



the

Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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Barrow's
Goldeneye

birdatlas.bc.ca

STORIES FROM OUR READERS

The following story is the beginning of what we hope to become an occasional feature in the Pileated Post. Other readers are invited to submit their own birding story, with a picture if possible; maximum of about 600 words; picture in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited and corrected for scientific accuracy. They will be published as space permits.

In Pursuit of a Kingfisher

by Eugene Beckes

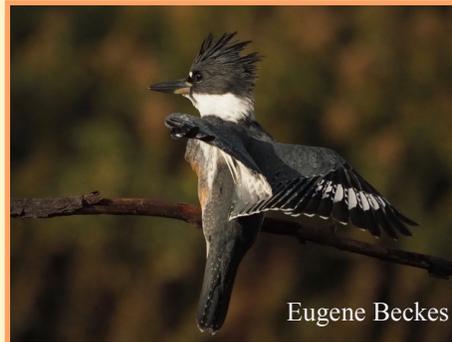
A small stream flows into the canal two miles from our place. At that confluence, it also happens that the canal makes a ninety degree turn. The result of the waters merging in this way is a deeper and wider section of the canal; in fact, locals know it as a fairly good place to catch trout now and then. One of those locals is a female Belted Kingfisher.

Because I'd seen her there several times over the past six weeks, I decided it would be a good place to try for photos of the elusive bird. Belted Kingfishers are well known to be extremely wary; not easily photographed. Because of this and my past experience with them, I knew I would have to be very well camouflaged and still in order to have any chance of getting images of her.

Over the past ten days I had propped two branches against the barbed wire fence which runs perpendicular to the stream and only a few feet from the confluence, my hope being that the Kingfisher would value them as perches from which she could easily spy her prey. Long story and a

few adjustments later, it worked. I'd seen her fishing from them a few times.

This morning I decided to drive to the spot, rather than walk, because I wanted to get there earlier than she did (if she showed at all.) I parked the car out of site of the spot and with my gear walked towards the part of the fence I'm able to crawl under. Not half way there, I saw her perched on the most favorable branch I'd placed; of course she saw me, scolded me harshly (you think I'm kidding, I'm not,) and fled.



Eugene Beckes

Cursing myself for not getting there earlier, nevertheless I arrived at the crawling-under spot, threw my pack over and made the passage. On the other side I had to drop down to the small creek and cross, then situate myself next to the fence where I have a little cover from the wooden fence posts and some vegetation in the area.

That said, I'm still largely out in the open and if she chose to perch on either of my well-placed branches, she could easily see me.

continued on page 7

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Thanks to all our loyal members who have renewed for this year! Flathead Audubon could not accomplish the important things we do without you.

Most important, our education program would not exist without your support. Thanks again.

Mike Fanning, Membership Chair

NOVEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, November 4, 2019. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. All welcome.

Monday, November 11, 2019. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. All welcome. See page 3.

Field Trips. See page 6.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Hurrah for the Humble Hun (aka Gray Partridge)

By Ben Long

There is an idea among birders of a “spark bird,” that is the species of bird that sparked a person’s greater interest in birds and, thus, the natural world. For me, the spark bird was a humble little buff-colored, pear-shaped partridge that we called a “hun,” but is more properly the Gray Partridge.

When I was a kid, we had a rough patch of yard that Dad mowed once a year “whether it needed it or not.” I was maybe 9 when I walked through that long grass and a little partridge exploded underfoot. I nearly stepped on a tiny cluster of a dozen olive-sized and olive-colored eggs in a shallow ground nest.

For the next several weeks I would sneak close and watch that mother bird as she incubated her clutch. Her patience and her camouflage were nearly perfect as I watched from inches away. One day she was not there, leaving me only one dud egg, which I added to my collection of feathers, shed snake skins and gopher tails.

Gray Partridge are commonly called Hungarian partridge. They are not native to North America but are not originally confined to Hungary either. In fact, they are widely distributed across Western Europe to Mongolia and China. Like Ring-necked Pheasants and Chukar, they were introduced to North America to give hunters something novel to pursue. As America plowed under its native grasslands, these birds filled the niches where our native prairie grouse could no longer survive.

