

OUR BIRDS ARE COUNTING ON US



LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS Bigfork Celebrates its 30th Annual Count



In 1974, the Bigfork Bird Club organized their first Christmas Bird Count, following the guidelines established by the National Audubon Society. This meant counting all the birds in a 15-diameter circle during a one-day period over the holiday season. On Saturday, December 20th, Flathead Audubon, under the leadership of Dan Casey, will continue this tradition with the 30th annual count in the Bigfork circle, centered at Streeter's Corner (the "Little Brown Church"). Local bird counts will be among the anticipated 2,000 counts or more that will comprise National Audubon's 104th annual count. Casey will also lead the 5th annual Kalispell count on Sunday, January 4th. There will also be counts in the Mission Valley, Eureka, Glacier Park and the Swan Valley.

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running, continental, volunteer-based wildlife survey, begun on Christmas Day, 1900. With over a century of collected data, this is much more than a social and mildly competitive event. These data have become an important tool in describing population trends and bird distribution across the continent. Results of all counts from 1900 to present are available online at Audubon's website: www.audubon.org/bird/cbc. You can query their database by species, by circle or by date. Have a look if you'd like to see the fruits of our past labors in the Bigfork circle.

If you don't get a chance to explore online, here are a few tidbits from our 29 previous counts at Bigfork:

*We have recorded 140 species, plus another 10 feral or "count-week only" species

*There are 50 species we've seen every year since 1990, including great blue heron, rough-legged hawk, chestnut-backed chickadee and northern shrike; another 57 species have been seen four or more times since 1996.

*We regularly find more species than any other Montana count (more than 80 in most years)

* Over the years, rarities included Pacific loon, long-tailed duck, gyrfalcon, Franklin's gull, Northern hawk-owl and a count-week brambling.

The Kalispell count has its own claims to fame:

*94 species seen in just 4 years of counts

*11,000 Bohemian waxwings (the continental high) in 2001-02

*Urban surprises like gray partridge and merlins.

How to participate:

All interested birders (of any skill level) are welcome and encouraged to participate in the local Christmas Bird Counts. There are counts ranging(BIRD COUNTS continued on page 5)

DECEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, December 8 FAS General Meeting Dan Casey will give his wonderful Winter Birds of the Flathead slide show and discuss the 104th Christmas Bird Count. His presentation is always educational and entertaining. Flathead Audubon meets at **Calvary Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall** (north end of the building) at 2200 Highway 2 East in Evergreen. The general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting around 8 p.m. Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the general meeting.

See page 3 for a schedule of all local Christmas Bird Counts.

BIRD OF THE MONTH



Hairy
or
Downy?



This month's feature birds are two of my favorites—partly I suspect, because like many of us, they are yearlong residents in the Flathead. Their frequent appearance at my suet feeders has brightened many cold, snowy days and in March their persistent drumming as they search for mates is often the first welcome harbinger of spring.

Both species have white backs and white underparts with white spotted black wings and white streaked faces. The Hairy is larger at 9 inches, while the Downy is closer to 6 inches. Males of both species have a cherry red nape while females have no red. My secret for telling the two apart when they're not cooperative enough to appear together, is to look at the bill. The Downy bill is much shorter—approximately half the length of its head while the Hairy has a bill almost the same length as its head.

Like all woodpeckers, the Hairy and the Downy have bodies well adapted to their eating and nesting habits.

For protection during nest excavation and drumming, the brain case is enlarged and the frontal bones are folded at the base of the bill to act as shock absorbers while the chisel-shaped beak resists binding in the wood. Specialized muscles behind the beak further cushion the blows. Nostrils are feathered and somewhat narrowed for protection from the sawdust during excavation. Eyes are also closed just before the beak hits the wood. Tail feathers are stiff and supported by muscles that allow fine manipulation and the two center feathers are pointed and reinforced with barbs that curve inward for support against trees. During molt, the central feathers are not lost until the other feathers have grown to full strength. For efficient climbing, these woodpeckers have four toes—two facing forward and two back. They can also extend one of the rear toes laterally for extra support as they move up and down a tree. Tongues are barbed and sticky and contain a set of bones that allow movement and food manipulation.

