



## President's Column

Why do we make a big deal out of New Year's Eve? We wear party hats, drink certain beverages, act like children and pay homage to a large ball that drops down 3,000 miles away. All because the year number changes by 1.

Wouldn't it be more useful to celebrate September 1? After all, that's the kickoff for a whole exciting phenomenon we call migration, for the launch of a brand new Audubon year, the start of a new school year, changing to a new season, and more. It's by far the best time of year to make resolutions, like:

- ◆ attend the first Flathead Audubon meeting of the year (September 10),
- ◆ visit Lone Pine State Park for the Birds of Prey Festival (September 15),
- ◆ help get Owen Sowerwine Natural Area in shape for fall (September 29),
- ◆ do a Hawk Watch Hike to really get "into" migration, and
- ◆ renew membership in Flathead Audubon!

Birds and conservation are our reasons for being. Some chapters simply go birdwatching together. Flathead Audubon provides lots of opportunities for group birdwatching, but we also believe we should give information and support to others (kids, especial-



ly) so they can better enjoy and understand birds and their habitats. We are also committed to supporting scientifically accurate decision-making at all levels of government.

Flathead Audubon runs on your memberships, donations, and grants. Our greatest asset is our people – active, generous, hard-working, passionate. Every person in Flathead Audubon contributes, whether financially, volunteering time, baking a cake, driving a friend to meetings, or helping at one of our education events.

This year, we will be operating on a very tight budget. Due to time conflict with the state bird festival, we were not able to do our usual Birdathon in June or produce a phenology calendar for 2019. We are writing as many grant proposals as we can, but of course there is a lot of competition for those awards. So this year we are extra grateful for every membership renewal, every dollar you can donate and every year-end gift you make. Thank you everyone on behalf of the birds!

I look forward to renewing friendships with each of you soon. Meanwhile, skip the party hats – HAPPY NEW YEAR! *by Kay Mitchell, President*

## CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

### Highlights from May 7, 2018 Board Meeting

- ◆ Gail Linne presented the "Trunk Ambassadors" program to the Board.
- ◆ Lana and Joe Batts donated a projector to FAS.
- ◆ The Board adopted the FAS budget for July 2018 – June 2019.

### SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 4, 2018. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting,** Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. All welcome.

**Monday, September 10, 2018. 7 PM Flathead Audubon General Meeting,** Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. All welcome. See page 3.

**Sunday, September 16, 2018, Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Trip, 8 AM-5 PM.** See page 6.

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

## Gyr Falcon

by Ben Long

Count yourself lucky if you ever see a gyrfalcon, one of the most striking and remarkable birds of prey in the world.

Almost 20 years ago, Karen and I were on a routine drive to Missoula. For kicks, we drove down a farm road in the Mission Valley and, by chance, spied a Gyrfalcon on a telephone pole. I don't remember anything else about that day, beyond the majesty of that bird.

Gyrfalcons are not as fast as peregrine falcons, but they are bigger. At top speeds, they can still hit an impressive 130 miles per hour. The "Gyr" is short for gyro, or spiral. This probably relates to the climbing spiral flight pattern of a raptor gaining altitude. They sometimes fly high and drop precipitously upon prey; other times they streak after them nearly at ground level.

Because of their large size, striking appearance and dramatic hunting styles, Gyrfalcons, particularly the lighter colored specimens, are highly prized by falconers. Some Gyrfalcons are bred in captivity and fetch prices from \$5,000 to many times that much for top pedigrees.

"Gyrs" are roughly the size of a Red-tailed Hawk but with the fighter-jet aerodynamics of the falcon tribe. They are nearly two feet long with a wingspan of about four feet. As is the case with many raptor species, females are substantially larger than males. No one is exactly sure why this is, but one leading hypothesis is it leaves the females better prepared to defend nests from raiding predators.

Mated pairs are strongly bonded, generally until one of the pair dies. Gyrfalcons nest on the edges of cliffs or in trees in a nest abandoned by Common Ravens or Golden Eagles. Their heads typically have the "falcon-esque" mustache or hood, although not as distinct as often found on a peregrine falcon. They range from nearly white to dark grey with barring on the front. Like snowy owls, they tend to be darker when young and grow lighter over their lifespans.

Gyrs are similar to rough-legged hawks in that both breed and nest in the tundra and winter in Mon-

tana. They summer near the Arctic Circle, then descend southward to similar terrain, typically the sage-steppe or Great Plains or the dunes along the coastline. In winter, they dip about as far south as the middle of Wyoming.