Gray Partridge thrive alongside modern agriculture, hunkering in stubble fields in the winter eating waste grain, nesting in hay fields or pastures, feeding on insects in the summer. They are hardy, tasty and willing fliers, making them popular with hunters and wildlife management agencies wanting to sell hunting licenses. In Montana, hunters today kill around 50,000 of them annually which seems a lot until you consider in the 1960s hunters shot about twice that many. Hunters bag some 650,000 annually nationwide.



Fecundity is their great strength. Like my backyard brood hen, Gray Partridge typically have enormous clutches of 15-20. Some 75 percent of

those chicks are doomed to die their first year anyway from bad weather, starvation or predators, so they bounce back after hunting season. The name “Gray” Partridge sells these handsome birds short, as they are a pretty tan and brown with males (and some females) having a distinct horseshoe-shaped patch of chestnut on their breast. Their tails are short and rusty brown. The birds are about a foot long and a wingspan perhaps two feet. A big one might weigh a pound with a full crop and a few birdshot.

Gray Partridge were first introduced into the United States in the 1700s. They were probably first released in Montana around the 1920s. One early specimen from around Kalispell is noted in 1939.

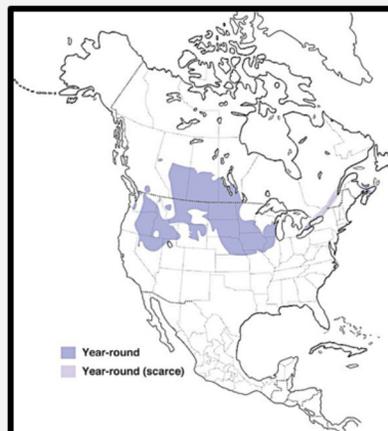
If you’re not a bird hunter but wish to see a Gray Partridge, drive farm roads after a light snow. You’ll see coveys of 10-20 in stubble fields and hunched in windrows. They are often seen pecking gravel for grit on country roads.

Sometimes in deeper, softer snow the birds will bury themselves in the snow for insulation against the cold and wind. I have stumbled into these subnivean coveys while cross-country skiing and had them explode suddenly all around me, seeming to materialize noisily out of a slope of untouched, powder snow.

Here’s a fun fact. The Latin name for the Gray Partridge is *Perdix perdix*. This comes from the Greek word for partridge. Linguists believe the word is onomatopoeia, imitating the sound of the birds flushing.

Beyond my own nostalgia, the sources for this article are *Birds of Montana* (Jeffery S. Marks et. al) and the *Audubon Society’s Encyclopedia of North American Birds* by John K. Terres.

 THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA



November Program

Saving 'Alae 'Ula, Hawai'i's Endangered Swamp Chicken

presented by **Dr. Charles van Rees**

Dr. Charles van Rees, a naturalist and conservation biologist at the Flathead Lake Biological Station will be the guest speaker at the Flathead Audubon meeting Monday, November 11 from 7-9 PM in the Gateway West Community Meeting Room in Kalispell.

'Alae 'Ula, or the Hawaiian Gallinule, is an endangered subspecies of water bird endemic to the Hawaiian archipelago. According to Native Hawaiian legend, 'Alae 'Ula were sacred birds whose night-time calls were omens of death, and who provoked the wrath of the volcano goddess Pēlē when they revealed the secret of fire to humankind. These strange, pugnacious little birds were nearly driven to extinction in the 1960's due to reclamation of their wetland



Charles Palmer



A. Sandor

habitats and the introduction of invasive predators. They disappeared from all of the archipelago except for the islands of Kaua'i and O'ahu, the home of Waikiki beach, where they have made a slow and tenuous, partial recovery.

Dr. Charles van Rees shares the conservation story of 'Alae 'Ula and his findings from over five years as a PhD candidate conducting field research on O'ahu. Charles is recently arrived in the Flathead Valley to work as a postdoctoral research scientist studying aquatic invasive species at the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Flathead Audubon website:

www.flatheadaudubon.org

New Bird Viewing Area Nearing Completion in Flathead Valley

Ready for spring waterfowl? No, not yet? Well, when winter's chill yields to the cool, gray days of March, grab your spotting scope, thermos and extra layer, and head down to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' (FWP) North Shore Wildlife Management Area (WMA). There you will find Flathead Valley's newest bird viewing area. FWP calls them 'wildlife' viewing areas, but we won't judge. In season, the North Shore is all about birds, waterfowl to be exact. Well, shorebirds too.

