



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 4

April, 1992

President's Corner

Diversity has come up again. It is many things to many people. To the worker, diverse skills equal stable employment; to the community, diverse business equals a stable economy; to the ecologist, a diverse flora and fauna (biodiversity) equal a stable environment.

Soon we will see if a group as diverse as the Flathead Conservation Coalition will help lead to understanding and perhaps a more stable local political environment. My hope is that it will depolarize many of the local "hot" topics.

The Coalition is made up of 6 agencies, 14 sportsmens clubs, 2 environmental groups, 6 user groups and a professional society. Its primary mission is to disseminate information to member groups. Members will present information, answer questions and, hopefully, not engage in debate. They will rarely, if ever, vote on anything. Consensus may be impossible within the group, but those participating want to inform others of their own group's direction and be able to share information.

I've already learned about the local Ducks Unlimited chapter. Their goal and purpose: "Wetlands conservation and protection" period. They are not involved in politics and hot topics such as the steel shot issue. Simple, clear and compatible with Audubon's wetlands involvement.

We will have an opportunity to listen to and share information with Montanans for Multiple Use, the Trappers Association and snowmobile groups. As long as we can be civil and respectful of each other's points of view, we will continue

to keep a dialog going with the member groups of the Flathead Conservation Coalition.

Let's be positive and open. Flathead Audubon wants to foster cooperation ... not confrontation.

Brent Mitchell

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

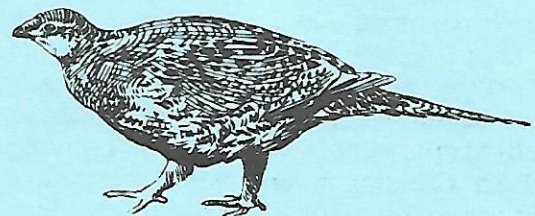
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***4/13/92 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting**, 5 pm, at the Bigfork Inn, Bigfork. Open to all interested
Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church, Commerce and

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

Program: The featured speaker will be Janet Ellis, Program Director of the Montana Audubon Council, who will speak on "Bicycling to Alaska." Her 3-month trip, from Missoula to Denali National Park, Alaska, covered 3,000 miles and took her past the Arctic Circle to within 60 miles of the Arctic Ocean.

***4/18/92 - Lower Valley Waterfowl II Field Trip.** See details on page 5.





The Editor's Spotting Scope

Conversation With a Chickadee. "Hey, Fee Bee!" I heard the chickadee's call and couldn't resist responding: "Hi, there. How are you?"

"Hey, Fee Bee. Let me perch on this feeder. Have you got a little time? We need to talk." Somewhat surprised that we were communicating, I nodded my head.

"Well look, Fee Bee..."

"My name's Sharon."

"Yes, but you answered to Fee Bee, didn't you? Anyway, we residents are getting a little concerned. You know what a resident species is, don't you? We don't fly south; we live here year-round."

"Yes, I know, and you're particularly fond of sunflower seeds ... which I supply in great abundance."

"You're a help, yes. We residents get along just fine during the winter months, because our food supply is generally pretty good, but our concern is for the neotropical migrants. They eat insects and spiders and creepy-crawlies, so they have to head south when their source of food shuts down in the northern winter."

"That kind of explains the name, neotropical migrant," I commented.

"They migrate between here and the tropics in the fall and spring."



"You got it! For a human you catch on pretty good. But a lot of humans don't give a thought beyond their own narrow vision; they don't consider the natural species with which they share this planet. We all contribute toward the upkeep of the earth ... even the, ugh, snakes and the, yuck, vultures. There's a certain balance that really works pretty well to keep things on an even keel."

"What does that have to do with the neotropicals?"

"They're a prt of it. Down south some trees would have no pollinators or seed dispersers without the neotropicals; and in the north the warblers and other insectivores protect the woods from defoliation by holding budworms and caterpillars in check."

"So, what you're saying is ... "

"We residents can't do it all if our migrant cousins aren't able to make it south and back again because the wetlands are filled in, the streams are polluted and the forests are denuded. There's got to be more cooperation among all species. I guess what we need is more common sense by everybody and more respect for each other. But, hey, Fee Bee, I gotta go. Pass the word, will ya?"