© Jerry & Sherry Liguori

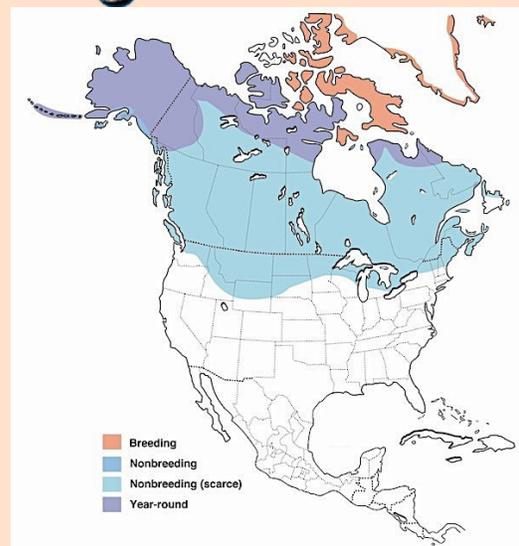
They are a circumpolar species, meaning they live across northern reaches of the globe. They also live in Scandinavia and northern Russia as far south as Mongolia. In the arctic, they focus on shorebirds and ptarmigan, and arctic hares. In their winter ranges, they sink their talons into a variety of birds from gulls to crows to songbirds.

Gyrfalcons are not exactly common in northwestern Montana in the winter, but can be found in pastures and open farmlands. The good news is they are not considered threatened globally. Approximately

forty percent of the world's Gyrfalcons nest and breed in Canada. That is the source of most of the gyrfalcons that winter in Montana.

Winters in Montana can get long and grey. So keep a pair of binoculars in your car and take the time to prowl the backcountry roads. You may get to watch a gyrfalcon as a reward.

### THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA



# September Program

## APPLIED RESEARCH IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

presented by **TABITHA GRAVES**

Join us Monday, September 10, 7-9 PM at the Gateway West Community Room, US Highway 2 West, Kalispell, for an informative and entertaining program presented by Tabitha Graves. Tabitha will talk about how wildlife biology, landscape ecology, and statistics all come together in her research projects.

Although Tabitha works for the US Geological Survey she is stationed in Glacier National Park where she currently does most of her work.



USGS photo

Tabitha has more than 15 years experience studying grizzly bears, big-horn sheep, elk, and the development of novel and integrated analyses of habitat use, connectivity, migration, and genetics, all very applied work. She has also assisted with projects studying black bears, wolverines, mountain goats, wolves, lynx, kinkajou, loons, hawks, owls, riparian vegetation, pika, and sugar pine.

## *Liberal Arts and Birding*

Lana and I were in the audience of the panel discussion at the University of Montana last Spring to discuss the Powerful Potential of a "Useless" Liberal Arts Education. We later discussed between us how difficult it is to pinpoint the end of the "value chain" from education to application. And, while difficult, the task of making that connection is essential to persuading the political powers and the general public of the fundamental utility of a Liberal Arts Education.

On that point, we witnessed the value of Liberal Arts when we were birding with a guide by the name of Kenneth Blankenship in an area south of Tucson, AZ. We were really impressed with his audito-

ry skill at identifying bird sounds and calls. So, we asked him how he developed that skill. He replied that he had been a French major in college (not UM, but could have been) and taught French and Spanish in the Public School systems in Georgia for 14 years. He referred to bird sounds and calls as just-another-language and that he spoke four languages: English, French, Spanish and *bird!* More profoundly, he could sense that the same part of his brain was activated when listening for birds, as when he spoke a foreign language. As a result, he has become a renown bird-guide and consultant in Arizona and Georgia with over 50 publications to his credit. *by Joe Batts*

*In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir*

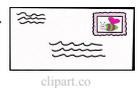
## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew your membership in Flathead Audubon as soon as possible. For those who don't renew by October 18, this will be the last issue of the Pileated Post they will receive. Don't miss an issue of our very interesting newsletter! The FAS Board proposed and the membership voted last May to raise the membership dues a bit to cover increased expenses. The dues now are \$25 for a basic membership and \$40 for a supporting membership. This year we really need support for our excellent education program. We are the only organization in the Flathead Valley which offers free environmental education.

For those who join or renew memberships in National Audubon, note that they no longer will accept checks at the New York address. You must either use the envelope sent to you when requesting you to renew or to use the internet at <http://www.audubon.org/renew>.

