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# Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

December 2021  
VOLUME 46, NUMBER 4



## From the Board by Derrick Rathe

I am fortunate to call NW Montana home. My childhood was spent on the Southern shore of Flathead Lake. Where my family and I would spend every ounce of free time traveling this mass state in search of ghost towns and natural phenomena. After graduating from the University of Montana, my summers were filled with exploring the depths of Montana's caves, most notably Lewis and Clark Caverns, where I worked as the Park Ranger. It's weird looking back and thinking, it took me spending hours weekly underground to really gain my appreciation for the natural world on the surface.

My years in SW Montana



allowed me to grasp a deeper understanding of the connections of all thing's nature, from the depths of caves to the soil connecting them to the birds and flowers above.

I have recently taken that passion and brought it back to the Flathead where it all began for me. I have worked as an environmental educator/park ranger for Montana State Parks in the Flathead since 2017. As of Spring 2021 I am back wondering about the shores of Flathead Lake working with MT State Parks. But now in a role where I can help other kids and adults find their connection to Flathead Lake among its natural wonders.

## Audubon 2021 Christmas Bird Counts of Northwest Montana

Many 2021 Counts will again be structured to minimize transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Check with the organizer of your usual CBC to find out the plan for your Count.

Count	Date	Contact information
Bigfork	Sat., Dec. 18	Craig Hohenberger, <a href="mailto:asoleado2003@yahoo.com">asoleado2003@yahoo.com</a> , 406-890-1629
Eureka	Sat., Dec. 18	Ellen Sullivan, <a href="mailto:kesullivan@interbel.net">kesullivan@interbel.net</a> , 406-291-1794
Libby	Sat., Dec. 18	Gene Reckin, <a href="mailto:gnreckin@gmail.com">gnreckin@gmail.com</a> , H 406-293-9344, C 406-291-8482
Upper Swan	Sat., Dec. 18	Sara Lamar, <a href="mailto:sara@svconnections.org">sara@svconnections.org</a> 406-407-6535
Ninepipe	Sun., Dec. 19	Jim Oates, <a href="mailto:oates65@gmail.com">oates65@gmail.com</a> , 406-270-7826
Glacier NP	Sun., Dec. 19	Lisa Bate, <a href="mailto:Lisa_Bate@nps.gov">Lisa_Bate@nps.gov</a> , 406-888-7833
Troy	Sat., Jan. 1	Donald Jones, <a href="mailto:don@donaldmjones.com">don@donaldmjones.com</a> , 406-546-3832
Kalispell	Sun., Jan. 2	Dan Casey, <a href="mailto:danielcasey55@gmail.com">danielcasey55@gmail.com</a> 406-270-5941

### DECEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday December 6, 2021. 5:30-7:30 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting.** Public Meeting Room, Fish, Wildlife & Parks building, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell.

**Monday, December 13, 2021. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting,** will be held digitally with video attendance by Zoom, audio by phone. See page 3 for how to participate.

**Tuesday, December 21, 10AM–noon. Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, The Signs of Birds.** See page 3.

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

## Boreal Chickadee

by Denny Olson

I have to admit that a good part of my attraction to tree-line in Northwest Montana -- aside from pikas in the talus, whitebark pines, nutcrackers and rosy finches -- is the 50-50 chance of a conversation with Boreal Chickadees. They are relatively tame and curious after the breeding season when they flock together in small groups. And to my aesthetic sense, they are cute as heck with that little milk-chocolate cap of theirs.

Boreal Chickadees (BOCH) aren't particularly rare, but they demand some work to get to where they live. Lots of birders have never seen one. BOCH are as "boreal" as a critter can get, barely dipping into the far northern reaches of the contiguous U.S., and the highest treed elevations in the Northern Montana

Rockies. They are most common where the spruce-fir forests are densest, and are strongly associated with Engelmann spruce in the western mountains and black spruce in the east. They eat a variety of insects and spruce seeds, feeding acrobatically (like nuthatches) high in the trees. Like Tennessee and Nashville Warblers, population spikes are associated with fresh outbreaks of spruce budworms. In late summer they can be seen going back and forth from the treetops to the lower parts of trees to cache food for their winter supplies. They stuff the "pantry" (between spruce needles, and in bark furrows) and often use combinations of spider web and saliva to hold the food in place, with a bark-chip covering to hide the morsels. They even make aphid-balls by gluing a number of the tiny insects together.