The WMA was acquired in phases, and today

boasts 427-acres of cultivated field, woodland, and wetland. Part of the Flathead Lake Important Bird Area, FWP's manages the WMA to enhance foraging and resting habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds during spring migration. FWP has partnered with a local farmer, who in lieu of a cash lease, provides cover and food plots, standing grain, and wetland buffer and cover strips, all for wildlife. Totaling some 20% of the cultivated area, leave areas help fuel the spring migration.

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CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

Highlights from the October 7, 2019 Board meeting

- ◆ Cory Davis is working to complete a list of the FAS Committees with an explanation of what they do and how FAS members can volunteer to help.
- ◆ The people who organized the Birds of Prey Festival held a debriefing session and made a list of changes, improvements, and suggestions for next year. They identified a need for more volunteers to help, so plan to join this great event next September.
- ◆ Kay Mitchell reported that our 10-year Owen Sowerwine lease with DNRC expires in February 2020, and we will be negotiating with DNRC to set the fee and to renew.
- ◆ Jake Bramante revealed the new membership cards and stickers, and the small Pileated Woodpecker stickers, all of which make use of the new logo.

Decline of the North American Avifauna

a September 2019 publication in Science Magazine

A paper was recently published in peer-reviewed *Science* magazine by experienced and reputable authors. *Decline of the North American Avifauna* by Rosenberg *et al.* 2019 is available on FAS website at: <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Rosenberg-et-al-Science-Sept-2019.pdf>. The short four pages of text (plus many more pages of citations, tables, and supporting evidence) identified a 29 percent decline in North American birds since 1970 using data assimilated from citizen science surveys and radar tracking. The paper has been widely referenced in popular literature. Some claim the paper is too alarmist while others find it confirms what they have observed in the field.

Rosenberg *et al.* should be complimented for their efforts to assimilate a continent-wide bird population synthesis using the best available data. Wildlife surveys are expensive, difficult, fraught with “noise” making conclusions difficult and usually lack support from agencies or the public. There is no government agency in North America mandated to track species populations and trends. Game and Fish agencies and their Canadian/Mexican equivalents may track game species and may occasionally fund non-game species monitoring, USFWS monitors some waterfowl and

some listed/rare species, and most land management agencies conduct species monitoring only when required by law (for instance, Endangered Species Act) and often presume that availability of habitat ensure adequate and healthy populations. On the other hand, there are dozens of agencies that track human population parameters, economic trends, roads/bridges and infrastructure, and crops. One would think that monitoring the critters that pollinate our food, dampen insect infestations, and propagate our plants should deserve at least baseline monitoring.

The data, despite the critiques, shows clear declines in overall bird populations in North America. Is it alarming? Should you worry? If worry causes you to wring your hands, lose sleep and paralyzes you from doing anything, don't worry it won't matter. But if worry inspires you to continue doing what you are probably already doing: keep your cats indoors, plant native trees and shrubs, leave snags, down wood and habitat piles, tolerate insects, demand companies and governments to operate in synch with biological balance, vote green, and support organizations that make a difference, such as Flathead Audubon, then worry—worry a lot!

by Carole Jorgensen, Conservation Committee

Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink

National Audubon Society 2019 Climate Report

In 2014, National Audubon Society published a report documenting the effects of climate change on birds. This 2019 report revisits the same subject. It utilizes peer-reviewed data to look at the vulnerability of birds across North America to climate change based on a new, updated scientific analysis.

One of the key findings of the report was that 64% of species (389 of 604) across breeding and non-breeding seasons were moderately or highly vulnerable to climate change. However, climate change vulnerability was not evenly distributed across habitats. For instance, boreal forest birds (98%) and western forest birds (86%) were more vulnerable to climate change compared to aridland and marshlands (45% and 41%, respectively).

Another key finding was that climate change mitigation will reduce vulnerability for 76% of birds.

Part 1 of the report outlines the key findings of

this new climate change vulnerability assessment for North American birds. In Part 2, Audubon takes a closer look at how the threats associated with climate change will affect birds. This section explores in depth which species and places are most at risk to climate-driven changes in their environment, including sea level rise, urban and cropland conversion, and extreme weather. Finally, Part 3 outlines Audubon's strategy for addressing the causes and consequences of climate change by translating scientific knowledge into action to protect birds and people from the threat of climate change.