"Yes, my friend," I replied. "I will." And I just did.

Sharon Bergman

Earth Day Continued

Let Your Earth Voice Be Heard. Currently our President is the only major world leader who has not agreed to go to the Earth Summit in Rio. The U.S. position of non-participation is viewed around the world as the biggest obstacle to a successful Summit.

To create a critical mass of public pressure to shift the U.S. position from one of obstruction to one that proactively supports environmental and economic sustainability, the Big Blue Foundation has produced the Earth Voice media campaign.

A PSA spot, narrated by James Earl Jones, is now showing in theaters nationwide and on cable channel VH-1. It calls upon individuals to call **1-800-LEAD-RIO** and send a telegram to President Bush urging him to go to Rio. The telegram costs \$6.95, and \$2 of that goes to Big Blue to support the campaign.

You can be a part of this campaign by calling and sending a telegram. Let your Earth Voice be heard.

A special visitor will be assisting Auduboners and others during the Earth Week activities. Adaora Lathan, who is the NAS Coordinator of the Community Solid Waste Program, will participate in the garbage audits of the Flathead Valley.

Ferne Cohen



From **INSIDE TRACKS**, newsletter of Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region 1:

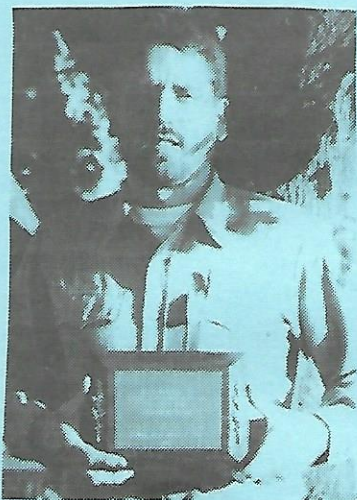
Project Wild: Volunteers Make It Happen



KARI GUNDERSON, JOE FLOOD, LYNN KELLY

Kari Gunderson, Joe Flood and Lynn Kelly teach teachers about wildlife. They are Project WILD Facilitators. Through their efforts, hundreds of elementary and secondary level teachers learn to present to their students educational units about land, air and aquatic wildlife and habitat.

The program reaches thousands of students each year and stands as one of the premier environmental education efforts in Montana. Congratulations to the facilitators for making a difference with Montana youth.



Casey Wins Award

Wildlife biologist Dan Casey received a special award of excellence from the U.S. Forest Service for his work on a cooperative elk habitat improvement project on Fire-fighter Mountain. Casey helped design timber cutting and burning techniques to encourage the growth of plants

used by elk for food.

The Department's goal for the Fire-fighter project is to increase the elk herd by one-third.

Strong Wetlands Bill Introduced



Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4255, titled the Wetlands Reform Act of 1992, in February. Audubon played a key role in drafting this bill, which is designed to strengthen federal protections for wetlands while addressing complaints of regulatory uncertainty and delays which have been levelled against current wetlands regulations. H.R. 4255 would also delay the implementation of the Administration's politically motivated "delineation manual" which would remove a minimum of 50% of the nation's wetlands from federal protection, pending completion of a study by the National Academy of Sciences.

H.R. 4255 is the first wetlands bill to present a viable and comprehensive alternative to the environmentally disastrous policies proposed in the Bush administration's delineation manual and Rep. Hayes' anti-wetlands bill, H.R. 1330.

Now is the time to write to your House member and urge him to support wetlands protection by cosponsoring H.R. 4255. For more information, contact Clark Williams, Audubon's wetlands lobbyist, 202-547-9009.



Eye The Eagle at Tax Time

The Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks has the responsibility for managing all wildlife and fish species, a tremendous task when you consider the size of the state. About 80% of these species are not game or sport fish.

This year, you will find an eagle swooping down to one particular box on your income tax form - the box where you can personally help many of Montana's watchable wildlife species. Your tax-deductable contribution goes directly to the state's Nongame Wildlife Program.

So check the box for nongame and support over 500 of your best friends.