The food-caching is particularly critical for them, even compared to other chickadees, because the true boreal forest often has temperatures dipping below minus 50 Fahrenheit! Black-capped Chickadees simply die of exposure when it gets that cold, but BOCH seem to "weather" it well. Like other Chickadees, BOCH nest in cavities and roost in them as well during those frigid nights. They can lower their body temperatures as much as 16 degrees to save energy overnight. In the morning they have to shiver for almost a half hour to get back to their 104-degree day-time operating temperature.

Because of their choice of environs, BOCH are obviously not well studied. But perhaps we can safely extrapolate from the adaptations of their closest

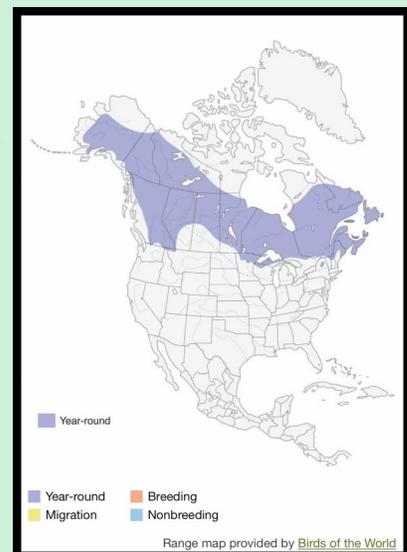
relatives. Mountain Chickadees have this marvelous ability to grow the size of their brains annually by 30%, to more efficiently forage in winter, and perhaps just to ensure their larger brain will be warmer. I think it is reasonable to suspect that BOCH do something similar. This is a half-ounce bird after all, living in a very hostile winter environment, so thermodynamics are certainly paramount.

BOCH are very active, but also secretive, during the nesting season. They take from 2 - 10 days to excavate a nest cavity, depending on the softness of the tree heartwood. When a female is done with lining it to her satisfaction, she does her "come-hither" wing quiver to attract a male. He then gathers insects and seeds to feed her, demonstrating his provider ability, before she is willing to pair-bond. She lays from 4 to 9 eggs, and the fledglings from the hatch eventually will form their family flock -- which is not exclusive, and can even include Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees.

When predators like red squirrels or Sharp-shinned Hawks show up nearby, BOCH freeze instantly, holding the motionless pose for a good minute after the predator leaves.

When a predatory squirrel appears around nests or fledglings, the adults sometimes go "cataleptic" as a decoy, quivering or even playing dead on the ground.

BOCH have declined (where they can be counted) 73% in the last 50 years according to National Audubon, and are likely to be forced northward or higher with projected climate changes. Needless to say, get to where they live and watch some "terminal cuteness" (pun intended) while you can. And for their sake, shrink your carbon footprint!



# December Program

## Ecological Effects of Recolonizing Wolves in Washington

presented by Aaron Wirsing

Aaron Wirsing will be the featured speaker at the Monday, December 13 virtual meeting of the Flathead Audubon Society at 7 PM (See below for how to join the Zoom meeting.) He received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and graduate degrees from the University of Idaho (MS) and Simon Fraser University (PhD, in Vancouver, BC Canada). Aaron is currently a Professor of Wildlife Science in the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington, in Seattle, where he also



heads the Predator Ecology Lab ([www.predatorecology.com](http://www.predatorecology.com)).

Aaron and his graduate students are interested in the impacts large predators have on prey populations and ecosystems. His talk will focus on the ecological effects of gray wolf recolonization in Washington, highlighting projects that began in 2011 exploring how the renewed presence of wolves in this state is shaping deer behavior and the behavior of other large carnivores such as cougars, as well as how prey species balance risks posed by wolves and human hunters.

### How to Attend the December 13 FAS General Meeting

Time: December 13, 2021, 7:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

You can attend this meeting by Zoom or telephone.

For information on how to do this contact [cory@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:cory@flatheadaudubon.org)

Videos of earlier FAS meeting presentations are available at <https://flatheadaudubon.org/videos>.