Although the report is lengthy to cover all the species, habitats, and applicable science it is still fairly easy to read and get the key findings. The full report is available online at National Audubon (<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>)

by Lewis Young, Conservation Committee

Natural Events To See This Month:

Watch for Common Ravens flying upside down—just for fun!



Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

Invasive plant species have been described as a slow-motion nuclear bomb going off. While this sounds like hyperbole, we have to remember that the this "bomb" can affect entire bioregions, and invasives can reduce tree cover, cause increased erosion and reduce water quality, increase fire risk, have noxious effects on humans and other animals, and even chemically inhibit the growth of native plants. But the greatest effects of invasives are broad and systemic.

Biodiversity is the gold standard, the *byword*, of healthy systems. A broad array of native plants, with a long established set of relationships with other plants, leads to a broad array of native insects and their larvae – all *very* specific to an individual plant species or two. Because of the timing of native insect reproduction, tuned to the timing of plant flowering and growth, *birds* have evolved migration and nesting timings over the past 150 million years, tuned to the native plants and insects. (When the timing chain on a car slips just one cog, the entire car quits running.) Birds, bugs, and other wildlife have no such relationships with exotic species from "across the ponds". The depressing recent news about losing one quarter (300 billion) of our North American birds in the last 50 years, plus the new 'birds and climate change' projections for Montana by National Audubon, puts habitat restoration at an absolute premium.

That's why, in order to keep our (Owen Sowerwine) "natural area" natural, we have been monitoring and attempting to control the spread of herbaceous invasives in the understory (houndstongue, Canada thistle, Oxeye daisy) small shrubs (Daphne mezereum, barberry) and large shrubs that grow into trees and form a low canopy (highbush cranberry). Our intrepid volunteer botanist, Pat Jaquith, also found a small area with poison ivy, which we have hopefully eradicated.

Two years ago, we cut down a lot of large cranberry shrubs forming a low canopy over the seasonally flooded old river channels. The really good news is that native red-osier dogwood and cottonwood seedlings have jumped at the chance to replace the invasive shrubs in the main trail area. Maybe coinci-

dentally, I have also noticed many more Red-eyed vireos and White-breasted nuthatches this summer.

But, on August 25th, the scope of our invasives issues changed dramatically. If you have been either off-trail, or just walking in the shaded area near Greenridge entrance, you have noticed a lot of shrubs grown up into trees, forming a dense canopy. Either through poor observation or wishful thinking on my part (or both), I tentatively identified the shrub-trees as false buckthorn, native to the wet Northwest. Pat J. encouraged me to take a second look (at 40-power with hand lens), and it turns out that this canopy, covering much of the OSNA Mainland Area, is composed mostly of either native chokecherry "trees", or common buckthorn, an exotic scourge in the eastern half of the U.S., very difficult to eradicate. In some places, it has completely taken over, and it has been there, based on the size of the trunks, for many, many years. So, our Natural Area is less natural than we thought ...

After some obligatory depression of a few hours, I starting scheming about how this news can fit into our future student education plans. As OSNA Important Bird Area caretakers, we really don't have much choice but to deal with the invasive problem. Leaving it alone, especially in a habitat as rare and sensitive as river bottom, is the worst of all choices.

First things first, we have to complete our lease/license arrangements with DNRC as OSNA managers. From there, we intend to get our Education and OSNA Committee members together, along with interested and affected landowners adjacent to OSNA, and restoration experts from FWP and other state agencies, and come up with a long range plan. This plan will likely combine our student botany and bird diversity research with extensive removal and restoration efforts. Hopefully, we will be turning buckthorn lemons into restoration lemonade – and increasing the naturalness and bird diversity in the process. And, true to our mission, kids will be monitoring and studying that process.

We will need help! We are a volunteer organization, and the numbers of helpers we have now will be dwarfed by the scope of this problem. Remember, your own efforts will not be for Flathead Audubon. It will be for the birds, the kids, and the land. Contact us!

Don't Forget to Use Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile donates to your selected charity for every purchase. Here's the URL for the Amazon Smile sign-in page: <https://smile.amazon.com>. You use the same email and password as regular Amazon. Once you sign in, click the 3 horizontal lines in the

upper left and scroll all the way to the bottom where it says "Your Amazon Smile." That is where you choose the charity you want to have Amazon donate to. If you bookmark the sign-in page, you can always go right to Smile.

