



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

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January, 1992

President's Corner

It's not often that a conservationist is seen patting a forester on the back and saying "good job" to him. Foresters and loggers are taking a lot of knocks these days from, you know, those "radical environmentalists"!

I'd like to say "good job!" to Bud Clinch of the Montana Logging Association. Just recently, Bud received the 1991 Danny On Conservation Award from the Flathead National Forest. He deserved it. And the conservation community, those of us who have had dealings with him or know of his work, need to take the time to say "thanks" too. He's done a good job for his industry and, in the process, has done a world of good for the resources by educating landowners, timber industry people and loggers about Best Management Practices. Additionally, he has gained respect and credibility for himself and the MLA.

Janet Ellis, program director and lobbyist for the Montana Audubon Council, speaks highly of Bud as a negotiator for legislation that resulted in a workable Best Management Practices bill.

Bud uses humor to ease tensions and "break the ice" when talking to groups, such as The Nature Conservancy. From my perspective, he is honest, up-front and realistic. He is willing to work with almost anyone; he has on-the-ground knowledge about his subject and, most of all, he seems to have a vision for the future ... the future of logging, the future of the resource and the effect public opinion is going to have on the future of the logging industry.

Bud is a real good communicator and educator. Thanks, Bud, for helping make Best Management Practices a reality.

Brent Mitchell

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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	31	

* 1/13/92 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, 5 pm, at the Bigfork Inn, 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: Dale Becker, Program Director for the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, will be the principal speaker. His subject will be "**The Wildlife Management Program of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes**". A graduate of the University of Montana in Wildlife Biology, Mr. Becker's prime interest is in natural resources management and conservation. His career has featured involvement in those areas, particularly with work and research on raptors in southeast Montana.

RARE BIRD DIRECTORY

Friends of Nature announces an exciting new publication, The Rare Bird Directory! Compiled by birders for birders! It contains up-to-date Rare Bird Alerts; National Audubon and Nature Conservancy Sanctuaries; National Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Parks - all quick-referenced by state for all 50 states and Puerto Rico! Acclaimed as the ultimate birding vacation planner! Nationally advertised at \$12.95. Now available to Audubon Society members for only \$9.95. Quantity discounts available. Inquiry or check to: Friends of Nature, 43-E Quail Lane, Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250, #904-249-3616. Immediate delivery!



The Editor's Spotting Scope

From the time you take those first uncertain steps, traverse through life and return to uncertain steps, a certain amount of knowledge and wisdom is gained in that lifetime. You learn about put-and-take, sharing and the exchange of mutually satisfying back-scratching. You find that it applies to more than just human relationships. To be successful, relationships with nature must also be carefully nurtured.

I recently agreed to an exchange of back-scratching with a four-footed new acquaintance. The leaves didn't drop from my apple trees in the fall as they usually do. They were frozen on the trees. (There was an item in the local paper about it, but that's another story.)

Generally, I rake up those leaves and put them in the garden beds and compost bin and invariably have more than I want to deal with. But this year, with snow on the ground, the trees had not been pruned and the leaves were still attached to the branches.

This created a problem. I couldn't see one of the bird feeders through the window because of a leafy tree. So I took the lopper and started pruning the tree. What a mess! Leaves and branches all over the snow. I gathered them up and put them in a stack near the woodpile, with most of the leaves still frozen on the branches. I would deal with them later.

The next morning I glanced out the kitchen window and saw a three-point buck by the woodpile, finishing off the last of the leaves. What a way to recycle leaves!

Bucko, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours! I went out that afternoon and pruned the other apple tree, throwing branches over the fence where my new friend would find them. Sure enough, while I slept, he did his part. He cleaned off the leaves and later I took care of the barren branches. What a partnership!

Will this create a problem for me? Will he return and attempt to eat every-



thing in sight? It's hard to tell. Since he ran out of leaves, I haven't seen him on the place.

We've kind of made a deal for next autumn. After the garden and compost bin are taken care of, I'll provide the leaves if he'll provide the appetite. He'll scratch my back and I'll scratch his, figuratively speaking. There will be gains for him, for me and for nature in general.

Sharon Bergman

Raptor Room Calendar Available

"Birds of the Swan River Valley" is the title of the 1992 Raptor Room Calendar. The calendar features descriptions and photos of 12 Swan Valley avian residents and includes local natural history observations for most calendar days.

