



# Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 16

Number 8

November, 1991

## Mark Your Calendar

### NOVEMBER

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

\*11/11/91 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, 5 pm, at The Bigfork Inn in Bigfork. Open to all

Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church,

Commerce and Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Program: 8 pm. Everyone welcome.

**Program:** The speaker will be Bill West, Assistant Manager of the National Bison Range, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. His topic will be Issues on Lands Managed by the National Bison Range. Such issues will include incompatible uses of the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge, nesting gulls at Ninepipe Reservoir and purple loosestrife problems at Ninepipe.

\*11/18/91 - Special meeting of the Board of Directors at Jean Robocker's home, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell. Potluck - 6 pm. Meeting - 7 pm.

## Plants That Clear The Air

Much has been written about NASA's discovery that houseplants can purify indoor air. According to GARBAGE magazine, NASA found that certain plants can lower concentrations of the three most common indoor pollutants: trichloroethylene, formaldehyde and benzene. What are these common plants: aloe plant, spider plant, pot mum and English ivy.

## Help Wanted and Badly Needed

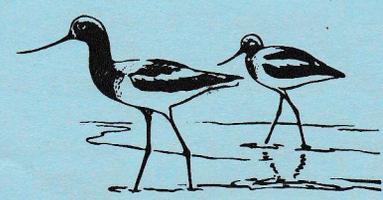
Our financial wizard, Tommie Clark, is going south for the winter months and has asked to be relieved of her duties as treasurer.

You are invited to apply for the treasurer's position. If you would like to be considered for this very responsible position, send a letter of application to Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Road, Kalispell, Montana 59901, by December 1. The letter should indicate your qualifications for the job.

The board of directors will make its selection based on the following:

- 1) Current Audubon membership.
- 2) A good head for numbers.
- 3) Someone who can guarantee regular attendance at meetings.
- 4) Someone who has enough time to keep the books up-to-date throughout the month.
- 5) Willingness to give a short treasurer's report at meetings.
- 6) Ability to be bonded.
- 7) Familiarity with basic accounting principles.
- 8) Walk on water ... as needed.

Salary: Five (5) figures ... all zeroes. However, the treasurer will be paid many times over with gratitude and appreciation by the president and members of the board.





## The Editor's Spotting Scope

"Dear Shirley Temple ... " Those words were written by me decades ago. I had spent all afternoon in the movie house, watching Shirley's golden curls and tapping feet, alternately sobbing and rejoicing at her various plights and misunderstandings. My mother finally drug me out of the darkened auditorium and back to the regular world. But I hadn't had enough, so I wrote her a letter and enclosed a prized possession to go along with my adoration: a penny from my pig-bank.

For me, that was the first of many letters written because I felt strongly about someone or something. The last and most recent was a letter to John Welch, Board Chairman of General Electric, thanking GE for sponsoring the Audubon TV specials.

Do you like to write letters? Many people have a great aversion to letter-writing. It goes right up there on the list of don't-like-to's with giving a presentation in front of more than two people or taking cod liver oil from a spoon. (I'd rather write a letter or give a speech!)

Letter-writing is an effective means of reaching prominent and/or influential people and making a difference. The conservation movement is a good example of ordinary people being heard ... eventually. (Sometimes it takes more than just one or two letters. First, you have to get their attention.)

You don't have to be eloquent to write an affective letter, and you don't have to be an expert. When you feel strongly about an issue, take a few minutes, jot down a brief note and express how you feel. (Keep it clean and be courteous, however.)

Always sign your name. If you feel strongly enough to write, you should have the courage of your convictions and be recognized for them. Besides, a signed letter carries more weight than an anonymous one and chances are you'll receive an answer.

Drop the letter in the mail and then pause a minute. You'll probably find that you feel pretty good about yourself and writing that letter wasn't so bad after all.

"Dear Senator Baucus: There's something on my mind and ...." **Sharon Bergman**

## ELLY JONES REPORTS

The following are birds banded on the Swan Oxbow Preserve, 1991. (A \* indicates those that were also banded mid-August through September.)