FALL/WINTER 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. Please read our field trip guidelines at 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 471-3314, 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. Check the FAS webpage (<https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/activities-and-field-trips/>) for updated information on field trips.



No November trips currently scheduled.

Tune into our FAS Website for possible Fall Field trip info. Watch the FAS website and our monthly email for upcoming "short-notice" field trips when the weather looks promising.

Flathead Valley Bird Report

by Joshua Covill

Rare and Notables - October 2019

- 10/4 - **Harris's Sparrow** along Riverside Road in Creston (Craig H.)
- 10/4 - **Boreal Chickadee** in flock of other chickadees near Upper Whitefish Lake (Joshua C.)
- 10/8 - **2 Surf Scoters** on Lake McDonald in Glacier NP - seen from road and from Apgar (Matthew S.)
- 10/8 - **2 Mew Gulls** roosting on the docks of the Lakeside Marina with other gulls (Matthew S.)
- 10/5-10/8 - small flocks of **Lapland Longspurs** in Lower Valley & West Valley (Joshua C. & Matthew S.)
- 10/13 - **Pacific Loon** seen from Wayfarers State Park (Rob W.)
- 10/15 - **Swamp Sparrow** in West Valley, along the close edge of the pond on Clark Drive (Joshua C.)

What to Expect - November 2019

November is the peak time to look for Scoters in the bays of larger lakes, like Foy's, Flathead, Lake

Mary Ronan, and Lake McDonald (Surf Scoter is the most likely). Pacific Loons become a possibility on Flathead Lake. Bring a spotting scope!

The Lower Valley and West Valley areas are good places to drive around and look for late migrants and winter arrivals (Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Northern Shrike, Prairie and Gyrfalcon). The West Valley ponds area can be exceptionally good leading a cold front or blizzard from the north, with flocks of Snow Buntings lining the road! Check brushy fields, hedgerows, and active bird feeders for White-throated and Harris's Sparrows. Lakeside, Somers Bay, and the North Shore are gull magnets; check for the cute Mew Gull or large white Glaucous Gull and darker Lesser Black-backed Gull. Winter Finches descend into the valleys and Bohemian Waxwings arrive in force. Anna's Hummingbirds regularly wander into western Montana in the fall. Maintaining a hummingbird feeder through November may reward you with a West Coast surprise!

Another New Species Spotted at OSNA

As birds migrate through our area, places like Owen Sowerwine provide important stopover habitat. Fall migration combined with excellent habitat brings some wonderful surprises. One such surprise showed up recently at OSNA -- a small flock of White-throated Sparrows! This adds to the other seven sparrows that

have been spotted there this year, and brings the number of species on the OSNA Bird List to 154. The latest version of this list is on the FAS website: at the "Conservation" tab, choose "Owen Sowerwine Natural Area", and look under "About OSNA".

Montana Native Plant Society, Flathead Chapter Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 7:00 PM

Montana Native Plant Society- Flathead Chapter meeting, featuring a program by Teagan Hayes as she explores **Arctic Wild Life: Flora and Fauna of Iceland and Greenland**. Hayes will talk about plants and animals adapted to survive harsh arctic realities, as well some of the fascinating human

history of these sparsely populated lands. She is a former botanist with the MPG Ranch, and is now in her final year of grad school in the Wildlife Program at UM. We will meet at the United Way Main Conference Room at old Gateway Mall, 1203 Highway 2 West, Kalispell. Use West entrance near United Way Conference room sign.

From the Board

GOOD NEWS FOR SAGE GROUSE

By Joe Batts, Treasurer

A federal district (Idaho) judge blocked the Trump administration plans for expanding drilling, mining, and livestock grazing in seven western states: Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, California and Oregon. Montana Audubon is party to a similar

lawsuit joined by Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Nevada and headed up by National Audubon. This preliminary injunction stated that the administration provided no analysis or justification for reducing the protections for the Sage Grouse. More to come.

*Natural Events To See This Month:**Ruffed Grouse wait until almost full darkness to fly into tree roosts.***Kingfisher continued from page 1**

That's why I pulled out a mask and three layers of camouflage material. Wrapping the stuff around me and my pack, I did my best to look like a lichen-covered rock.