When you renew your Flathead Audubon membership please include your email address. We would like to compile a list of members email addresses so we can send occasional notifications of events or important news.

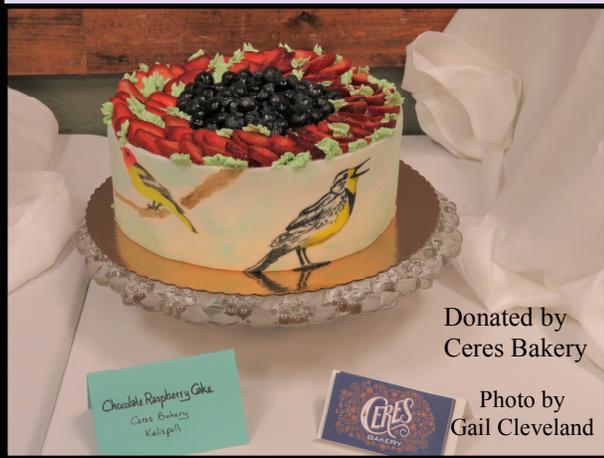
*by Mike Fanning*



## Bird Festival Success!

The 2018 Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival is in our rear-view mirror – hurray! For Flathead Audubon, the festival involved a lot of work, since we were the host chapter. There were equal amounts of bird chatter, catching up with old friends and serious talk about everything from politics and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to Montana Audubon's projects. And three of our own flock took home big commendations. Lewis Young was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of continuing commitment to conservation (and making awesome newsletters!) Steve Gniadek became the Citizen Scientist of the Year and Denny Olson is the new Educator of the Year. You can go to [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org) and search on "awards" to see mug shots and brag lists on these three guys. They are our home town heroes!

Flathead's famous ever-changing weather provided something for every field tripper. It made me feel proud to see every single field trip go out – no cancellations, no no-show leaders, no weather-whiners. Our own Cory Davis and his hotshot field trip committee impressed the guests and Cory got his own standing ovation.



Donated by  
Ceres Bakery

Photo by  
Gail Cleveland

And the food – ahh, the food! The Red Lion came through with some very fine meals. But the pièce de résistance was our own Dessert Auction.

When our co-chairs, Linda Winnie, Paula Smith and Gail Cleveland asked 30 of our own members to either make a dessert or arrange for a bakery to make one, you answered with the most beautiful, diverse and professional appearing desserts I have ever seen. Just before the banquet, all 30 dishes were arranged on a long table; people were actually walking around taking pictures of the display! The photos here show just a couple of the offerings, but there were many more equally as enticing. If you were one of the baker/contributors, please accept our thanks for going the extra mile for your Audubon chapter!



Donated by  
Mary Aley

Photo by  
Gail Cleveland

Our Volunteer Corps made the whole event run smoothly. Everywhere I looked, Flathead Audubon people were handing out information packets, helping set up tables, shuttling field trip groups to their destinations, putting out birchbark-wrapped table decorations, distributing lunches, working at our sales table, greeting guests, giving directions. Marylane Pannell made chairing this important group look effortless but herding cats might have been easier!

If you attended the Festival, I hope you enjoyed the days. To everyone who had a part in the celebration, Flathead Audubon thanks you and is proud to count you as One of Us! *by Kay Mitchell*

## Field Trip Leaders To Thank For The Festival

Amy Seaman  
Beth Watne  
Beverly Skinner  
Bob Lee  
Brent Mitchell  
Bruce Tannehill  
Corey Davis  
Costanza von der Pahlen  
Craig Hohenberger  
Dan Casey

Denny Olson  
Doug MacCarter  
Gael Bissell  
Jake Bramante  
Josh Covill  
Karen Nichols  
Kathy Ross  
Laura Katzman  
Leslie Kehoe  
Lewis Young

Lou Bruno  
Lynn Kelly  
Pat Jamieson  
Paul Rossi  
Pete Fisher  
Ryan Hunter  
Steve Gniadek  
Tom Banzack  
John Hughes



## Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

### The Value of "Place" in Education

In Montana, we are lucky in that education has always had a tradition of local control. Unfortunately, it has seldom had a tradition of local *emphasis*. In fact, the primary key to living well politically, economically, ecologically, spiritually and as a community member (on all levels) may well be "place education". Whether we recognize it or not, most of us need a sense of "home" which extends beyond the fenced yard (or worse, the immediate area of the television and the couch). We need a sense of "family" which extends beyond our own offspring. We gather subtle hints about these senses of connection when we take a refreshing walk in the woods, go hunting and fishing, attend summer camp or even simply join a club. Deep inside of most humans is strong urge to "belong" somewhere. We often interpret that urge as a need to circle the wagons around home and property, but it goes broader and deeper than that obvious response. If we further examine our own motives and needs, perhaps there is an obvious gap that our culture actually widens. It could be that we need a sense of "place", a level of comfort with our surroundings that is brought about through familiarity and interaction, instead of distance and isolation. Simply put, "place" adds an essential context to life, or rather, it is the context out of which life operates.