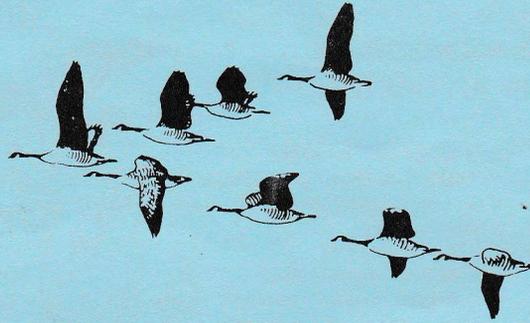
*Northern Flicker	Downy Woodpecker
Black-capped Chickadee	Swainson's Thrush
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Red-eyed Vireo
*Ruby-crowned Kinglet	N. Waterthrush
Orange-crowned Warbler	*C. Yellowthroat
*Yellow-rumped Warbler	A. Redstart
*MacGillivray's Warbler	W. Tanager
Dark-eyed Junco	*Pine Siskin
*Lincoln's Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow
Mt white-crowned sparrow	

The following are birds banded at Six-Mile Rd, Swan Lake from mid-August through September. (A \* indicates hatchyear birds.)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Brown Creeper
Hammond's Flycatcher	*Red-eyed Vireo
*Western Flycatcher	*Warbling Vireo
*Black-capped Chickadee	*Lazuli Bunting
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Siskin
*Townsend's Solitaire	*Swn's Thrush
*Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Oregon Junco
Orange-crowned Warbler	*W. Tanager
*MacGillivray's Warbler	Wilson Warbler
Mt White-crowned Sparrow	*Fox Sparrow
Townsend's Warbler	*Audubon Warbler
Nashville Warbler	

The Institute of Bird Populations, which runs the MAPS stations across the country, is pleased with our results and very interested in our comparative effort on Six-Mile. Thanks many bundles of birdies to all who helped; their efforts were greatly appreciated. **Elly Jones**





## President's Corner

Perhaps we are all confused.

I had the idea of clearing up some common terms being thrown about these days: preservationist, conservationist and environmentalist. I had it all figured out. How simple.

A preservationist is one who wants to keep things as they are -- sorta status quo ...ad infinitum. Like a park that is established to preserve an historical site or a unique geological formation or special natural wonder. I checked with Webster's and the confusion began.

A "preservationist" would be a person who advocates the preserving (i.e. "protecting, saving, the keeping from harm, damage, danger, evil, etc.") something special. O.K. Preserve also means "to keep up; carry on, maintain" ... and a preserve is also "a place where game, fish, etc. are preserved." Is a wilderness a preserve? Is a refuge a preserve? Well, confusing enough. Let's move on to "conservationist".

This one's easy, right? One who advocates the wise use of our natural resources. That's not exactly the way Webster puts it. "Conservationist: A person who advocates conservation of the natural resources of a country or region." ~~Hummmmm~~. "Conservation: 1. Protecting from loss, waste, etc; preservation. 2. The official care and protection of natural resources, as forests." Oops. Sounds like a conservationist could be a preservationist.

Well, let's move on to the dirtiest word in the northwest: environmentalist. These are the people who have been linked to all the radical fringes. I've never heard the term 'moderate' used with 'environmentalist', so they must all be radicals, right? These are the ones who get credit for obstructing corporate progress, vandalizing everything from road machinery to billboards; needlessly appeal every timber sale and question the destruction of wetlands. These same radicals are for animal rights and against hunting. These are the ones we can blame anyone on, right?

Whoa! It ain't in the dictionary! Not in my Webster's anyway. Let's see. An environmentalist would probably be a person who advocated the preservation (or conservation) of the environment. Webster defines environment as: "All the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms." Oh, then these organisms might want clean air and water, safe food to eat, a secure place to live and work; and perhaps pleasant surroundings in which to raise their young.

Well, well, well, sounds to me a lot like loggers and teachers and dentists and miners and store owners and bureaucrats and laborers and Boy Scouts. But where does a middle-of-the-road, clean-living, common garden variety birdwatcher fit in? Does anybody have a newer dictionary?



Brent Mitchell



# NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment enclosed  Bill Me

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

**NEW MEMBERS ONLY!**

Join today and receive:

A YEAR—6 BI-MONTHLY 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.

## Join the Audubon Activist Network!

Oil spills. Ancient Forests. Endangered Species. Do you want to do something about these issues? You *can*-by joining the Audubon Activist Network. The Network is Audubon's corps of concerned citizens who want to make a difference in the environment. You will join over 20,000 activists who want to make their voices heard through letters and phone calls on local, state, national, and international issues. As part of the Network, you will receive the new *Audubon Activist*, now published on a monthly basis, as well as *Action Alert* bulletins on key votes in Congress. You'll also have access to the Actionline phone number with updates on late-breaking news. To join the Network, simply fill out the form below and send to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.

YES, I'd like to be an Audubon Activist. *For my part, I pledge to take action by writing at least two letters and making at least two phone calls for Audubon each year.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Want To Get Involved?

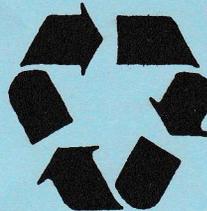
You don't have to be a bird expert or even know a duck from a goose. Since you're a member of Audubon, you have an interest in wildlife and here is an opportunity to be directly involved in a hands-on conservation project.