I had some hope she'd return, but after forty five minutes of waiting, was beginning to have my doubts. Then I heard her chattering, somewhere along the canal behind me. I was about to pull my body up into the best position when I saw her flying a big loop, heading for my perches. I froze and she came in, just as I was hoping she would. Trouble was, I was *not* in the best posture. I had nearly laid down on the hillside and needed to pull my torso back up to shooting height, not to mention lift the camera out of my lap and bring it up to my face. I knew if she detected any movement on my part she'd be gone in a flash, so I did my best impression of a rock. I hoped she would see and dive for a fish, and that would give me just enough time to get into shooting position.

She dove and I stayed frozen. The big splash when her body smacked the water was something to behold. Kingfishers are not shy about going after their prey. They go in head-first with all the speed they can muster. Apparently, they are expert at gauging water depth and the peril of rocks on the floor of the streams

and ponds they fish.

Several years ago, I watched a Peregrine Falcon that was trying to nail a kingfisher over the waters of Mission Reservoir. Every time the peregrine would close, the kingfisher dove into the water, throwing the falcon off. But each time the peregrine gained on the kingfisher, and I held my breath uneasily, watching this drama from the shore. The last time the kingfisher emerged, it made a brilliant strategic move, and flew directly at *me!* My jaw dropped. The falcon, totally focused on the kingfisher, flew after it until suddenly it realized it was flying at a human being, at which point it totally lost its focus and flew away. The kingfisher flew past me and straight into the forest. *Brilliant!*

No raptors after today's kingfisher though, not that I witnessed, at least.

Though I stayed frozen the first time the bird dove into the water, I took advantage of the second opportunity. Even so, she saw a little movement as I was trying to get the camera focused on her, and was clearly aware of *something* a little unusual. Nevertheless, I was able to blaze away to the tune of 65 shots. Eventually, her wary nature took hold and off she flew! May she ever be wary! And may her fishing days be long and many.

Viewing area continued from page 3

Starting in March, tens of thousands of waterfowl – mallards, pintails, wigeon, shovels, snow geese, trumpeter and tundra swans, and others, rest and feed in the flooded fields during snowmelt. Later in the season, shorebirds begin foraging on exposed mud flats as fields gradually dry – avocet, stilt, dunlin, dowitcher, yellowlegs, and more. It is quite a sight!

Now the public has a place to view this spectacle. Thanks to funding from Montana's nongame tax checkoff program and FWP's Wildlife Mitigation Trust, a bird viewing area is nearing completion. FWP's Chris Hammond coordinated the effort and partnered with Flathead Valley Community College's Chris Moore and the Heavy Equipment Operator's program to install an ADA accessible bird viewing platform.

Constructed over the summer, finishing touches – railings, screening, and plantings will be completed this fall. All will be ready when you have finally had your fill of pumpkin spiced lattes, holiday carols, Old Man Winter and are simply ready for geese to herald spring's imminent return.

The North Shore WMA is located along Highway 82 between Somers and Bigfork. Two parking areas access the property; one adjacent to the big, red McLarty Barn at the highway's S-bend (the barn is open year-round to public access), and to the west at a parking area adjacent to an old pole barn. It is by this pole barn where you will find the North Shore WMA Bird (*wildlife*) Viewing Area.

*By Franz Ingelfinger, Restoration Ecologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 1*

OSNA Work Day 2019

The OSNA Work Day was originally scheduled for 28 September but the National Weather Service advised people to stay out of the woods that day because of high winds. On the rescheduled date of 5 October, 10 FAS members showed up. We spent the

morning pulling Ox-Eye Daisy from a fairly large patch. This resulted in about a dozen bags of noxious weeds removed from the natural area. This makes a very small dent in the weed control so be sure to look forward to future OSNA work days. *by Bob Lee*

