



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 16

Number 1

January, 1991

President's Corner

Miscellaneous Things & Random Thoughts.

Dan and Suzannah Casey organized another great Christmas Bird Count. The birdwatching teams totalled 89 different species (this may be the highest number of species counted in the state) and the 500+ turkeys that were tallied will probably be the highest number found in a Christmas Bird Count in all of North America. The potluck following the bird count was judged the best in the northern hemisphere! Thanks to the Caseys and all the willing and enthusiastic "counters".

We've received three post cards in the "idea campaign" so far; the Yaak River, Whitefish and Kalispell are represented. Thanks for the ideas. We appreciate the time and thought you have contributed to Flathead Audubon. Some thoughts include: Keep fighting to protect the grizzly; have some meetings in Whitefish or Kalispell; animal welfare - yes, but animal "rights" is leaving common sense behind; keep up the raffles; no "taxes" on seeds; politically, stay with birds and their habitat; don't stop hunting except in the case of rare species. A great start! Remember, for a 15¢ postal, you can tell us how to guide Flathead Audubon.

Speaking of guiding Audubon, if you come to a board meeting (5 pm at Bigfork Inn), you can take part and see how the chapter's affairs are handled. Help guide Audubon -- volunteer just once this year.

Did you ever notice that Murphy's Law often applies to bird photography and law enforcement? Did you ever say to yourself, "Where's a cop when you need one?" or "Why didn't I bring my camera -- I could have taken a prize winning photo!"

Dick Fretheim and I were saying those very words at 4 pm on the bird count. We got a closeup view of two rare "turkeys" on a motorcycle and they were 1½ miles beyond a closed gate. No camera in hand! No cop in our pack. Double Darn! But with a fair memory and a few good notes about their pickup, we hope to surprise the "turkeys" someday soon. The information was given to an enforcement officer. The purpose of road closures is habitat protection; disregard for these closures has earned these "turkeys" a place on a different kind of list.

Here's hoping the holidays have been good to you.
Brent Mitchell

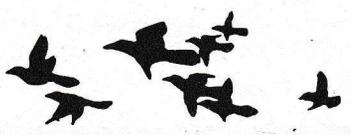
Mark Your Calendar	JANUARY						
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	27	28	29	30	31		

1/14/91 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER MEETING, 5 pm at the Bigfork Inn in Bigfork. Everyone welcome to attend.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: United Methodist Church, Commerce & Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Open to all. Program: 8 pm.

Program: Dr. I. J. (Joe) Ball will give a presentation on "The Ninepipe Project: Restoring a Balance Between Ground-Nesting Birds and Their Predators."

Dr. Ball is Assistant Leader, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, at the University of Montana.





Thru The Editor's Spotting Scope

Have you ever been on a Christmas Bird Count? In our part of Audubon country there are three count circles: Bigfork, Ninepipe and Polebridge. A count circle has a 15-mile diameter or 7½-mile radius, whichever you prefer, and teams are assigned to count the birds in that area. In addition, birds can be counted at feeders within the circle.

A Christmas Bird Count is a true birding experience. This was my second one and I was paired with Dave Trochlell of Dixon. It was agreed that I would drive, keep my eyes and ears open and do the paper work; he would find, identify and count. It seemed like a fair distribution of the work to be done in line with our talents and capabilities. We both had lunches in knapsacks, binoculars, scopes and bird books, as well as enthusiasm and anticipation.

We had been assigned a specific area to cover and were reminded to tally only those birds within our area. (Knowing that, it stood to reason that we would see many interesting birds in the adjoining area.) After crossing the Flathead River and going into a parking lot, we spotted our first countable bird, a raptor in a tree about a mile away. I did my part: I parked the pickup, saw the raptor and put my pencil to the ready; the rest was up to Dave. He put his scope on it, but couldn't be certain whether it was a red-tailed or rough-legged hawk, so I tallied "1 Buteo species". Then we heard a chickadee and I hear Dave carry on a conversation with it, as he tried to "pishshsh" it in. He got several to respond and they were duly counted.

And so we were off on a beautiful, sunshiny day that was crisp and full of promise. We were told there were two places where we would have to walk: one, along the Swan River and the other across a refuge field to the northern edge of the Flathead Lake.

Crossing the field to the lake, we flushed up two ring-necked pheasants right in front of us. Then we flushed something else: a duck hunter. Our goals were different. We were there to count them and he was there to shoot them. Although we were there for different reasons, they had to be recognized and respected.