To attract these delightful and interesting birds to your property, remember that they excavate their nests in dead wood, so leave a few snags for them to use as home sites. In my experience, this also prevents them from trying to drill into your house—something that is both annoying and expensive! Hairy and Downy woodpeckers are primarily insect eaters, cleaning the bugs from bark and wood crevices by probing with their specialized tongues and even by listening for the little critters! In winter they add seeds and nuts to their diets and will be enthusiastic and regular visitors to your suet feeders once they find them. I have to admit though that they seem to prefer the peanut butter variety and actually shunned my feeders for a while one winter when I changed to a less desirable variety. At my house, I also have often seen Downy Woodpeckers clinging to stalks of mullein, eating the seeds. This gave me a whole new perspective on the appearance of this somewhat questionable plant and I now include a patch of them with my more traditional flowers.

Kudos if you identified the top bird as a Downy and the lower as a Hairy! Keep those feeders full and you'll have lots of entertainment this winter!

by Jeannie Marcure



December Program, 2003 Winter Birds of the Flathead

In preparation for several Christmas Bird Counts in the area, Dan Casey will present his annual winter bird identification program at the December 8 meeting of Flathead Audubon. Flathead Audubon is now meeting at the Calvary Lutheran Church at 2200 Highway 2 East in Evergreen. The general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting around 8 p.m.

As part of his whirlwind tour of the Flathead Audubon slide collection, Dan will focus on what 29 years of Bigfork Christmas Bird Count data have told us. If you want to be able to tell a cedar waxing from a bohemian waxwing, or a Harlan's hawk from a rough-legged hawk, don't miss this program. You can count on one or more shameless predictions from Dan about what surprises this bird count season will bring. Whether or not you plan on joining the Christmas Bird Counts, you won't want to miss this entertaining program.