### 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 <https://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 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 <https://flatheadaudubon.org>. Check the FAS webpage at <https://flatheadaudubon.org/activities-and-field-trips/> for updated information on upcoming field trips.



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic we are taking precautions to ensure safety for all participants. Masks and respect for others' personal space are highly recommended, and we ask you to not share binoculars or spotting scopes. The number of participants allowed on trips will be limited as will carpooling.

**WINTER SOLSTICE, "The signs of Birds", OWEN SOWERWINE NATURAL AREA. Tuesday, December 21, 10AM- NOON.** Join Derrick Rathe for a winter walk at OSNA and explore the signs of birds. Winter is not normally the hot time of year to go out and see birds, but it is a great time to go out and see the stories birds leave behind. From caches to tracks we will go over the winter signs of birds. Registration is required and space is limited to 10 birders. Please call Derrick at (406) 250-4108 or e-mail at [drathe33@gmail.com](mailto:drathe33@gmail.com) for info and to register.

### Natural Events To See This Month:

*Ruffed Grouse eat only male cottonwood and aspen buds.*



## Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

### Part Two: The places on the planet -- restoring balance

Last month I outlined the big, planetary picture. About big, planetary balance. But there's something else you might want to know -- because you don't just live "on a planet". You live in a *place* on that planet. And that place has its *own* animals, its *own* plants, that live in its *own balance*.

Continents are different from each other, with different climates, and topography, and ocean currents. And they each have their own plants and animals -- and their own balance. And on those continents, there are places where the weather is different, or they are divided by a mountain range or a desert. And on that mountain range, the weather is different at different elevations -- so the plants and animals are different as well. Or, the weather might be influenced by being close to oceans, or far away. Or by being closer to the equator, or to the North and South Poles.

In each of those hundreds of different places on the planet, the plants, and therefore the animals, are in their own balance, shaped by millions of years of adjustments. If they have been in that place for a *very* long time, living in balance with the other unique and old beings there, they get a special title: They get to call themselves a ... "native"!

The natives are all different from each other, but over time, they have adapted to fit in. They may have complicated relationships with hundreds of other natives, but they still *fit in*. They don't change the balance. Every plant on planet earth is a native ... to a certain place! The plant -- and the place --- need to live *together* -- because they have for at least thousands of years, if not millions.

So, all of the other living beings that are "native" to a place have intricate relationships with the native plants. and the pathways are likely though the native insects or herbivores that eat native plants -- often *only* native plants, and sometimes only *one* native plant.

Here's a local, Flathead Audubon-specific, example. Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (OSNA), which we manage, is a beautiful and rare-in-Montana river bottom conjunction of two rivers. Huge (and old) black cottonwoods tower over a sub-canopy of huge (and old) chokecherry trees in the 8-foot-higher "upland" of the old flood plain. The rivers have down-cut and left that area higher and drier. In the seasonally wet abandoned river channels, cottonwood seedlings and saplings still grow.

All of us bird nerds who still frequent the area know that Red-eyed Vireos are very common there. In May and early June the males are singing their "How are you? I am fine" songs up to 40,000 times per day! Then it gets quieter as the pairs are busy feeding perhaps six mouths instead of two. The hatching of the chicks, at least in OSNA, correlates exactly with the hatch of cottonwood beetle larvae, increasing the high-protein food supply multifold. So this one linear relationship of black cottonwoods to cottonwood beetles to Red-eyed Vireo chick survival, is one among *millions* whereby native plants feed native insects who feed native birds.

*Nowhere* is there a non-native species that fit into most of these relationships. Not only do non-natives take up valuable space, but they often have *negative* relationships with natives. Our OSNA hall-of-shame example is a huge infestation of common buckthorn -- originally introduced as a decorative -- which leafs-out earlier, drops leaves later, grows faster, chemically inhibits other (native) plants from growing nearby, toxifies the soil to all amphibians, and has berries which are cathartic (read diarrhea) to birds and can sicken them. It also supports *no* native insects! We are in the middle of a long-term and complex eradication project on this and about 8 other non-native species in OSNA.

So my recommendation? When you head for the nursery to buy decorative plants this spring, the first question to ask: Is it native to *here*? If not, you might want to treat it like the bomb squad would. Natives rule!