Teaching a sense of place, by its very scope, demands a teaching partnership between schools, families, other human communities (political, business, church, etc.) and nature. In order to make education a true community partnership, children must be seen (and function) as contributing members of the community, no matter what their age. In our present culture children are protected, but also insulated from active participation in the affairs of the community, and adult voices advocating children's interests are few and largely ignored. Children are seen as being in a constant state of preparation for adulthood, an unpaid and largely ignored apprenticeship for the real life of the marketplace later on. To illustrate with two examples, adults must admit that (1) the users of a playground might be qualified to review and recommend changes in the playground's design, or (2) that the future users of a natural area

might have more stake in that area's welfare than those presently being asked to decide its fate.

To create a healthy community through a sense of place, this educational partnership must realize that the *where* and *how* of learning are as important as the *what*. If we examine our own educational experience in terms of what we learned best, we realize that respect for something is a prerequisite for learning about it. From an examination of our own "place" (natural, familial, political, spiritual, etc.) we can begin to understand the more abstract nature of all places. The way education is now practiced, we learn the abstract, global things first, get bored with it because it has so little relationship to our own lives, and therefore never get around to learning about *here*. By studying the tropical rainforest, we are asked to develop a sense of stewardship for our home, when we have never had the chance to know, love and respect the places just outside our doors.

As an example, the concept of global climate change is almost ridiculously abstract and complex. Conversely, wondering why I have so many fewer days of cross-country skiing (which I dearly love) in my home valley, and watching January rain soak layers of snow and then re-freeze – locking many animals from the safety of insulating snow, or breathing

August and September smoke from wildfires across the west – these things happen to *me*. They are immediate and "in my face", and they are happening more and more often. These observations about *my* place bring the abstraction of climate change down to a reality I can understand, and prompt me to want to do something about it. It is *accidental* place education at work. Imagine how effective it could be if we did some plan-



ning around it.

This is why I lead kids into the woods of Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. If they experience, then know, then bond with this place literally walking distance from where they live, they will someday be asked to protect what they already feel they own. If they are anything like me, and probably you, they will guard it with their lives.

## FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All Flathead Audubon field trips are free and open to the public (except those organized for the bird festival which require registration) 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. Please read our field trip guidelines at [www.FlatheadAudubon.org](http://www.FlatheadAudubon.org). 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](http://www.FlatheadAudubon.org).



**JEWEL BASIN HAWK WATCH TRIP, Sunday, September 16, 8 AM-5 PM.** This is a follow-up field trip opportunity for those planning to attend the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch training at Lone Pine State Park on Sept. 15th (see accompanying article) as well as anyone who is interested in seeing migrating fall raptors. The hike to the Hawk Watch site will take approximately 2 hours and is uphill at a moderately strenuous pace. Weather can affect the field trip so dress accordingly. The temperature and winds can make the "feels like" temperature 20-30 degrees colder at the ridge than in the valley. **This trip is limited to 9 people.** If you're interested in participating please call or email Cory Davis (406-257-3166, [piranga99@gmail.com](mailto:piranga99@gmail.com))

## Birds of Prey Festival, September 15

It's that time of year again, to invite you to bring your families and friends to the 2018 Birds of Prey Festival!

**We'll be at our co-sponsors, Lone Pine State Park, again on Saturday September 15th, with the family hours from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.** Fancy Face Design will be turning kid's faces into giant raptors. We will have more live hawks and owls than ever before. The presentations will be enlightening. And the exhibits and activities from many local organizations will be great fun. Summertime food will be available!

After that, from 1 to 3 PM, we will have a training / refresher session for autumn migration Hawk Watchers on the Mt. Aeneas Ridge. An early morning field trip check on the fall migrating birds may happen as well.

This has been a successful educational experience for our community, and publicity with details is right around the corner, so please let us know if you want to attend or exhibit or present ASAP.

