on both days, though the goose count for the weekend was down from past trips. We still estimated 8-12,000 geese were moving around the area on both days. Other waterfowl observed included the usual sus-

the sun slowly came up there was a continually changing array of colors painted on the snow-covered mountains in the backdrop. Then the geese started chattering more seriously and their general excitement spilled over into those that had come for the spectacle. Like a tornado they started lifting off in waves and flying right over us. Once they were all in the air, we followed them up to the fields where they were feeding. This was a great place to watch up close, learn the differences between Snow and Ross's Geese, and to see who could spot a "Blue" Goose. Overall, a very successful trip that got us all excited about the many upcoming spring birding trips.

By Cory Davis

West Valley Naturalists

West Valley Naturalists are proud to announce that Kathy Ross will be presenting a program on native plants on May 16. Kathy, Bigfork landscaper (and longtime FAS board member!), shares her experience of 26 years working in the Flathead Valley, around and with our native plant communities. Although a native plant enthusiast, Kathy has also worked extensively with exotic plants used to “enhance” native plant communities and has suggestions on what works best with native plants. Some of the topics she will cover are: What exactly is a native plant? Why leave or add native plants to your landscaping? Finally, Kathy will reflect on the importance of biodiversity and the special relationship between native plants, insects and birds in our local environments.

This presentation will be held in the boardroom of West Valley School, 2290 Farm to Market Road, at 7 PM on Tuesday, May 16. Guides will meet



you at the main entrance to show you the way. What a perfect time of year to receive this information as we begin the garden season. Be sure to mark this on your calendar.

We will also be recognizing the young West Valley scientists who received the WV Naturalist Awards for “using good scientific technique in asking questions that might shed light on understanding our local environment and/or the creatures that live here.” The First Place award went to Gracie Stolfus for her ambitious attempt to model the aerodynamic advantages of the V-formation of some migratory birds. Second Place award went to Carisa Cesarone who investigated the preferred prey species of various owls by analyzing their pellets. Students were presented with window bird feeders, donated by Flathead Audubon, and a sack of black oil sunflower seeds.

By Linda de Kort

FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO

The 28th annual Family Forestry Expo will take place at Stoltze Lumber's Ron Buntmeyer Educational Forest located to the north of Kalispell along Trumbull Creek on Saturday, 6 May, from 9 AM — 3 PM. This is a free family event that offers hands-on understanding of the role that local forests play in our everyday lives. Expo visitors explore how the different parts of a forest are connected to make up a dynamic system, how people and all parts of the environment are dependent on one another, and how each affects the other.

There is a free “loggers lunch,” demonstrations, exhibits, and a forest walk with many education-

al stops, including one run by Flathead Audubon Society. FAS has maintained a booth at the Expo for many years and are always looking for volunteers to help engage visitors. If you enjoy being outdoors on a spring day while talking to people of all ages about forests, and especially birds, please contact Denny Olson, the FAS Conservation Educator, at auduboneducator@gmail.com. Or you can grab him at the general meeting. Whether you are a volunteer, participant or just want to enjoy a day in the woods, everyone is welcome to come on out.

by Bob Lee

Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River

Through a grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, we have produced an extensive new educational trunk for educators and their students dealing with the importance of wetlands – specifically rivers and their importance to birds. The trunk has a sequential series of (fun!) activities for both older and younger students that build on each other, is user-friendly, and has all the equipment and supplies

that will be needed for a great learning experience! Spread the word to your teacher friends!

More details on trunk contents may be found at the FAS website: www.FlatheadAudubon.org

You can reserve any of our trunks on a “click-on calendar view” at our website under Lifelong Learning. Check us out!

By Denny Olson, FAS Conservation Educator

Bigfork 4th of July Parade

Want to see Flathead Audubon represented in Bigfork's 4th of July parade? Then volunteer to help make it happen! Contact Paula Smith at 406-837-0181.

Bylaw Changes Proposed

From time to time, the Board reviews the FAS Bylaws with the goal of updating them, correcting internal inconsistencies or bringing them in compliance with laws and regulations. A Constitution & ByLaws committee comprised of Kay Mitchell, Bob Lopp, Bob Lee and Joe Batts reviewed and proposed the changes listed below. Additions are indicated by italics. The Board of Directors has approved the changes. The current Constitution and ByLaws can be viewed on the FAS website under "About Us".

CHANGES TO HEADER

Declare in the title that this document is a restatement of Flathead Audubon Constitution and ByLaw, dated May 2012. This sentence ties the revised Bylaws and Constitution to the previous version. A date will be inserted upon approval of the membership.