## Thanks To Those Who Have Renewed Their Membership

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.

*Mike Fanning, Membership Chair*

We are sending The Pileated Post to all those who donated to Flathead Audubon through The Great Fish. If you do not wish to receive it please notify Mike Fanning at [shrdlu@centurytel.net](mailto:shrdlu@centurytel.net) or 406-862-8070.

## Conservation Corner

### Good News! Migratory Bird Treaty Act Is Back! But Improvements Need Your Support! (It's Easy!!!)

From National Audubon Action Alert: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it is not only reinstating bird protections under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), **but is also considering strengthening the rules going forward.**

A new permitting program would expand common-sense and inexpensive practices—such as covering oil pits or marking power lines to avoid collisions—saving millions of birds from preventable harm

or death.

For more info and to comment, go to National Audubon's alert website (<https://act.audubon.org/a/mbta-comment-period>) where you can submit your message as part of the official comment period through *Regulations.gov*, where it will become part of the public record.

**The deadline to comment is Friday, December 3. Thank you!!**  
by Gael Bissell

ok

### The Good, the Bad, and YOU

#### Good:

1) a study on reed warblers in England showed that they can navigate using magnetic fields, using them almost like GPS. When moved in a cage from England to outside their range in Russia, they were able to use magnetic fields to find their way back to their migratory route. A follow up study on garden warblers showed that the magnetic mechanism was not associated with their eyes. (Amazing the studies done on animals to try to understand their complex abilities!). (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-60383-x>)

2) California condor populations had dropped to 22 birds by 1982. Extensive and labor intensive reintroductions have brought the population back to nearly 500 birds by 2019. However, the condors have come up with a new way to reproduce...facultative parthenogenesis. i.e.—no males contributed. This extremely rare occurrence was documented last October in the *Journal of Heredity*, noting that cells in the female were able to act as sperm to fertilize her own eggs. The bad part of this good news is that neither of the offspring produced by this method lived past 8, instead of the 60 year lifespan (and of course weren't able to reproduce as young'ns.

3) A study in the National Academy of Sciences (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/11/201124150845.htm>) published that regulations to reduce ozone pollution for people may also have avoided the deaths of 1.5 billion birds over the last 40 years (They state that's 20 percent of bird-life in the US today).

Thank you for your support of the preservation of Migratory Bird Treaty Act, telling Congress to support the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (not yet passed) and other environmental regulations designed to help you and the birds!

#### Bad:

1) For those of you lucky enough to live in bear country, this doesn't pertain to you, because you are dedicated wildlife lovers who have taken down your feeders and bear attractants. I, unfortunately, live

in an area that has had several square miles of habitat destruction this year and I continue to fill my feeders until my native vegetation grows, even though I only have sparrows visiting these days. (They get hungry, too—when all surrounding habitat is turned to concrete and houses). When filling my port feeder, I found a little captive mouse that had crawled in a port but couldn't crawl out. Fortunately, it had food and wasn't there long enough to freeze to death, and was quite willing to be released. If you aren't regularly filling your feeders, please take them down.

2) A running tally is being kept of birds affected by the California oil spill (Pipeline P00547). The Nov 4 update found that 82 of the 116 birds recovered were dead. Mortality is listed by species. (<https://owcn.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/pipeline-p00547-incident>) In comparison, estimates of birds killed in 2016 at the Berkeley Pit in Butte range into the thousands. 82,000 birds (likely far more) were affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. ([https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public\\_lands/energy/dirty\\_energy\\_development/oil\\_and\\_gas/gulf\\_oil\\_spill/a\\_deadly\\_toll.html](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/energy/dirty_energy_development/oil_and_gas/gulf_oil_spill/a_deadly_toll.html))

#### YOU

Flathead Audubon would love to get your help for the Conservation committee. You can alert the President (Currently Cory Davis) of local projects or activities that are aiding conservation and birds (YAY), or might have adverse effects that could potentially harm birds. Early involvement can help Audubon suggest alternatives to avoid or reduce adverse effects.

Let us know about bird-friendly activities in our community—or in other areas you may know of. Good practices encourage following. Suggest topics of conservation concern you'd like the Audubon Flyer to address. We need your ideas and interests.