The calendars sell for \$6 or 2 for \$10, with the proceeds going to help injured and displaced wild birds cared for at the Raptor Room. Calendars can be purchased by writing Grounded Eagle Foundation, HCR 31 Box 900, Condon, MT 59826-9706. Postage and handling charges of \$1.50 should be included.

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.

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.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!



Attention Wolf Activists

Wolf Action is a newsletter compiled by Defenders of Wildlife. It provides wolf activists with timely information for making a difference on wolf recovery. To sign up for this free newsletter, write **Wolf Action**, Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 - 19th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

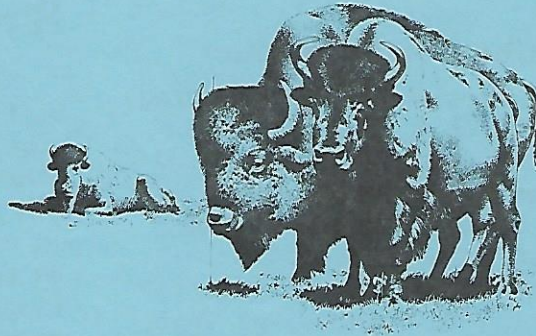


From Montana Bird Hotline

The Montana Bird Hotline is a volunteer project of Five Valleys Audubon of Missoula, and it provides news on the latest bird sightings in Montana, including rare species and migrants. Changes in distribution, abundance of resident species, as well as arrival/departure times of migrants are other common hotline topics.

The 3-minute hotline message concludes with an opportunity for you to leave your own birding message. To participate in the sharing of birding knowledge from the different regions of the state, call the Hotline at 721-2935. Good birding to you!

John Hoffland
Hotline Coordinator




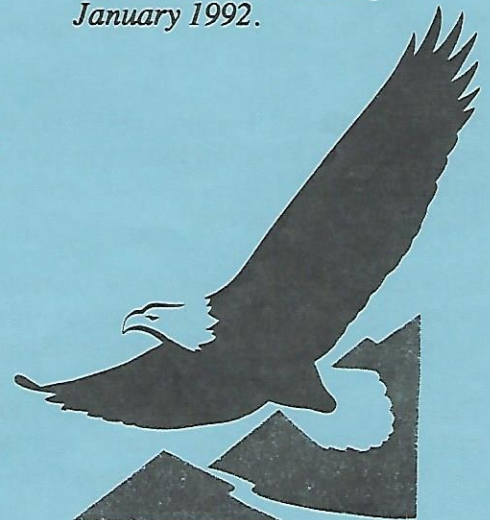
ACT FOR WILDLIFE IN '92 JUNE 13 - 18, 1992

Audubon is planning its first ever national convention in Washington, D.C., in June 1992. Entitled "Act for Wildlife in '92: Endangered Species Need You!," this convention is scheduled to enable Audubon members to join forces at a critical time for wildlife in the nation's capital. Not only is it an election year, but 1992 will be one of the biggest ever for environmental legislation affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization in 1992, and next June will be a critical time for decision making on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge legislation, Clean Water Act, and the Ancient Forest bill.

At least 1,000 Auduboners are expected to come to Washington, D.C. next June to learn about the threats to wildlife and the Endangered Species Act and to make their views known on this and other environmental bills before Congress. "Act for Wildlife in '92" will open Saturday, June 13 at American University. It will include three days of workshops on issues, lobbying

and organizing skills, a day on Capitol Hill topped off with a Congressional reception, both day-long and multi-day field trips to outstanding natural areas in the Mid-Atlantic region including the Chesapeake Bay, Canaan Valley (a unique subalpine ecosystem tucked in the mountains of West Virginia), historic Harpers Ferry, the C&O canal, and birding in little-known, local wetland areas--not to mention the many museums, cultural and historic sights of Washington, D.C.

 A brochure giving details on program, registration, lodging and field trips will be available during January 1992.





Montana Audubon Sets Priorities

"If you don't know where you're going, any direction will do." With so many environmental issues to choose from, and limited resources to work with, the Montana Audubon Council (MAC) decided to set priorities this year.

During a planning meeting in August, and our MAC meeting in October, we whittled away at a long list of important issues. The result? We came up with a list of four priority campaigns that will guide us for the next few years.

The four priority campaigns include: "Montana's Wetlands: No Net Loss"; "Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: The Creature Connection"; "Forest Protection - Forests Forever" and "Land Use Planning and Montana's Future".