PROPOSAL - Add to Header: *Restatement of Flathead Audubon Society Constitution and ByLaws dated May 2012.*

CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION, Article II, Section 1: Correct the name of the document filed with the State of Montana.

PROPOSAL - Replace: "...Certificate of Incorporation, if any..."

With: "...Articles of Incorporation, State of Montana..."

CONSTITUTION, Article II, Section 2: Add the term "*reserves*" to the sentence that prevents pecuniary gain for members. This is an appropriate fiscal term for non-profit organizations such as Flathead Audubon Society.

PROPOSAL- Insert "*reserves*": "...it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, *reserves*, or dividends to the members..."

CONSTITUTION, Article II. Add a third section to Article II that consists of the second paragraph of the current Section 2 in order to separate handling of dissolution of the organization. Remove that paragraph from Section 2.

PROPOSAL- Add new Section 3: *Section 3. Upon the dissolution, or upon abandonment....*

CONSTITUTION, Article II, new Section 3: Change beneficiary in case of dissolution from National Society to Montana Audubon.

PROPOSAL - Replace: "...shall be donated to National Society or its successor..."

With: "...shall be donated to *Montana Audubon* or its successor..."

CONSTITUTION, Article II, Section 2. Remove the word "profit" and include financial terms appropriate for a non-profit organization, and label the resulting paragraph part (a).

PROPOSAL- Modify by indicated additions (italics) and deletions (strike outs):

(a) This SOCIETY is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or benefit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, ~~profits interest~~, or dividends to the member(s) thereof, ~~or to any private shareholder or individual~~. The property, assets, ~~profits reserves~~ and net ~~income revenue~~ of this SOCIETY are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes *as defined in IRS Publication 1771*. No part of the property, assets, ~~profits reserves~~ or net ~~income revenue~~ of this SOCIETY shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof ~~or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual~~.

6. CONSTITUTION, Article II, new Section 3: Add two new parts allowing for payment of documented expenses, and for allowing a contract holder to be member of Board of Directors for limited period.

PROPOSAL - Add to new Section 3:

(b) *Payment for documented expenses are permitted. Board members must declare any conflict of interest and recuse themselves from voting on contract services that they will perform or on remuneration that they will receive.*

(c) *Board Members may hold a contract with the Society for a period of three months or less. However, with a contract lasting more than three month, the Board Member must resign for the period of the contract.*

CHANGES TO BYLAWS

BYLAWS, Article II, Section 5: Remove the phrase "Family Class of Membership" since Flathead Audubon does not distinguish between two different classes of Local Chapter Membership. A Local Chapter Member can be either an individual or a family.

continued on page 14.

Proposed Bylaw Changes continued from page 13.

PROPOSAL -

Replace: "Members of the Family Class of Membership shall be entitled to two votes per family, provided ..."

With: "Families that hold a Local Chapter Membership at any of the available levels shall be entitled to two votes per family, provided..."

BYLAWS, Article IV, Section 2. Delete clause a) which allows appointment of High School Student at-Large representatives to Board of Directors. We no longer support this role.

PROPOSAL - Delete:

- (a) ~~Up to four High School Student At-large Representatives from the chapter territory may be elected to the Board of Directors of Flathead Audubon. One vote will be granted to the High School Student At-large Representatives. They shall serve one-year terms. One representative shall be selected by the others as a voting member of the Board of Directors. The remaining three shall serve as alternates. The alternate representatives shall be available to serve in place of the appointed voting board member as circumstances require.~~

BYLAWS, Article IV, Section 2: Delete clause b) which allows appointment of FVCC Student at-Large representatives to Board of Directors. We no longer support this role.

PROPOSAL - Delete:

- b) ~~One FVCC Student At-large Representative may be elected to the Board of Directors of Flathead Audubon. One vote will be granted the FVCC Student At-large Representative who shall serve a one-year term. An FVCC student may also be elected to serve as an alternate to the FVCC Student At-large Representative. The alternate shall be available to serve in place of the FVCC Student At-large Representative as circumstances may require.~~

BYLAWS, Article X. Add requirement for approval by Board of Directors to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.

PROPOSAL- Insert "Following approval by the Board of Directors" at the beginning of Article X:

"Following approval by the Board of Directors, this Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members present in person or by proxy at any regular or special meeting of members duly called pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 4 hereinabove. The notice of such meeting shall recite the wording of each proposed amendment."

This notice shall fulfill the requirement of Article III, Section 4 that notice shall be given *not less than seven days nor more than 30 days before the date of the meeting* at which time business is transacted. We anticipate a request to vote on the above amendments at the May 8, 2017 meeting.