If you are a writer who has biological leanings, consider writing a short paragraph on bird conservation. For the truly dedicated, consider joining the Conservation committee to help us review the good (and potentially) bad projects in our area.

by Carole Jorgensen

## Flathead Valley Bird Report

by Dan Casey

### Rare and Notables – Oct/Nov

Wintery weather was slow to come, but winter migrants and residents began to arrive, including Tundra Swans, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls. Rarities included all three scoter species, 2 lingering Anna's Hummingbirds, and a Lesser Goldfinch in Somers. See <https://ebird.org/region/US-MT-029?yr=all> for more.

9/28 – **Sabine's Gull**, West Valley Ponds (Craig H.)

10/7 – **Snow Goose** (40), Jewel Basin Hawk Watch (Joshua C.) First of season.

10/9 – **Greater White-fronted Goose**, (3) West Valley (Shannon and Bridger D.)

10/21 – **Harris's Sparrow** (2, through 10/30), Columbia Falls (Shannon and Bridger D.)

10/22 – **Short-billed (Mew) Gull** (2), Flathead Lake at Somers (Joshua C.)

10/23 – **Anna's Hummingbird** (2), Creston feeder (Rich P.) Present some time.

10/26 – **Surf Scoter** (2), Creston (Craig H.) Also at Somers (10/29), Foy's Lake (11/11)

10/28 – **White-winged Scoter** (6), Foy's Lake (Dan C.) Up to eight the following week.

10/29 – **Black Scoter**, Somers (with Surf Scoter) (Dan C.)

10/31 – **Lesser Goldfinch**, Somers (Dan C.) Third record north of Flathead Lake.

11/1 – **Boreal Owl**, Bowman Lake (Justin G.)

11/5 – **Rusty Blackbird**, Creston (Craig H.)

11/10 – **Cackling Goose** (14), West Valley Bird and Wildlife Viewing Area (Mani G.)

11/11 – **Snow Bunting** (37), West Valley (Jake B. and Cory D.)

### What to Expect – December 2021

Increasing numbers of Common (and a few Hoary) Redpolls, Bohemian Waxwings and Rough-legged Hawks will be evident as snow starts to fly. Waterfowl diversity should remain high where open water can be found, and rarer species of gulls (e.g. Glaucous, Glaucous-winged, and Lesser Black-backed) may join the flocks at the landfill and the north shore of Flathead Lake. Watch your feeders for such uncommon species as White-throated Sparrow and Lesser Goldfinch.

## The 48<sup>th</sup> Bigfork CBC

Once again, we are soliciting volunteers for the Bigfork CBC. If you were a regional leader last year, and will be participating in the Bigfork CBC this year, please let me know. I will assume that all recent local leaders will cover (bird) their previously assigned area, if not, please inform me. I will be sending out the **Bigfork CBC packets with bird checklists** and maps of your respective sub-regions in the **first week of December**. Any other interested birders, contact me and I will place you with a leader. I will meet any other interested birders in the parking lot at 8 am at the **Little Brown Church** at the intersection of Hwy 35/83 on **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (day of Bigfork**

**CBC)**. We will be sensitive to Covid protocols.

After the count, we will not meet as a group, so please return your packets with the map and bird checklists & packets (**ASAP**). You can either return them by mail, email them to me, or drop your bird lists in my mailbox (95 Hash Mtn. View,); it is about 1 mile south of Creston on Riverside Rd. on the corner of Obryan Lane.

Good birding, Craig Hohenberger (Compiler)  
406 890-1629, [asoleado2003@yahoo.com](mailto:asoleado2003@yahoo.com),  
PO Box 5021, Bigfork, 59911

## Kalispell CBC Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022

In accordance with local tradition, the Kalispell Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> (two weeks after the Bigfork CBC). Pete Fisher has asked me to re-assume compiler duties now that I am back in the valley, and I agreed to do so, at least this year. Given ongoing Covid concerns, we will not be gathering before or after the count, and I am hoping that most recent participants will once again commit to surveying their typical assigned areas. I will leave it to each of you to decide if you are comfortable with others joining you. I will be putting together packets with the materials I get from Pete well in advance of the count. Please contact me if you want to participate,

and we can arrange getting the packets to you.