A lifelong birder and the compiler of the Bigfork and Kalispell Christmas Bird Counts, Dan runs the American Bird Conservancy Office in Kalispell. By Karen Nichols

~~~~~In this special season, we are reminded that we are caretakers of the Earth and all that it holds.~~~~~



### Round Up of Bird Counts

- December 14:** Ninepipe Christmas Bird Count in the Mission Valley. To sign up, contact Jim Rogers at 883-3611 or [jrogers@polson.k12.mt.us](mailto:jrogers@polson.k12.mt.us)
- December 18:** Swan Valley Count. Contact Rod Ash at 754-2289 for more information.
- December 20:** Bigfork Count. Call Dan Casey at 857-3143 (h) or 756-2681 (w)
- December 20:** Eureka Christmas Bird Count. Both field observers and feeders watchers are needed. For more information or to sign up, contact Lewis Young at 889-3492.
- December 21:** Glacier National Park Count. There are 9 routes that variably require hiking, snow shoeing, or skiing. Contact Susan Sindt at 892-7406 or [sindt@hotmail.com](mailto:sindt@hotmail.com)
- January 4:** Kalispell Count. Call Dan Casey at 857-3143 (h) or 756-2681 (w)

## AUDUBON INVITES BIRDERS AND NATURE ENTHUSIASTICS TO TAKE PART IN 104TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Health of Boreal Birds is Focus this Year

New York, NY October 20, 2003 - The National Audubon Society calls upon volunteers everywhere to join with birders across the western hemisphere and participate in Audubon's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year, nearly 2,000 individual counts are scheduled to take place throughout the Americas from December 14, 2003, to January 5, 2004.

This year, Audubon scientists are highlighting the fact that many of the birds to be counted are produced in the great North American boreal forest, which extends from Alaska to Eastern Canada. Boreal species traditionally seen on the CBC that appear to be declining include Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and especially, Rusty Blackbird.

The data, 100% volunteer-generated, have become a crucial part of the U.S. Government's natural history monitoring database. Articles published in the 103rd CBC issue of American Birds helped ornithologists better understand the effects of West Nile virus on regional bird populations. For the full story, visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).



## **VIEW FROM THE TOP**

### **From President Nominee Linda deKort.**



The FAS board has had two recent board meetings. Much was accomplished despite the fact that we have been without a president. We are grateful to Linda Winnie for acting as helmsman as the nominations committee continued its search. Please see related story below.

One of the best things the board has done is appoint Bob Lee to a one year appointment on the board. Bob moved back to the Flathead May 2002. Despite the Tennessee accent, he is a Montanan at heart. Bob presently serves as Fisheries Biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Bob's background is Forestry and Wildlife and the focus of his present work is habitat/fish relationships. He enrolled as a student in the last Beauty of Birds Adult Ed class. Because he contributed so greatly to the content and discussions of the class we asked him if he would spearhead the next Beauty of Birds class which will be held in April 2004. He said that he would and you can sign up already at the Flathead High School main office! It will be a great class.

There has been some rearranging and adding of tasks that various board members have taken on. Sonja Hartman is serving not only as our Community Naturalist but is also returning to the chair of the education committee. She has already organized a very enthusiastic and energetic committee; expect to hear soon about their ambitious agenda.

Neal Brown is our representative on the Flathead Conservation Roundtable which meets the second Wednesday of every month at lunchtime. If someone would like to share that privilege, Neal would welcome it.

Jill Fanning and Linda Winnie are putting together welcome packets for new members; we are grateful that they are continuing this long standing and well received tradition.

Another well received but more recent tradition is honoring groups or individuals with the FAS Conservation Recognition Award. Linda Winnie and Leslie Kehoe will coordinate this effort under the mentorship of Ferne Cohen, who inspired and instituted this award.

Andrea Goff will be helping Karen Nichols publicize the activities of FAS. She will be concentrating on getting the word out to the local radio stations.

Judy Spence continues to provide the welcome beverages and coordinates the donations of baked goods at all of our meetings. Thank you to all who have donated such delicious treats. And thanks especially to Judy for her dedication. Judy could sure use some help, setting up, cleaning up, coordinating.

Because of time constraints, the board decided to do away with the raffles at general meetings. The Silent Auction at the May potluck will continue. We will, however, have sales of items before each general meeting. Jill Fanning will be selling organic, fair-traded, shade grown coffee and Lisa Discoe will be selling Audubon Calendars. Lisa has offered to coordinate the buying and selling of other appropriate items as well, and would welcome suggestions.

A major fundraiser for our chapter is the selling of black oil sunflower seeds. Thank you to all who supported this effort and worked to make it happen. We realized that we could use more good signs and banners that could be used year after year to draw attention to the sale. Any handy volunteers out there to help with this project?