Dave went into action here as he counted gulls, geese and ducks. We moved right along and our list of species added up as we covered the assigned territory. We saw hooded mergansers outside our territory and couldn't count them, but could sure enjoy them. We looked for owls and turkeys, but no luck ... they just weren't showing themselves in our area. Dave hoped for chestnut-backed and mountain chickadees, but they also seemed to elude us.

We headed for the Swan River and waved to Patti and Neil Brown as they concluded their count from a canoe. We went downriver, hoping for dippers and still looking for mountain and chestnut-backed chickadees. Leaving the pickup, we took a trail along the river, walking and listening. Dave with his "Pish, Pish" and the birds responding, but not showing. And then we heard a different sound and Dave was alert immediately. "Dippers," he said quietly and pointed through the brush to the rocks in the river. A life bird for me and how they performed! I was entranced, watching them dive from a rock, disappear in the water and reappear downriver, only to repeat the maneuver again. This was the main event as far as I was concerned.

As the sun was starting to fade, we went into the hills, driving slowly, stopping, watching, listening. We finally tallied the mountain and chestnut-backed chickadees, and Dave felt better about our count results. At day's end, when we headed in, we had counted 29 species, seen three deer and one squirrel and encountered three hunters and one hunting dog. It had been a great day.

There are well over 500 on the mailing list for the newsletter and out of that number some 40 or so took part in the Christmas Bird Count. You can tell from this account that you don't have to be an expert to take part. You can be affective, regardless of your birding skills. If more would be willing to participate, we might be able to establish other count circles within our Flathead Audubon area. Think about it! That would be exciting and it could add a memorable field trip to your own birding experience.

Sharon Bergman



Member Of The Month

** Leo Keane **

"When I was 12 years old, I got a pair of binoculars for my birthday and went outside to try them. The first thing I saw was a rose-breasted grosbeak, but I didn't know what it was at the time. Since it wasn't a robin or sparrow, I had to look it up, and that's when I got hooked on birding."

Leo Keane was talking about his boyhood in Mankato, Minnesota and his early interest in birds. Later, his enjoyment of nature and the outdoors brought him to Montana, where he attended the University of Montana at Missoula, taking a liberal arts course. That was 20 years ago.

"My interest in conservation came about through hunting. Getting out in the woods and mountains, I could see a definite relationship between wildlife and its habitat and became concerned as there was a growing awareness of the environment."

Leo began attending Audubon meetings after moving to Whitefish. A building contractor, he was persuaded to attend by his girlfriend, Gail Leonard; and three years ago he persuaded her to become his wife. "Buffalo Buck", a Mexican Jumping Dog (Leo's own description) is also a part of the family.

In November, 1985, the president of Flathead Audubon, Lynn Kelly, asked for a volunteer to be the editor of THE PILEATED POST, and Leo said, "If no one else wants it, I'll do it." The December, '85 issue was his first, and he continued at the helm for the next 4½ years, putting his own deft touch to the publication.

The current vice president of Flathead Audubon, Leo commented that he has always felt comfortable with the group. "It doesn't matter about anyone's political views. Everyone likes birds and that's what really matters."

Leo Keane -- Member of the Month. A friend of the members and a voice for Audubon.



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Join today and receive:
A YEAR—6 BIMONTHLY ISSUES—of the stunning photography and absorbing articles in AUDUBON magazine.
MEMBERSHIP in one of the 500 local Audubon chapters nationwide (if there is one in your area) with access to field-trips and other activities.
FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION to Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.
INVITATIONS to Audubon's ecology camps and workshops.
ELIGIBILITY for wide-ranging Audubon tours.
DISCOUNTS on nature books, collectibles, and gifts. And with your membership you're supporting the National Audubon Society's vital efforts at protecting wildlife and environment.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Payment enclosed Bill Me

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

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!

Birding Hotline



Elly Jones reports that members can call 752-2935 to receive or give information on unusual bird sightings.

John Huffland of the Five Valleys Audubon Society provides the service. John contacts Elly and other birders once a month for news and then relays the information on to those who call him. Jot down the number .. it might be useful to you.

Board Supports Lolo & Kootenai Accords

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors of the Flathead Audubon Society, the board voted unanimously in favor of supporting the Lolo and Kootenai Accords.