If others would like to participate, please contact me (see below), and I will do what I can to pair you with (willing) count area leaders. If you live in Kalispell, Evergreen, or the West Valley and have feeders, you may also be able to participate from home.

After the count, I will be contacting each party to arrange the return of the count packets, either by mail or by arranging a meeting.

Happy Holidays, Dan Casey (compiler)  
(406) 270-5941  
[Danielcasey55@gmail.com](mailto:Danielcasey55@gmail.com)

## 2021 Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Exceeded All Expectations

Bj Worth spent a cold, windy day on the ridge Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to conduct the 50<sup>th</sup> survey of the 2021 Jewel Basin Hawk Watch monitoring season. The 30 birds he counted that day brought our season total to 4,418 birds, which exceeded our previous high season count by more than 1,000 birds! We set new season-long high count totals for 10 species along the way and had below-average count totals for just one of the 17 raptor species we recorded, the Golden Eagle. And it was a season full of highlights, with 488 birds counted Oct 5<sup>th</sup> (a bird a minute!), 30 Broad-winged Hawks on Sep. 14<sup>th</sup>, a resident grizzly bear, and more.

Many thanks to Joshua Covill, who

served as our primary technician for 19 surveys, and to Bj Worth, Bo Crees, Nicki Broesel, Lisa Bate, Rod Walette, Jake Bramante, Michele Tohtz, and Pete Fisher, each of whom (like me) served as primary for at least one survey. Numerous others contributed to the effort, most notably Pam Willison, who added her observation skills to many surveys, helping us to count nearly 2,500 Sharp-shinned Hawks!

We averaged 88 birds per survey, or 13.4 birds/hr for the season, and recorded >200 birds on eight different days. Our season totals follow, with record numbers marked by an (\*). I'm already looking forward to next year...  
*by Dan Casey*

Turkey Vulture - 3  
Osprey - 11  
Bald Eagle - 97  
Northern Harrier - 49  
Sharp-shinned Hawk\* - 2,490  
Cooper's Hawk\* - 603  
Northern Goshawk - 37  
Unidentified Accipiter - 59

Broad-winged Hawk\* - 57  
Swainson's Hawk\* - 7  
Red-tailed Hawk\* - 328  
Ferruginous Hawk\* - 4  
Rough-legged Hawk - 36  
Unidentified Buteo - 22  
Golden Eagle - 379  
American Kestrel\* - 100

Merlin\* - 66  
Peregrine Falcon\* - 24  
Prairie Falcon\* - 27  
Unidentified Falcon - 4  
Unidentified Eagle - 6  
Unidentified Raptor - 9  
Season Total - 4,418

## Two "Must-see" Bird Centered Exhibits in Missoula

The Montana Museum of Art and Culture has opened two new exhibitions with avian themes.

The first, "*Avis marvelous: Ornithology in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art and Science*" opened Friday, September 24, and runs through January 8, 2022, in the Paxson Gallery of UM's Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.



Provided by MMAC

This exhibit combines 19<sup>th</sup> century bird-themed prints from MMAC's Lee Silliman Collection with specimens from the UM Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum to show the ways artists and scientists analyzed, documented, and celebrated avian life in the 19th century, and includes displays designed to educate and enlighten the public about bird life in the Americas.

The second, "*The Speyer Collection of Con-*

*temporary Art*," opened October 15 and runs until January 8, 2022, in the MMAC's Meloy Gallery in the PARTV Center. It presents selections from Helena high school teacher Tim Speyer's art collection that focus on human interactions with birds as portrayed in surreal, enigmatic, and poetic art works by contemporary artists from around the world.

Both exhibits are free and open to the public. Tours for 10 or more people can be arranged. For more information go

to <https://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/>

Board Member Joe Batts reports that he and Lana saw both exhibits and thought they were "superb". "If anyone is even close to Missoula they should see both exhibits. We found ourselves stunned by the uniqueness and creativity of every piece."