As you can see, the FAS board is an energetic group and there are many opportunities for contributing. Please give us a call.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We are happy to announce that our quest for officer nominees is complete. Linda deKort has agreed to be our nominee for President, and Bob Lopp has accepted the nomination for Vice President. Their terms will run through June 2005. (See bio sketches on page 7). Elections for these two positions will take place at the general meeting of Flathead Audubon on December 8, 2003, at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Jane Adams, Chair, Nominating Committee

#### **BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE**

Once again, we will be taking orders for coffee gift boxes from Montana Coffee Traders. These gift boxes feature the bird-friendly Good Migrations series coffee that is organically grown, fair-traded, and maintains important songbird winter habitat in Central and South America.

Also, we will be selling a limited number of 12-oz bags of this fine coffee at our meetings, for your own use.

Look for all this on the sale table in the back of the hall.

Jill Fanning



# FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **LISA DISCOE** IT'S A BOY!!.....AND IT'S A.....



Dream, we all have our dreams. This fall my partner and I realized a dream on which we have been working since we moved here over four years ago. I am Lisa Discoe, a new member of the Board and my partner is Jim Fiddler. We moved here from Santa Cruz, California in June 1999. Some friends in this area had called describing a unique property so we flew up the next weekend. We looked at it on Saturday and bought it on Sunday. Part of the attraction was a big, wonderful-looking barn. We envisioned, with this barn, that we could eventually start an outdoor school for children. This was our dream.

Along the way we met Brett and Laura Holmquist. Brett is an elementary school teacher and Laura is a wildlife biologist. They were in the process of forming a non-profit, Ravenwood Natural Science Center, offering fall and spring programs to fourth through sixth grade school groups. Their mission is to encourage understanding and conservation of our complex natural systems through an experiential wilderness and natural history education. They needed a place to house their school. With our property sitting at the base of the Swan Mountains and bordering state and national forest land, it seemed like a natural merge of two dreams.

This fall, three fifth grade classes from Bigfork Elementary each spent about a week attending Ravenwood's first season. I was involved directly with the first class that attended. This was a great experience for me because I am currently seeking a degree in elementary education. The kids all had a wonderful experience. Their day started early in the morning with a big breakfast, prepared by one of the 'clans'. A different clan handled the cleanup and dishwashing before the morning lecture. Then with lunch in their backpacks, they were off for an afternoon in the outdoor classroom. Every day had a very full schedule of lessons interspersed with educational games and classes that continued even after dinner. The final night each group got to perform a legends skit around the campfire and of course there were the ever-popular s'mores to be enjoyed by all.

Classes are now enrolling for the 2004 seasons, so if you know of any 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes that would like a great mix of fun and education, have them get in touch. Ravenwood can be contacted by email [laurabrett@in-tch.com](mailto:laurabrett@in-tch.com), by mail: P.O. Box 2084, Bigfork, MT 59911, or by phone: 406-212-1334.

At this point you might be wondering, how does 'it's a boy!' fit into all this. Well as I was writing this article, Brett and Laura became the proud parents of a baby boy, Talon Strong Holmquist, born November 17, 2003. We wish them all the best.



## (BIRD COUNTS.....continued from page 1)



from Eureka to Glacier Park. Participants need to be willing to spend all or part of the day afield with other counters, in an assigned portion of the count circle. If you live in the circle, another option is to count birds at your feeder on count day. Less experienced counters are always paired with veteran birders. Call Dan Casey at 857-3143 (h) or 756-2681 (w) to participate in the Bigfork or Kalispell counts. Call the other count leaders to sign up for other area counts (see count list).

Dan Casey will finalize arrangements for the Bigfork count at the December 8 Audubon meeting; Bigfork counters will meet at the Bigfork Senior Center at 5 p.m. the day of the count (Dec. 20) to compile the results and share stories. For the Kalispell count, Casey will finalize the teams over breakfast at Finnegan's the day of the count (Jan. 4). The teams will meet at the restaurant at 7:30 a.m. Please join the counts and continue the traditions.

From Karen Nichols



*Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year*



## GREEN LIVING



### Ten Tips for A Greener Holiday

The holidays will soon be upon us - days of good food, good cheer and..... plenty of garbage. In fact, more waste goes into landfills during the holidays than at any other time of year. With a little creativity, you can help reduce holiday waste, protect the environment and save money. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Give a gift that uses a minimum amount of wrapping and shipping, such as a gift certificate to a favorite store, or tickets to one of our local theaters, or a season ticket to the Glacier Orchestra concerts. Offer your talents: Teach someone to knit or how to play the piano. For that nature hiker in your midst, what could be a better gift than an annual pass to the national parks?
- Take advantage of the fact that Flathead Electric Coop offers customers the option to designate that a portion of their energy comes from renewable sources. Buy energy certificates and give them to friends and relatives as stocking stuffers.
- If you purchase mail-order gifts, pick items that are easy to ship and won't require excess packaging. If you're shipping items yourself, used shredded paper or biodegradable peanuts made from cornstarch sold at most U-Haul stores.