Linda Vassallo, board member who works with the wetlands and waterfowl projects, needs help. She's looking for people (men or women, boys or girls) who are willing to build bird boxes. She's also looking for people or companies who are willing to donate lumber and other materials for the building of such boxes.

If you don't qualify for either of those, perhaps you'd be willing to set out goose and duck boxes in the field.

If you're interested in any or all of these projects, contact Linda at 683 Somers Rd; Somers, MT 59932; 857-3166.

## Montana Recycling Information



The Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) is operating a hotline for recycling information. Call 1-800-823-MEIC for information about recycling trash in Montana.

The center is currently collecting data to enter into a database regarding recycling centers, organizations and general information about HOW to recycle. This information will be available to the public through the hotline. Flathead Audubon will be contributing information to MEIC. The center has a \$35,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop this recycling resource.

In addition to providing information about recycling different types of household and industrial waste across the state, the center hopes to increase business participation in recycling.

MEIC is a statewide nonprofit organization that lobbies the state legislature and studies environmental issues.

Ferne Cohen



## Member Of The Month

**\*\* Marge Swanson \*\***

What do you remember about your first real interest in birds?

For Marge Swanson, it involved an Arab in Saudi Arabia. Born and schooled in Polson, she did not envision that her life would lead her to the far corners of the world. She attended the School of Nursing in Butte after high school graduation, which was followed by her first professional job in Tacoma, Washington. An interest in anesthesiology sent her back to school at the University of Utah and she became an anesthesiologist. The special training eventually took her to Saudi Arabia, where she worked for several years.

"An Arab had hawks that he used as falcons ... he actually hunted with them," Marge said. "What impressed me so was how well he cared for them. The perches and birds were always so well-kept. But the thing that's bothered me over the years was their actual identity. Back then, I wasn't into birding and hardly knew one from another. When I became interested and more knowledgeable, I tried to reconstruct what I saw and experienced in Saudi Arabia, to determine what kind of hawks they were, but I'm still not sure. Red-tailed hawks? I'm just not sure."

The course of her career led her to the west coast and then the midwest and finally to Libby. "An anesthesiologist is tied to the phone all the time," Marge explained. So while she waited for the phone to ring, her interest in birds developed as she began to study the birds that visited the feeders set out near her home.

Her driving interest in eagles was not aroused until after retirement in 1977. At that time the dam was being built on the Kootenai River and Marge volunteered to do a study of the bald eagles in the area. That first report indicated 14 were found in one day and no nests were located. The numbers have gradually increased and two years ago six nests were found on the river and 15 were counted in the Kootenai National Forest. Marge commented, "A



birding thrill for me was to count 110 bald eagles flying overhead at one time."

Marge continues to monitor nests as well as the spring and fall migration for the Forest Service. In addition, her interest in raptors and birds of prey led her into bird rehabilitation. When someone finds an injured bird, they give it to Marge or to the game warden, who gives it to Marge. She nurses them back to health, for release into the wilds again. For those that are not releaseable, such as an owl with a wing amputation, she makes every effort find a placement. At the present time, a Saw-whet owl is a guest in her home during convalescence.

Marge Swanson, Member of the Month: a friend of birds of prey, injured or not; and a friend to all Nature.



### Sign Up Now for Project FeederWatch

Feeding the birds is fun. It's also a great way to contribute to the understanding of bird populations — if you're a member of Project FeederWatch.

Now is the time to sign up for this continentwide survey of feeder birds. Each winter, from November to March, FeederWatch participants record the kinds and numbers of birds at their backyard feeders on specially designed, easy-to-use forms. Last winter over 7,000 people from all over North America contributed to this unique research program.

The project is a joint effort of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ontario. Ornithologists use FeederWatch data to monitor changes in bird abundance from year to year and to answer many other questions about populations of North American birds.

For more information about Project FeederWatch, call or write: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, (607) 254-2414.



# 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
Sec-Treasurer	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807

## DIRECTORS

### MONTANA BIRD HOTLINE 721-2935

Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Sam Culotta, 979 Eastman Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4298
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Rd, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Malcolm Thompson, 775 Berne Rd, Cols Falls, MT 59912	892-4208

## 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	Patti Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
Hostess	Evelyn Kile, 20 Hoffman Draw, Kila, MT 59920	755-4422
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
	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Refuge Projects	Bob Ballou, Rt 1, Box 11881, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
	Linda Vassallo, 683 Somers Rd, Somers, MT 59932	857-3166
Schools, Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Linda Vassallo, 683 Somers Rd, Somers, MT 59932	857-3166

### MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL

Office - Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 443-3949

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. 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. Both meetings are open to all interested people.

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



# the Pileated Post

Flathead Audubon Society

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