The accords are agreements drafted by those who live and work in Lincoln and Sanders Counties and in Western Montana, in an effort to resolve the long-standing debates over the wilderness and timber supply on the Kootenai National Forest and Lolo National Forest.



The Learning Experience

The community education program of the Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell is offering two courses that could be of interest to Audubon members. One concerns the environment and the other features Glacier National Park. The description of the courses is to the right. For enrollment information, call 756-3832 or 756-3837.

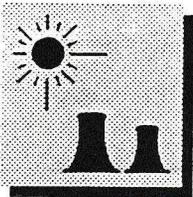
RACE TO SAVE THE PLANET (10 weeks)

SCI 1001-01 Th 7:00-9:30PM 01/10-03/14 SAT 150 Blood \$41
Race to Save the Planet is a course based upon the PBS special of the same name. It provides an up-to-date look at the global environmental challenges facing humanity and the upsurge in environmental awareness that is sweeping societies around the world. Participants will view the series and participate in class discussions examining major environmental issues. * Included in the cost listed is a \$5 lab fee for video taping. Optional two upper division or graduate U of M credits available. There is an additional \$40 fee for U of M credits, payable the first night of class. (Senior Fee - \$24)

THE MANAGEMENT OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK: An Unabridged Edition (6 weeks)

SCI 1000-01 W 7:00-9:30PM 02/13-03/20 BSS 114 Lusk \$12
Glacier National Park is home to grizzlies, eagles, wolves and 2,000,000 visitors each year. Representing well over \$120,000,000 to the local economy, the park is managed with a dual mandate to preserve and use—both at the same time. How this is done, as well as current management strategies, and a thorough review of the park's internal workings will be our subject matter. Be a friend or be a critic, but at least be knowledgeable of how Glacier works. Here's your chance. There will be an optional summer field trip to Glacier National Park for \$40 (paid at summer field trip). (Senior fee - \$7)

Earth Day Awareness



Did you know that gases emitted from burning wood, gasoline, oil and coal are trapping more and more heat around the earth? This may create a temperature rise of 4 to 9 degrees F. in the next seven decades causing serious changes in our climate. If you burn less wood, gasoline, oil or coal there will be less smog and other gases emitted into the atmosphere and global warming will be slowed. Less oil extraction from the earth also means less disruption of wildlife for drilling and less chance for disastrous oil spills. Less electricity use means fewer strip mines, less nuclear waste and more free-running rivers.

Simple things you can do to make a difference:

- *Use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk.
- *Drive a fuel efficient car.
- *Keep your car well tuned.
- *Insulate, caulk and weatherstrip your home.
- *Install a timer on your thermostat.
- *In-late floors with carpeting.
- *Install double-paned windows.
- *Wear a sweater rather than turn up the heat.
- *Install a solar water heater.
- *Insulate your water heater and storage tank.
- *Keep your water heater at 120 degrees.
- *Use energy efficient appliances.
- *Use fluorescent in place of incandescent light bulbs.
- *Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- *Plant trees to shade your house in summer.
- *Hang your clothes to dry.

The Banded Dead

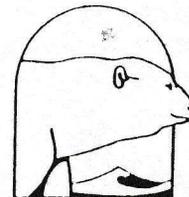
Occasionally it happens: a dead bird is found in the field or near a feeder. If you find a dead bird with a band, remove the band and send it to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bird Banding Lab, Laurel, MD 20707. Include a description of the type of bird, where it was found and the date.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Congress defeated efforts by President Bush and the oil industry to open the 1.5 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas development. However, Congress also blocked passage of legislation to permanently protect the Arctic Refuge.

Senators William Roth (R-DE) and Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ), introduced legislation to permanently protect the Arctic Refuge. Sen Johnston, along with Reps Don Young (R-AK) and Walter Jones (D-NC), introduced bills that would open the arctic for drilling.

Legislation to open the arctic Refuge to oil and gas development did pass the Senate Energy Committee. But, in the waning days of the session, Congress defeated repeated attempts by Senator Murkowski to attach pro-development legislation to other bills.



Arctic Refuge



OVERHAUL OF 1872 MINING LAW

Chapters from Arizona to Montana are mobilizing their forces to call attention to the host of mining abuses that are resurfacing through out the West. The impetus for this action has primarily been due to the recent flurry of mining activity in the precious metal arena, especially gold.