Bird Banding At The Nets



The nets are 7-feet high from ground level, 42-feet long and birds fly into them.

The banding nets are there for a purpose: to enable volunteers to catch birds and band them in order to note the population trends of the bird species in a given area. The information gathered is provided to several agencies and organizations who deal with wildlife habitat, and the banding is under the auspices of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). Auduboner Elly Jones is the master bander for the nets located near her home and for the site at Six Mile on the Swan Highway.

According to Elly, considerable care must be taken in the selection of a site for the installation of banding nets. First and foremost, the bird traffic must be heavy in order to make it worthwhile. Another major consideration is available shade. The nets must not be too visible to the birds in flight.

Once every ten days, from mid-May through mid-August (the breeding season), the nets go up for a 6-hour stretch, and at least 3 volunteer remain at the nets during that time period. The volunteers take the caught birds from the nets and record the species, age, sex, measurements, net site and band number. The birds are then banded and released. Elly commented that they have bird books at each site, but it isn't always possible to identify every bird caught. Under those circumstances, the bird is listed as unknown.

For those working with the birds, the varied personalities of the different species are quite apparent. Elly noted, "The pine siskens are very docile and quiet, but the chickadees are tough. They'll peck you hard if they get the chance, and the grosbeaks are just plain mean. They don't like being handled. When we have a problem with a bird that's hopelessly tangled in the net, we'll cut the net if it takes too

long to release the bird by hand. Our prime concern is for the bird's welfare."

Elly makes the bands herself, getting them ready in January so that everything will be ready in the spring for the seasonal banding. And then, every ten days during the breeding season, something new and exciting awaits the volunteers when the nets go up and the banding begins. **SB**

In The Mailbox

To Flathead Audubon Society:

We, the Olney-Bissell Board of Trustees, wish to thank you for the award of \$500 to be used for books for the library.

Your support of the school district is greatly appreciated.

Olney-Bissell School Dist. #58
Whitefish, Montana

To Jean Robocker:

Thank you for bringing the bird skins, turtle shells, bird slides, bird nests and the bird toys.

We really like holding the bird skins and getting a good look at them. It was great to get to feel the soft feathers.

From Bissell First Graders

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

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.

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!



* * * * * **Spring/Summer Field Trips** * * * * *



The following list is **tentative**; some dates or times could change. Check with the field trip leaders (listed) for final details. A more complete list of field trips with descriptions, meeting places and times will be included in the May newsletter.

Saturday, April 18: Lower Valley Waterfowl II Half-day trip; meet at Levengood's parking lot (intersection hwy's 82 and 93) in Somers at 8:30. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, May 9: Audubon's (Ruth White's) Birthday Walk. Along the Swan River outside Bigfork. Jack and Ruth White, 752-9624.

Saturday, May 30: East Shore Research Natural Area. Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). Three-mile hike from Ferndale to Woods Bay. Anne Morley, 886-2242.

Saturday, June 6: Birdathon. See May newsletter. Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Sunday, June 7: Safe Harbor Marsh. Migrants and breeding birds at Nature Conservancy site. Marcie Bishop, 883-4146.



Saturday, June 13: Squeezer Creek Hike. Co-sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society. Anne Morley, 886-2242.

Saturday, June 20: Owen Sowerwine Natural Area by Canoe. Half-day trip for breeding birds. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, July 18: Rails to Trails. Hike to develop plant and bird list for converted railroad right-of-way (co-sponsored by MNPS). Don Snow, 756-5684.

Sunday, July 19: Flathead River Float. Canoe trip from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Liesure Island at Kalispell. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, July 25: Numa Ridge Hike, Glacier National Park. Fifteen-mile hike from Bowman Lake to the Numa Ridge Fire Lookout. Sam Culotta, 837-4298.

Saturday, August 1: Mt. Siyeh Hike (Climb), Glacier National Park. Start at Logan Pass. Sam Culotta, 837-4298.

Saturday, August 8: Purple Loosestrife Control - Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Half-day of work protecting wetlands, followed by tour of native grassland sites, picnic lunch. Co-sponsored by MNPS. Pattie Brown, 837-5018.