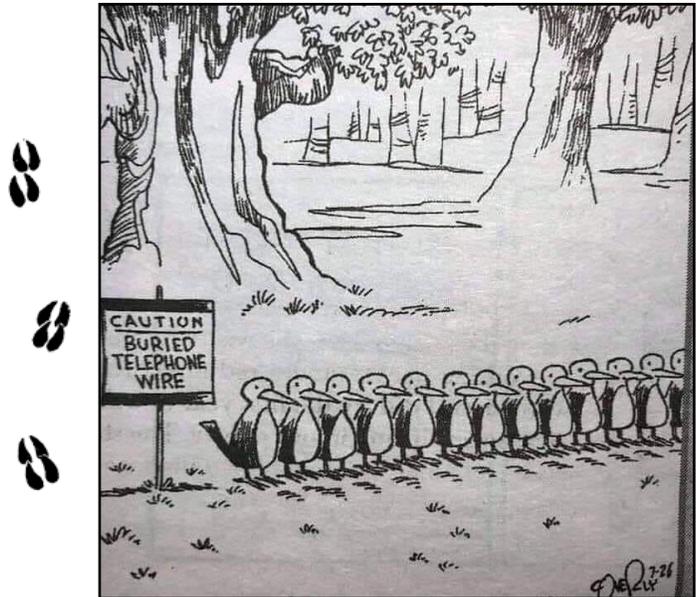
Volunteer Opportunities!

Video camera operator: No experience needed, although appreciated. Our Conservation Educator needs someone to run the camera for the creation of a new education tool. He will train how to use the camera. 10-15 total hours of work that could be stretched across several days depending on your availability. Contact Denny Olson: docwild.mt@gmail.com.

Facebook Co-Administrator: Are you regularly on Facebook? We need someone to work with our communications staff to keep our Facebook page updated and fresh. Contact Jake Bramante: jake@hike734.com.

Audubon Members Support Local Audubon Activities

Fall months always mean campaigns. Nope, not political campaigns, but annual community support campaigns. Some campaigns include nonprofit organizations all around Montana and some include strictly Flathead nonprofits. You look over the list and choose which organizations you want to receive your donation dollars. Flathead Audubon is listed with the Flathead United Way campaign and the Montana State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign (SECGC). Please direct your donation to Flathead Audubon Society, to help our local birds and nature education programs. It's a good investment! *by Kay Mitchell*



Plastic Symposium

The State of Flathead's Plastic, What's Working? What's Missing? What's Next?, Saturday, November 2, 10 AM to 4 PM, FVCC Arts & Technology Building. A symposium on how and what we are doing to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in the Flathead. In-

cludes morning plenary sessions, afternoon workshops, poster sessions, and a group brainstorming session. For symposium schedule, a list of speakers and workshop leaders, and other information, see www.climatesmartglaciercountry.org.



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.





Thank You!

...to those below who have made donations to Flathead Audubon through September, 2019

Snowy Owl

Rosemary McKinnon



Merlin

Margaret R. Parodi

Mr. Terrell L. Abell



merlin/falcon foundation

Supporting Member + Donation

Eileen Carney

Dennis & Terry Divoky

Tony & Buffi Lloyd

Anne Lent & Charles McCarty

Randy Schwickert & Donna Taylor

D. Brent Mitchell

Gael Bissell

Lewis & Lynda Young



granderie.ca

My Own Vision

Christine Dye

Ms. Elaine Snyder

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 _____

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Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173

Kalispell, MT 59904

Olympic Peninsula April 17-19, 2020
BirdFest
 Come bird with us!

- San Juan Island Cruise
- Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- Guided Birding Trips
- Bird Art Classes
- Photography Workshop
- NAS Photography Exhibit
- Auction & Raffle
- Gala Banquet with Speaker:
Scott Pearson

Located in Sequim, WA
 For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
 or 360-681-4076

GET THE PILEATED POST BY EMAIL!

Be sure to check flatheadaudubon.org for

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



Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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

November 2019



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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

OFFICERS

Table listing officers: President (Gael Bissell), Vice-President (Cory Davis), Past President (Kay Mitchell), Secretary (Pam Willison), Treasurer (Joe Batts) with contact info.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Table listing committee chairs for Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Finance, Hospitality, Membership, and Nominations.

DIRECTORS

Table listing directors from 2017-2020 to 2019-2020 with names and contact info.

MONTANA AUDUBON

P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 443-3949 www.MTAudubon.org
Executive Director: Larry Berrin lberrin@mtaudubon.org
Board Member representing FAS, Bob Lee rml3@centurytel.net 270-0371
Bob Lopp, alternate boblopp@bresnan.net 250-7753

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Individual or Family

- Basic Membership \$25
Supporting Membership \$40
Additional Donation of \$
To: Education Fund, Owen Sowerwine Fund, Wherever needed

Total \$

- Renewal, New member

You may renew or join online on our website:

http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/

If you wish to receive a paper copy by USPS, check this box.

Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone, Email fields.

Your email address is safe with us.

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