- Avoid expensive wrapping paper that goes straight into the trash bin. Instead, try colorful calendar pages, old posters or reusable items such as baskets, crates and fabric. If you do buy wrapping paper, look for those that use post-consumer recycled paper and soy-based inks.
- When you receive gifts that replace older items-winter jackets, blankets, furniture, kitchen appliances, electronics-don't throw the old things away. If they're still in good working condition, donate them to a charity.
- Use biodegradable Christmas tree decorations such as cranberries and popcorn, holly and pinecones. Instead of a cut tree, consider buying a live, potted tree native to our area and planting it outside after the holidays. Or forgo the tree all together by decorating cut cedar or spruce branches.
- If you use outdoor lighting to decorate, remember: the smaller the bulb, the lower the wattage. Low wattage consumes less energy and gives off less heat, making lights safer.
- Planning a holiday party? Make it easy for guests to recycle by clearly labeling recycling containers and placing them near the trash. Then turn down the heat. Body heat from party guests will quickly warm up the room.
- Don't forget to recycle or reuse what's left over after the holidays. Save bows and wrapping paper from gifts you receive for later use. Make this year's holiday cards into next year's gift tags. If you receive a package with foam peanuts, use them again or take them to a retail mailing business. Call the Peanut Hotline (1-800-828-2214) to find locations in this area.



Lastly, make a green New Year's resolution. For example, learn to compost, resolve to use your car less, vow to clean your house with nontoxic products or consider eating lower on the food chain at least a couple times a week.

from Linda Winnie and National Wildlife Federation

# HELP BIRDS BY SHARING DATA

## Project FeederWatch



Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in cooperation with the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada and Canadian Nature Federation, **Project FeederWatch** is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders across North America. Watchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they observe at their feeders from November through early April. This project is open to anyone with an interest in birds and in the past has included children, families, classrooms, retired people and bird clubs. You can count the birds in any locale that you can observe consistently throughout your count days and you control the amount of time you want to

devote to this project by selecting your own count days—two consecutive days once every two weeks—and by counting all or part of those days. Data may be submitted over the web site or on the paper Data Forms that will be supplied.

Participants may join at any time of the year and start receiving the quarterly issues of the newsletter. The last day to sign up for the 2003-2004 seasons is February 28. If you sign up now, kits will be shipped approximately 3 weeks after sign up. There is a \$15 annual participation fee to cover materials, your newsletter subscription, staff support, web design, and data analysis.

Results from Project FeederWatch are regularly published in scientific journals and shared with bird lovers and ornithologists nationwide. Through participation you'll learn more about winter birds and have a chance to contribute to the conservation of North American birds.

To find out more or to sign up, visit [www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw) or call (800) 843-2473

*Animals are such agreeable friends; they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.* George Eliot



## CANDIDATE BIOSKETCHES

### LINDA deKORT

Linda has lived in the Flathead since 1973. She and husband Frank raised their two children here and are now delighted to have a granddaughter living here as well. Linda's other local ties have been to West Valley School, where her children attended and where Frank was employed, and Flathead High School, where she taught Biology for 20 years. Since retiring in 2000, Linda and Frank have traveled at home and abroad, often finding volunteer work to do along the way. Linda has also served on the FAS board since 1999, chairing the nominations and education committees. On the education committee, she helped set up The Beauty of Birds class, put together a hummingbird unit, and helped lead the class for the last three years. With Sonja Hartmann, Linda also put together the first teacher workshop for FAS. Her other interests include Big Brothers and Sisters, American Red Cross, hiking, and, of course, granddaughter Emma.

### BOB LOPP

Bob has lived in the Flathead all of his life and has been a birder since his teen years. He has served on the FAS board for the last 3 years. Bob taught German at Flathead High School for 25 years, was department chair for 20 of those years, and established the ongoing Braunsweig exchange in 1982. Bob and wife Jane run the Prudential Financial Agency and have been instrumental in obtaining supplementary funding for Flathead Audubon's current undertaking, the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Bob and Jane have two children and six beautiful grandchildren. Bob's other hobbies include gardening and flyfishing.



# Report Shows Montana is Tops in Birdwatching

Montana leads the nation in percentage of residents who are birdwatchers, a multibillion-dollar pastime and one of America's most popular outdoor activities, according to a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report found that 46 million birdwatchers across the country spent \$32 billion in 2001 and supported more than 863,000 jobs. "Nearly one in five Americans is a birdwatcher," said FWS Director Steve Williams. "Birdwatching is very popular and contributes greatly to our economy, so it is important that we continue to work with our partners to restore and protect habitat to ensure healthy bird populations."