Saturday, Sept. 12: Swan Valley Logging. Tour of various logging practices in action. Bud Moore (754-2473) and Rod Ash (754-2289).



Flathead Audubon Society Scholarship Program

The Flathead Audubon Scholarship Program is accepting applications from members for this summer's Glacier Institute classes. Among the finest outdoor/environmental education programs in the Rocky Mountains, the Glacier Institute is geared for the scientist, artist, teacher or anyone with a curiosity for the natural history of this beautiful national park.

The scholarships are offered to Audubon members of all ages and cover all or part of the tuition. (Fees for college credit, transportation costs, room and board are not covered.) The various courses offered vary in cost and length and are described in the Glacier Institute brochure, which is available by contacting The Glacier Institute, (777 Grandview Drive) P.O. Box 1457A, Kalispell, MT 59903. After deciding on the course offered, the applicant should complete the form below and submit it for consideration.

REQUIREMENTS:

Audubon members will be given preference.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Scholarship is applicable to any one course offered by the Glacier Institute. One-day explorations are available, as well as 2-5 day courses.

Scholarships cover all or a percentage of the tuition.

The application must be received by **May 1, 1992** by the Flathead Audubon Society, Box 715, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Successful applicants who are unable to attend must contact the Flathead Audubon Society 3 weeks prior to the course date so that a complete refund can be obtained and an alternate can be notified.

Additional applications may be obtained from members of the Scholarship Committee who are: Robin Magaddino (837-4294) and Jean Robocker (756-6344).

APPLICATION

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
COURSE NAME _____ DATE _____ COST _____
INSTRUCTOR _____

On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions.

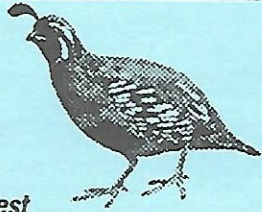
- 1) Briefly describe your background.
- 2) Why are you requesting financial assistance and what percentage of tuition do you require?
- 3) What led you to take this course and how do you plan to use the newly-gained knowledge?




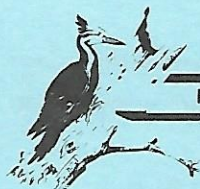


Subscription Opportunity

The form below enables Flathead Audubon to benefit when you purchase a **new** subscription to **Bird Watcher's Digest**. For every **new** 1-year regular or gift subscription at \$15.95, we'll receive \$8; for a **new** 2-year subscription (\$27.95), we get \$14; a **new** 3-year subscription (\$39.95) nets us (\$20). Simply fill out the form and send it with your payment (and the name of Flathead Audubon on the line provided) to **Bird Watcher's Digest**. Give yourself or someone you know a nice gift and help us with future projects.

Bird Club Subscription Program	BIRDWATCHER'S DIGEST P.O. Box 110 Marietta, OH 45750	
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year (6 issues) \$15.95	<i>Please enter my subscription to Bird Watcher's Digest</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years (12 issues) \$29.95	NAME _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (18 issues) \$39.95	ADDRESS _____	
Unless otherwise specified, subscription will begin immediately	CITY _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed	STATE _____	ZIP _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill my Visa/ Mastercard	CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____	EXPIRATION DATE _____
	SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) _____	
	NAME OF MY BIRD CLUB _____	

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<input type="checkbox"/> One Year (6 issues) \$15.95	<i>Enter a gift subscription to:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years (12 issues) \$29.95	<i>From:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (18 issues) \$39.95	RECIPIENT'S NAME _____	MY NAME _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Bill my Visa/ Mastercard	STATE _____ ZIP _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
	GIFT CARD TO READ _____	
	CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____	EXPIRATION DATE _____
	SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) _____	
	NAME OF MY BIRD CLUB _____	



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	Holly Butlett, 2825 Farm to Market, Kalispell, MT	257-2025

DIRECTORS

Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Sam Culotta, P.O. Box 642, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4298
Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Rd, 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
Malcolm Thompson, 775 Berne Rd. Coles 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
Schools, Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
	Neil Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

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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Field Trip
Schedule
Page 5