We had 575 participants last year, and all indications are that it will grow again this year. Don't miss out!  
*by Denny Olson*

## Thanks Whitefish Credit Union!

Flathead Audubon is proud to announce Whitefish Credit Union as a sponsor for the 2018 Birds of Prey Festival. Whitefish Credit Union has created a fund to sponsor community events that are deemed to benefit the communities of Flathead Valley. The 2018 Birds of Prey Festival has received a generous dona-

tion of \$500 for this annual event. Flathead Audubon wishes to thank Whitefish Credit Union for this honor and asks that you let them know we appreciate their sponsorship the next time you visit one of their many valley facilities.

## West Valley Bird Viewing Area—Grand Opening

Grand opening of the West Valley bird viewing area: Saturday, October 6 from 5-7:30 PM sponsored by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Flathead Land Trust; and Flathead Audubon. Celebrate the completion of the West Valley Wetlands conservation project with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening

of the bird viewing area for the public. The celebration will include food, a program to thank supporters, and viewing of the sandhill cranes as they fly in to roost at sunset. Please RSVP to Laura Katzman at [lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org](mailto:lkatzman@flatheadlandtrust.org) or 752-8293.

## 2018 OSNA Work Day

The long-awaited 2018 annual workday for the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area is scheduled for Saturday, 29 September. We'll gather at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive at 9 AM. We'll carpool to OSNA from Montessori and should be done by noon or a little after.

There are a few of the usual projects that need to be tackled—some trails cleared and mowed, and, of course, as always weeds to be addressed. Many hands make light work, so please come with work gloves and wearing old clothes appropriate for the weather. More information to follow at the Septem-

ber meeting and in the October Pileated Post.

This should be a fun and quick day as well as sprucing up OSNA. If you have any questions or suggestions or directions, please contact Bob Lee at 270-0371 or [RML3@centurytel.net](mailto:RML3@centurytel.net) or Linda Winnie at 253-7430 or [lindawin@centurytel.net](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net).



## 2018 ANNUAL POTLUCK

The annual May potluck and FAS membership meeting was held at the Whitefish Community Center on May 14, 2018.

Gael Bissell presented Alan Ruby representing the Flathead Electric Co-op Board with the Conservation Achievement Recognition Award.

It was moved and seconded to elect Pam Wilison and Diane Boyd to the FAS Board. Joe Batts and Marylane Pannell were reelected as treasurer and secretary of FAS. Jake Bramante and Jan Metzmaker agreed to serve another term on the Board.

President Kay Mitchell gave the FAS yearend

report. Her report included statistics on the number of bird trips, bird counts, Conservation Awards, educational programs, volunteer hours and Hawk Watch volunteers. She also mentioned our work organizing and participating in the Birds of Prey, Montana Audubon Bird Festival and OSNA workday.

Larry Berrin, Executive Director of Montana Audubon, presented the program "Montana Audubon – Birds and Beyond."

The silent auction proceeds were \$744.

*by Marylane Pannell*

## The Origins of Hummingbirds Are Still a Major Mystery

There is a dazzling diversity of the tiny birds in the Americas, but recent discoveries trace their evolution back to Europe—where today there are no nectar-feeding species.

Fossil evidence shows hummingbirds were present in Europe millions of years ago, long before fossil records from the Americas, but vanished for unknown reasons even though there are plenty of plants suitable for hummingbird nectar feeding.

The question of how they got to the Americas

is a big one. Did they use the former land bridge between Siberia and Alaska to move from Eurasia to the Americas? Or were they somehow able to make a trans-Atlantic crossing?

And there is still the question of why. Did competition with other nectar feeders drive them out (even though there are no other nectar feeders in Europe today), or did the shift from tropical to temperate climate in Europe affect them? *Adapted from Audubon article by Jillian Mock, July 12, 2018.*



### FLATHEAD AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY IS A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

- ⇒ OUR MISSION IS TO CONSERVE BIRDS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY.
- ⇒ WE PROMOTE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.
- ⇒ WE WORK WITH DIVERSE GROUPS AND AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE SOUND DECISIONS ON NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.
- ⇒ WHILE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS IN NORTHWEST MONTANA, WE BELIEVE IN THE PROTECTION OF THE EARTH AND ALL OF ITS INHABITANTS.



## Project FeederWatch

Do you like to watch birds? Are you looking for a classroom or nature club project? Project FeederWatch may be just for you. Last year I decided if I was going to “talk the talk”, I should “walk the walk” and signed up for Project Feeder Watch. I found that my identification skills became more focused, that I observed more infrequent visitors, and that rare bird interactions were captured by spending more time watching my feeders. It was a very rewarding experience, and I highly recommend it.