*by Joe Batts*



Provided by MMAC

## CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

### Highlights from the November 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

- ◇ A representative of Whitefish Community Foundation gave a presentation about the endowment opportunities they offer. The BOD will discuss the options at their next meeting.
- ◇ Treasurer Rod Walette reported that we received the funds from the Great Fish event, and he allocated them to Education, OSNA, Birds of Prey Festival, and Hawk Watch.
- ◇ Gael Bissell completed an application for a \$5000 grant offered by Mountain Dew, which would be used to purchase 25-30 pair of good quality binoculars which could be used for classroom outings, field trips, and Hawk Watch.
- ◇ Gael reported she has started working with Montana Audubon and Flathead Land Trust to put together a fund-raising strategy to support the Conservation Easement proposed for OSNA.
- ◇ Carole Jorgensen noted that there are so many conservation issues that it's a challenge to choose which should be mentioned in a PP article. It was agreed that articles should be about issues where members can take action to help.

### Jean Robocker Tribute in Flathead Beacon

"The Secret to Life is Chickens" is a lovely remembrance of Jean Rocker that appeared recently in the Flathead Beacon (Nov 3, p. 31). It can be viewed in digital form at [https://flatheadbeacon.com/e-edition/11\\_03\\_2021/mobile/index.html#p=31](https://flatheadbeacon.com/e-edition/11_03_2021/mobile/index.html#p=31). The family has announced that no services are planned. They suggest that instead of sending flowers, folks "send remembrances to Audubon Society of Kalispell [Flathead Audubon], the Montana Land Reliance, or the Nature Conservancy."

Jean was a founder of Flathead Audubon and

the Bigfork Christmas Bird Count, and took bird education into our local schools for FAS for 15 years. In 2013 she was presented with Flathead Audubon's Conservation Achievement Recognition for a lifetime of contributions to conservation and conservation education (March 2013 Pileated Post, [flatheadaudubon.org/about-us/pileated-post-archive](https://flatheadaudubon.org/about-us/pileated-post-archive)). For more on Jean's service to Flathead Audubon see "Remembering Jean Robocker" on page 7 of the September 2021 Pileated Post (<https://flatheadaudubon.org/about-us/pileated-post/>).

By Gael Bissell

### Use *AmazonSmile* for your holiday (and all) shopping

When you use AmazonSmile 0.5% of each eligible purchase will be donated to the charity of your choice.

#### On your computer:

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com.
3. Select your charity and start shopping. Remember to check out at smile.Amazon.com to generate donations to your charity.
4. Tip: add a bookmark to make it easier to return to AmazonSmile



#### On your mobile phone:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app.
2. Navigate to the main menu (=)
3. Select your charity and then follow on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app.



### 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 all those that have made donations to Flathead Audubon.

Our new approach is to list all donors for the previous year in the January issue. So, look for the 2021 donors in January 2022.



This photo was incorrectly credited in the November issue. The correct photographer is Linda Du Lac. Apologies from Darcy Thomas for the confusion.

## June Ash—Long-time Flathead Audubon Member

June Ash passed away peacefully on November 10 with the comfort of family present. In the week before her passing, she made sure that her bird feeder was filled. June was a long-time Flathead Audubon member, and served Flathead Audubon in various capacities for over 20 years, including as Board member, Membership Chair, and organizer of the annual FAS Bird Seed Sale. We will publish a remembrance of June in the January Pileated Post. A celebration of her life is being planned for the month of June in her beloved Swan Valley.



## 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 my choice

I want my gift to recognize another:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a notification of this gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\*\*

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Please do not acknowledge my gift in the Post

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Please make checks payable to:

Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173

Kalispell, MT 59904

**Your gift is tax deductible.**

Flathead Audubon Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our federal tax ID number is 81-0447830.

## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

### OFFICERS

President	Cory Davis	<a href="mailto:cory@flatheadaudubon.org">cory@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Vice-President	Darcy Thomas	<a href="mailto:darcy@flatheadaudubon.org">darcy@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Past President	Gael Bissell	<a href="mailto:gael@flatheadaudubon.org">gael@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Pam Willison	<a href="mailto:pam@flatheadaudubon.org">pam@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Treasurer	Rod Walette	<a href="mailto:rod@flatheadaudubon.org">rod@flatheadaudubon.org</a>