Give While You Shop!

Here are two easy ways you can help your chapter, with no cost to you and just a few minutes of your time.

Amazon Smile

Typing "[smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)" is quick and easy. Click on the link and either put in your email address and Amazon password or click Create an Account. Designate Flathead Audubon Society as your nonprofit of choice. You won't receive spam or marketing



emails and a portion of the amounts you spend is rebated to Flathead Audubon.

Smith's Community Rewards

Anybody with a Smith's card can either sign into their account or create a new account on Smith's website. Then click on your name and scroll to the bottom to select Community Rewards, type in our Organization Number – 47931 – and click Enroll. FAS will receive a rebate based on the total amount everyone spends.

Are these huge money-makers for Flathead Audubon? No, but we are very careful with our funds, so every penny counts. Thanks for helping out!

MISSION MOUNTAIN AUDUBON PRESENTATION

Thursday, 27 April: "The Threat of Invasive Mussels in Flathead Lake" by Tom Banzak- aquatic ecologist at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Polson Library Meeting Room, 7 PM.



Thank You!

...to those below who have made donations to Flathead Audubon through mid-April, 2017.

Kestrel

Mark & Connie Ottey

Supporting Member + donation

Susan Cahill

Connie Marmet-Baldwin



Please remember to TAKE ALONG AN OSNA MONITORING FORM when you go to Owen Sowerwine this summer.

Use the form to tell us what parts of Owen Sowerwine you visited, and what you saw and heard there. Feedback from Volunteer Monitors helps Flathead Audubon do a better job of managing Owen Sowerwine.

Get the form and a trail map from www.flatheadaudubon.org or ask Linda Winnie to email it to you (lindawin@centurytel.net).

THANK YOU to ALL who are helping with OSNA Monitoring!

**OSNA Workday—September 30
SAVE THE DATE!**

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

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:

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☐ Please do not acknowledge my gift in the Pileated Post

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THIS IS YOUR LAST PILEATED POST UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Check our website during the summer for happenings and news.



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MAY 2017

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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. Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: lindawin@centurytel.net

Website: www.FlatheadAudubon.org

Conservation Educator - Denny Olson: auduboneducator@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Kay Mitchell	kbmitch@centurytel.net	756-8130
Vice-President	Gael Bissell	gbissell535@gmail.com	261-2255
Secretary	Marylane Pannell	kuhlpan@cyberport.net	871-7613
Treasurer	Joe Batts	jbatts@me.com	844-0299
Past-President	Bob Lopp	boblopp@bresnan.net	752-7026

DIRECTORS

2015-2018	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2015-2018	Doug MacCarter	dsmaccarter@gmail.com	602-663-8611
2015-2018	Jan Metzmaker	jmetzmaker@hotmail.com	862-7960
2015-2018	Jake Bramante	jake@hike734.com	250-8394
2016-2019	Cory Davis	piranga99@gmail.com	257-3166
2016-2019	Barbara Summer	parkview@cyberport.net	270-1285
2016-2017	Bob Lee	rml3@centurytel.net	270-0371
2016-2017	Kathy Ross	mtkat67@gmail.com	837-3837
2016-2017	Jill Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net	862-8070
2016-2017	Mike Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net	862-8070

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406
Education	Vacant			John Hughes	261-2506
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	837-3837		Lewis Young	889-3492
	Cory Davis	257-3166	Nominations	Bob Lee	270-0371
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070	Program	Bob Lee	270-0371
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678	Publicity	Jan Metzmaker	837-0181
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
	Cory Davis	257-3166	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070	Website	Jake Bramante	250-8394
	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Natural Area	Bob Lee	270-0371			

MONTANA AUDUBON

P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 443-3949 www.MTAudubon.org
Interim Executive Director: Norane Freistadt norane@mtaudubon.org
Board Member representing FAS Bob Lee rml3@centurytel.net 270-0371

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Individual or Family

☐ Basic Membership —————\$25

Pays for newsletter and operating costs

☐ Supporting Membership —————\$40

Extra \$15 funds local projects such as
Conservation Education and
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area

☐ Additional Donation of \$ _____

To: ☐ Education Fund
☐ Owen Sowerwine Fund
☐ Wherever needed

Total \$ _____

You may renew or join online on our website:

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/>

The *Pileated Post* is sent to FAS members by email. If you wish to receive a paper copy by USPS, check this box. ☐



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Your email address is safe with us.

Mail this form with your check to:

Flathead Audubon Society Membership

P.O. Box 9173

Kalispell, MT 59904