Because we established four priority campaigns, doesn't mean we will abandon other environmental issues. MAC also decided on a list of "second tier" priorities, issues we will work on as specific legislation or action is needed.

Janet Ellis

DID YOU KNOW? ...

By Bob Turner, Regional Vice President

It is a capital crime in Africa if anyone causes the demise of the Honeyguide, a bird which leads natives to bee nests.

That the first field guide for birds was published and written in 1906, by Chester Reed.

That Aristotle had 134 birds on his life list, Carl Linnaeus registered 564, Pliny the Elder had over 100, and Thomas Jefferson scored 150+. All of this before field guides and binoculars were marketed!

Early Celtic fishermen procured Gannets off the coast of Ireland by tying fish to floating logs which led up to the macabre scene of diving Gannets breaking their necks.

That the only example of "Townsend's Owl" was eaten by early exploring naturalists Nuttall and Wyeth. Townsend was on the same party, though away from the campfire, and it is reported he would not speak to the "epicureans" for several days.

Bird Count A Great Success

The Christmas Bird Count in the Bigfork area produced a record count for some species and first-ever-seen for others, according to Field Trip Chairman Dan Casey. Thirteen teams in the field, in addition to feeder watchers, recorded 84 species on December 14. Three additional species were noted during count week.



New to the Bigfork area list were a Northern Hawk Owl and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. This was a good day for seeing owls as six species were counted, including a Barred Owl.

Dan reported a new high count for turkeys and commented that the 611 seen could be a national record. High counts for the Bigfork area included 58 hooded mergansers, 54 flickers and eight bluejays. Included in the count list were Eared Grebes and Greater Scaups, which had not been noted in the area for ten years.

The weather was very cooperative and the 20 to 36 degree temperature was one of the positive attributes that made the day in the field a good one for those who participated.

What CAN'T Be Recycled In Montana

At least for the time being, plastics are accepted at only a few centers in Montana. Ditto with magazines, telephone books and styrofoam containers. Most metropolitan areas of the United States have been recycling such products for many years due to industries within their state or other close markets.

When in doubt, contact the Montana Recycling Hotline. Call 1-800-823-MEIC, which is the Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena.

Printed on recycled paper

Write a Letter for Wetlands - Today!

The primary tool for wetlands protection at the federal level is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. It requires anyone wishing to dredge or fill wetlands to first seek approval (a permit) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Under this program, there are over 250 permits applied for each year in Montana. Last year, only 4 of those permits were denied and 4 were withdrawn.

The facts show that the Section 404 program is an effective tool to protect valuable Wetlands *without* placing undue burdens on landowners. Yet a powerful coalition of developers, farmers, oil & gas, and road construction organizations are gunning to destroy this important program.

Wetlands provide some of the most productive - and most threatened - wildlife habitat in Montana. From great blue herons and tiger salamanders to pintails,

beaver and bog orchids, a staggering number of creatures depend on our wet meadows, prairie potholes, bogs and other wetlands.

Senator Max Baucus is working to protect wetlands by defending Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. We need to thank him for his efforts - and tell Montana's other Congressmen that the Section 404 program is critical.

Write our Congressmen and let them know what you think:

- **Senator Max Baucus or Senator Conrad Burns**
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20460
- **Representative Pat Williams or Rep. Ron Marlenee**
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

If you want more information, contact the Montana Audubon Council office. - Adapted from National Audubon material.

Montana's Wetland Resources

- Montana has approximately 73% of its original wetlands intact.
- Wetlands make up less than 1% of Montana.
- Montana's prairie potholes and western riparian wetlands are among the nine types of wetlands, nationwide, considered most critical.
- More than 50% of Montana's bird species depend upon or frequent wetlands.
- Temporary wetlands, those areas that have water for only a short time in the spring, play a

critical role for migrating birds; they provide much needed food and resting areas on the long journey to nesting sites in the north.

• Wetlands are vital to virtually all freshwater fish, many mammals and various amphibians and reptiles.

• Rare plant species in Montana are wetland-dependent. For example, howellia (petition pending for threatened/endangered listing) occurs in wetlands in the Swan Valley.





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
Sam Culotta, P. O. Box 642, 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, Coles Falls, MT 59912	892-4208

**MONTANA
BIRD HOTLINE
721-2935**

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.



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Flathead Audubon Society

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