### DIRECTORS

2019-2022	Will Beyer	<a href="mailto:bever59901@yahoo.com">bever59901@yahoo.com</a>
2019-2022	Margaret Parodi	<a href="mailto:margaret@flatheadaudubon.org">margaret@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2019-2022	Dave Manuwal	<a href="mailto:manuwal2@centurylink.net">manuwal2@centurylink.net</a>
2020-2023	Bob Lee	<a href="mailto:bob@flatheadaudubon.org">bob@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2020-2023	Carole Jorgensen	<a href="mailto:carole@flatheadaudubon.org">carole@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2020-2023	Joe Batts	<a href="mailto:joe@flatheadaudubon.org">joe@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2020-2023	Cindy Roberts	<a href="mailto:cindy@flatheadaudubon.org">cindy@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2020-2023	Tom Roberts	<a href="mailto:yellranger@yahoo.com">yellranger@yahoo.com</a>
2021-2024	Dan Casey	<a href="mailto:dan@flatheadaudubon.org">dan@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2021-2024	Kay Mitchell	<a href="mailto:kay@flatheadaudubon.org">kay@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2021-2024	Jake Bramante	<a href="mailto:jake@flatheadaudubon.org">jake@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2021-2024	Derrick Rathe	<a href="mailto:derrick@flatheadaudubon.org">derrick@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
2021-2024	Dan Kotter	<a href="mailto:dankotter7@gmail.com">dankotter7@gmail.com</a>

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	vacant	
Education	Cindy Roberts	<a href="mailto:cindy@flatheadaudubon.org">cindy@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
	Tom Roberts	<a href="mailto:yellranger@yahoo.com">yellranger@yahoo.com</a>
Field Trips	Margaret Parodi	<a href="mailto:margaret@flatheadaudubon.org">margaret@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Finance	Rod Walette	<a href="mailto:rod@flatheadaudubon.org">rod@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Great Fish	Cory Davis	<a href="mailto:cory@flatheadaudubon.org">cory@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Membership	Mike Fanning	<a href="mailto:shrdlu@centurytel.net">shrdlu@centurytel.net</a>
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	<a href="mailto:linda@flatheadaudubon.org">linda@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
	Jake Bramante	<a href="mailto:jake@flatheadaudubon.org">jake@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
	Lewis Young	<a href="mailto:lyoung@interbel.net">lyoung@interbel.net</a>
Nominations	Bob Lee	<a href="mailto:bob@flatheadaudubon.org">bob@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area	Cory Davis	<a href="mailto:cory@flatheadaudubon.org">cory@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
	Pam Willison	<a href="mailto:pam@flatheadaudubon.org">pam@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Outreach	Jake Bramante	<a href="mailto:jake@flatheadaudubon.org">jake@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
	Jan Metzmaker	<a href="mailto:jan@flatheadaudubon.org">jan@flatheadaudubon.org</a>
Programs and Hospitality	Dave Manuwal	<a href="mailto:manuwal2@centurylink.net">manuwal2@centurylink.net</a>

### CONSERVATION EDUCATOR

Denny Olson [educator@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:educator@flatheadaudubon.org)

### FAS REP ON MT AUDUBON BOARD

Bob Lee [bob@flatheadudubon.org](mailto:bob@flatheadudubon.org)



the

# Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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

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The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and Montana Audubon <https://MTAudubon.org>. We meet on the second Monday of each month September through May. Meetings start at 7 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meets the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM. See page 1 for locations. 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. To become a member or to renew your membership, go to the FAS website or use the membership form below. **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; or [linda@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:linda@flatheadaudubon.org).**

Check our website <https://FlatheadAudubon.org> for  
Late breaking FAS news & announcements  
Online FAS membership sign up or renewal  
Newly scheduled field trips & events



### THE PILEATED POST is delivered BY EMAIL!

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You will receive occasional short emails with last minute updates, reminders, and breaking FAS news.



## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Individual or Family

- Basic Membership —————\$25  
Pays for newsletter and operating costs
- Supporting Membership —————\$40  
Extra \$15 funds local projects such as  
Conservation Education and  
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area
- Additional Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New member?     Renewal?

If you wish to receive a paper copy by  
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*Dues and donations are tax deductible. Flathead Audubon Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our federal tax ID number is 81-0447830.*

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Your email address is safe with us.

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Kalispell, MT 59904