Project FeederWatch is a citizen science project that began in Ontario, Canada in the mid-1970s and partnered with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology ten years later. It is a winter-long project starting in November and ending mid-April, in which participants periodically count birds at backyard feeders, birdbaths or other local areas with plantings that attract birds. Designed to help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance, this is the perfect project for anyone who likes birds or wants to learn more about birds.

No particular skill level or background is necessary to participate in the project. Participants will receive a research kit and resources to help attract and identify common winter species including an interactive tool that allows participants to learn about the

food and feeder preference of nearly 100 species and how to predict what birds can be attracted to an area. All you have to do is watch your feeder, birdbath or area as much or as little as you like, record what you see, and send in your data. There is an \$18 fee for U.S. citizens (\$15 for Cornell Lab members) necessary to analyze the data. Along with the research kit, you will receive a year-end report each fall and have access to Cornell’s digital version of *Living Bird*.

The data gathered by people like you will only become more important as predicted changes in climate continue to occur. Check out [www.FeederWatch.org](http://www.FeederWatch.org) where you will find information on joining and access to a free on-line bird identification guide. You can also read about other people’s experience since joining FeederWatch.

*by John Hughes*



## Major Endangered Species Act Revisions Proposed

If you value endangered species you should be aware that significant revisions to the 1973 Endangered Species Act have been proposed. Nine bills in the House, 1 in the Senate, and a series of regulatory proposals recently released by the Trump administration would all serve to undermine sound science, habitat protections, and the ability of everyday citizens to enforce the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are the two major federal agencies that administer the ESA. The FWS has issued proposed changes to the regulations that the public can comment on through September 24. The proposed changes may be viewed at: [https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving\\_ESA/regulation-revisions.html](https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html).

The proposed changes include:

- Make it more difficult to extend protections to threatened species, delaying lifesaving action until a species' population is so small it may be challenging or impossible to save.

- Exempt climate change from key parts of the law, making it more difficult to protect the polar bear, the bearded seal, and many other imperiled species that are impacted by the effects of climate change.
- Require economic factors to be analyzed when deciding if a species should be saved
- Make it easier for companies to build roads, pipelines, mines, and other industrial projects in critical habitat areas that are essential to imperiled species' survival.

Individuals may voice their concerns to the proposed changes in various ways. Comments may be made to the FWS by the September 24 deadline, concerns may be expressed directly to Montana's Senators and Representative and to Secretary of the Interior Zinke, and concerns may be expressed in letters to the editor. Please use any or all of the ways to make your concerns known. *by Lewis Young, Conservation Committee*

### Bird Feeders and Bears

Bird feeders are often a strong attractant to bears especially in the fall when they are trying to fatten up before entering their dens. Please consider not feeding birds until the bears have entered dens which usually happens by the end of November.

Other attractants also create conflicts with bears also. Montana FWP Bear and Lion Specialist Erik Wenum says "We are urging people to step up

their efforts in getting attractants secured; lock up the garbage, put the pet foods inside and pick the fruit. It's unfortunate when we have to kill a bear. It's not something we enjoy doing, but when a bear is fed human foods that is typically the outcome. If residents take re-

sponsibility and clean up all attractants, we will have fewer problems and fewer bears will need to be killed." You may contact Erik Wenum at 756-1776 or 250-0062.



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pinterest.com



Bird Festival Field Trip Near Eureka photo by Corey Davis

**IT's MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!  
USE THE FORM ON THE LAST PAGE!**

**GET THE PILEATED POST BY EMAIL!**  
Save trees and money. See the note on the last page.

### SPECIAL GIFTS

I wish to help make Flathead Audubon's vision a reality. Here is my contribution to the continued success of our chapter.



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- 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:

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\*\*\*\*\*

Please make checks payable to:  
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P.O. Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904



Be sure to check [flatheadaudubon.org](http://flatheadaudubon.org) for



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Late breaking FAS news and announcements  
Online FAS membership sign up or renewal  
Latest eBird reports on species being observed in the Flathead area



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Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904-9173

September 2018

Baird's Sandpiper



Audubon.org

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Kalispell, MT
59904-9173

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with Montana Audubon and the National Audubon Society. Flathead Audubon meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meetings start at 7 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM at Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, 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: lindawin626@gmail.com. Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: lindawin626@gmail.com

Website: www.FlatheadAudubon.org

Conservation Educator - Denny Olson: auduboneducator@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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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 \$

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