The report, "Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis," is the first of its kind analyzing information from the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Nicholas Throckmorton, FWS spokesman, said the agency, through the U.S. Census Bureau, conducts the national survey every five years but that this was the first time it has had funding to do an analysis of birding.

To be considered a birdwatcher by FWS, a person must take a trip a mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or must closely observe or try to identify birds around the home. The information found that in 2001, the states with the largest percentage of birders were **Montana, with 44 percent**, Vermont with 43 percent and Wisconsin with 41 percent. "Montana has such a strong outdoor tradition and that's obvious through the numbers leading the nation in birding participation," Throckmorton said.

On average, 22 percent of the nation's population watch birds, the report said. Kathy Haigh, president of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Chapter, wasn't too surprised to learn that Montana leads the nation. "We are a rural state, so maybe we're more in tune to habitat and wildlife than others," she said. What do out-of-state birders want to see when they visit Montana? Haigh said visitors like to see Lewis' woodpeckers and Clark's nutcrackers, both birds named after the explorers of the Corps of Discovery.

Birders spend money in the billions. The report found that birdwatchers spent \$32 billion in 2001, which generated \$85 billion in overall economic benefit and \$13 billion in federal and state income taxes. Included in the \$32 billion was \$7.4 billion spent on travel and \$24.3 billion spent on equipment including binoculars, scopes, film, seed, feeders, food and clothing. Another \$11.1 billion went for expensive items like off-road vehicles, campers and motor homes. The report said watching birds around the home is the most common form of the pastime. Trips away from home were made by 40 percent of birders -- 18 million people.

The report also looked at the contrast between the casual and the hard-core birder. The results showed that 74 percent of all birders could identify one to 20 birds by sight or sound; 13 percent could identify 21 to 40 species; and 8 percent could identify 41 or more species. Five percent of all birders kept a life list of all species they had observed.

The most popular ages for bird watching were between 55 years to 64 years, the report said. In addition, 72 percent of birders were married, 54 percent were female and 33 percent had five years or more of college.

By CLAIR JOHNSON  
Billings Gazette  
October 15, 2003



## EBird

EBird offers computer users another opportunity to share birding data while tracking personal observations and maintaining lists of birds you've seen. EBird is completely free and registration takes only a couple of minutes. As a member, you can retrieve your information at any time for your personal use as well as accessing the entire database to find out what other birders are reporting across North America. Additionally, the database is used by conservationists and scientists to study the distribution and movement patterns of birds across the North American continent. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.ebird.org/content/>

From Jeannie Marcure

## Lower Valley Development a Concern for Farming, Recreation and Habitat

One of the best birding areas in the Flathead Valley is the "Lower Valley." That is the farmlands around the Lower Valley Road, between Kalispell and Somers. Subdivision pressure there could change the face of this place, forever.

This area has been farmed for 100 years and yet remains dotted with oxbows, marshes and other wetlands. It's valuable for migrating shore birds, waterfowl and resident upland game birds, enjoyed by both hunters and birders. The wetlands complexes act as filters for ground water, and experts say they are crucial for keeping Flathead Lake clean. The soils here are among the most fertile anywhere in Montana.

An owner of substantial acreage immediately north of Blasdel National Waterfowl Production Area is seeking permission to split his land into five-acre lots. He needs an OK from the county, since the Flathead County Plan calls for this area to remain agricultural.

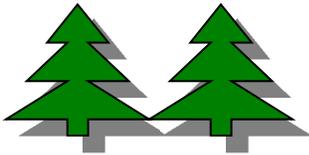
The subdivision proposals, called Ficken Farm II and Skyview Estates II, were given a unanimous stamp of approval in November by the Flathead County Planning Board, in spite of concerns voiced by hunters, farmers and neighbors. That board, however, is only advisory. The final authority goes to the Flathead County Commissioners, who are directly answerable to the voters, who will vote on the proposal in December.

There are plenty of reasons to be concerned about the proposed subdivisions. Here are a few:

- Poorly planned residential development makes it increasingly difficult for remaining farmers to stay on adjacent land, as they wish. Development infringes on this traditional lifestyle.
- Poorly planned residential development degrades public resources, particularly wildlife and clean water. Dogs and cats will roam over property lines, killing wildlife even in protected habitat.
- Poorly planned residential development degrades our traditional recreational access. Public and private areas in the Lower Valley which are now popular for bird hunting, for example, will become impractical for that activity as they become hemmed in with houses.

There is still time to find balance. Cluster development, for example, allows for property owners to develop their land, while providing for open space and buffering neighboring land uses. You can express your concerns to the Flathead County Commissioners Howard Gipe, Bob Watne and Gary Hall, by calling 758.5503.

By Ben Long