Of particular concern is the technique of cyanide heap leach extraction which has made it financially attractive to mine for gold in quantities of less than one ounce per ton of ore.

Several problems occur with perhaps the most devastating being the "escape" of cyanide into the groundwater or down stream tributaries. Birds and mammals also are meeting their demise in the ponds which make up the mining operation.

A second major problem is that too many mines are being located near communities (e.g. Prescott, Arizona) or areas of critical concern environmentally leaving a lasting legacy.

Most Western states have only modest, or worse yet inadequate, state reclamation stands and two states (Arizona and New Mexico) have no state reclamation standards at all.

The anachronistic 1872 Mining Law makes this legal for hardrock minerals leaving the public with minimal recourse. Likewise the land managing agencies have their hands tied for the most part.

Congress has begun to stir on this issue and it is important that we let them know that the Mining Law urgently needs reforming.

Chapters like the Prescott Audubon Society who recently co-sponsored an important mining reform conference and the Golden Eagle Audubon Society (Boise, ID) are making their voices heard. Also the July 1989 issue of Audubon featured a major story on this topic as it is playing out in Montana. High Country News has had several excellent articles including the story that has unfolded in Nevada.

We need to let our legislators know that mining must be regulated more carefully so that other resource values are not lost.

AUDUBON 1991 CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS

Join one of Audubon's 1991 workshops and do some on-site learning! Workshops last from 6 days to 2 weeks and take place in the United States and in foreign countries. For a full-color brochure, write: Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, Conn. 06831.

From Montana Audubon Council

National Wildlife Refuge Management.

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working on a new management plan for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The systemwide plan, called Refuges 2003, will guide the direction of our wildlife refuges into the next century.

You can directly influence the future direction of wildlife refuges by getting involved in the Refuges 2003 process. To be placed on the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's mailing list, write: Refuges 2003 Planning Team, U. S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Mailstop: 670 Arisq, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20240.

A Vision for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee will be holding public meetings on their "Vision" for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Snowmobile, ORV and mining interests are heavily involved in trying to shape the vision. Hence it is very important to get individuals interested in conservation of the Yellowstone area involved. One meeting was held in December and another is scheduled for January 24 at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. The meeting is planned with an open house from 3 to 5 pm and then a workshop/public comment period from 7 - 9 pm.

If you can't attend, but are interested in commenting on the "Vision for the Future: A Framework for Coordination in the Greater Yellowstone Area", contact the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, P. O. Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103. Comments are due by January 31.

Montana Audubon Lobbying Day.

February 15, 16 will be Montana Audubon Lobbying Day at the Legislature in Helena. Audubon members from around the state are invited to attend this workshop, with a chance to learn about the issues Audubon is working on and lobby your legislators.

Friday, 2/15. Meet at Sanders Bed & Breakfast, 328 N. Ewing, for an Audubon social between 7:30 and 9 pm.

Saturday, 2/16. Meet at the Audubon office, 324 Fuller Ave. at 8:30 am. Issues will be discussed before going to the capitol to see the action.

For more information, contact the office (443-3949).

Janet H. Ellis



1990 Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

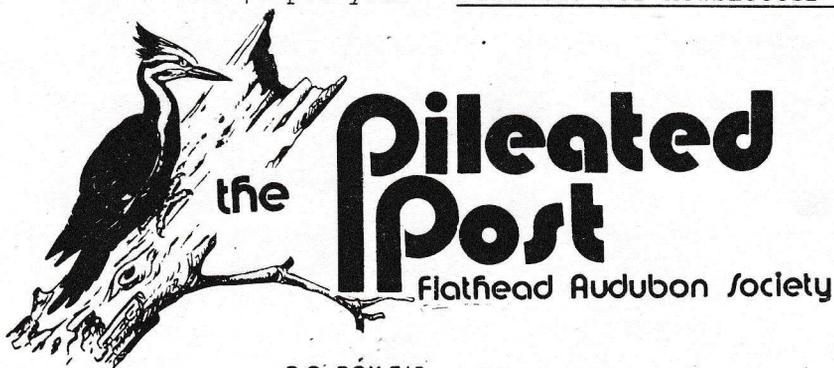
Ferne Cohen, P. O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Dick Fretheim, 904 Woodland Ave, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-5768
Lynn Kelly, 905B 5th Ave. E, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Bob Shennum,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

CHAIRS

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

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

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



P.O. BOX 715
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