*Only when the last tree has died,  
And the last river has been poisoned,  
And the last fish has been caught  
Will we realize that  
We cannot eat money.*

Translation of 19th Century  
Cree Indian saying



### FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Montana Audubon is offering grant money to individuals and/or nonprofit organizations for projects that will directly benefit wildlife in Montana. Preference will be given to research or education projects involving nongame wildlife, from birds to invertebrates, and their habitats.

This is the ninth year that Audubon has awarded grants to help fund worthwhile wildlife projects. Funding is provided by the Audubon Wildlife Fund. Eligible uses of the funds include mileage,

supplies, equipment for schools or nonprofit organizations, printing, and communications. Ineligible uses include salaries, stipends, per diem or personal equipment.

Interested applicants should contact Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, (406) 443-3949, <http://mtaudubon.org/> for application information. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2003. Grant winners will be announced by March 1, 2004.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Support local programs and receive the Pileated Post

Flathead Audubon Member \$15   
(Individual or Family)

**NATIONAL AUDUBON**

Support nationwide programs, receive the Audubon magazine and the Pileated Post

First Time Member \$20   
Senior/Student \$15   
Individual Renewal \$35   
Family Renewal \$38

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check here if you do NOT want your name shared with other organizations.

**Mail this form with your check to:**  
Flathead Audubon Society Membership  
380 Tally Lake Road  
Whitefish, MT 59937



**Non-Profit Org.**  
**Postage Paid**  
**Permit No. 115**  
**Kalispell, MT**  
**59901-9173**

**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY**

**OFFICERS**

|                     |                                                       |          |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| President (Interim) | Linda deKort (dekort@digisys.net)                     | 755-4704 |
| Vice-President      | Bob Lopp, 52 West View Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901     | 257-6886 |
| Secretary           | Gail Sullivan, 932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937 | 862-5775 |
| Treasurer           | Bruce Tannehill, 239 Deer Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937  | 862-4548 |
| Past-President      | Linda Winnie (lindawin@cyberport.net)                 | 755-1406 |

**DIRECTORS**

|           |                                                      |          |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 2001-2004 | Dan Casey, P.O. Box 355, Somers, MT 59932            | 857-3143 |
| 2001-2004 | Jane Adams (jadams@digisys.net)                      | 257-4527 |
| 2003-2004 | Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937       | 862-5807 |
| 2003-2004 | Brent Mitchell (bkmitch@bigsky.net)                  | 756-8130 |
| 2003-2004 | Jill Fanning (shrdlu@centurytel.net)                 | 862-8070 |
| 2003-2004 | Mike Fanning (shrdlu@centurytel.net)                 | 862-8070 |
| 2003-2004 | Bob Lee (Robert_Lee@fws.gov)                         | 758-6879 |
| 2002-2005 | Sonja Hartmann, P.O. Box 316, West Glacier, MT 59936 | 387-4150 |
| 2002-2005 | Leslie Kehoe (ljkehoe@digisys.net)                   | 837-4467 |
| 2002-2005 | Karen Nichols (karenben@montanasky.net)              | 756-5763 |
| 2003-2006 | Lisa Discoe (ldiscoe@hotmail.com)                    | 837-1456 |
| 2003-2006 | Lewis Young, 50 Garrison Dr., Eureka, MT 59917       | 889-3492 |
| 2003-2006 | Andrea Goff (bigfork@digisys.net)                    | 837-1530 |

**CHAIRS**

|                              |                |          |                    |                |          |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| Audubon Adventures           | Kim Davis      | 755-1311 | Membership         | Mike Fanning   | 862-8070 |
| Birdseed Sales               | June & Rod Ash | 754-2289 | Owen Sowerwine NA  | Brent Mitchell | 756-8130 |
| Christmas Bird Count         | Dan Casey      | 857-3143 |                    | Neal Brown     | 837-5018 |
| Community Naturalist Program | Sonja Hartmann | 387-4150 | Newsletter Editor  | Karen Nichols  | 756-5763 |
| Conservation                 | Brent Mitchell | 756-8130 | Program            | Leo Keane      | 862-5807 |
| Education                    | Sonja Hartmann | 387-4150 | Publicity          | Karen Nichols  | 756-5763 |
| Field Trips                  | Jim Swab       | 387-4299 | Refuge Projects    | Leslie Kehoe   | 837-4467 |
| Hospitality                  | Lois Drobish   | 756-7405 | Sales              | Lisa Discoe    | 837-1456 |
|                              | Judy Spence    | 857-2599 | Wetlands/Waterfowl | Neal Brown     | 837-5018 |
| Librarian                    | Gail Leonard   | 862-5807 |                    |                |          |

**MONTANA AUDUBON**

|                        |                                                     |          |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| State Office           | Ray Johnson, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624         | 443-3949 |
| Western Montana Office | Bob Petty, P.O. Box 831, Stevensville, MT 59870     | 777-0780 |
| Board President        | Jim Brown, 1504 Woods Gulch Rd., Missoula, MT 59802 | 549-8052 |



**DECEMBER, 2003**

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 regular meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

*THE PILEATED POST* is published September through May and is sent to members of the Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070.

**Deadline for newsletter copy is the 20th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 756-5763; email submissions to pileatedpost@hotmail.com**