



BIGFORK BIRD FESTIVAL

2nd Annual

June 11, 12, 13 2004

The 2nd Annual Bigfork Bird Festival will take place in Bigfork from Friday, June 11th, through Sunday, June 13th, 2004. A series of field trips and seminars featuring the birds of northwestern Montana area will be held for amateur and expert birders alike. From self-guided tours to trips led by expert Flathead Audubon Society guides, there will be something for everyone. The Bigfork Bird Festival is a cooperative effort between Flathead Audubon and the Bigfork Area Chamber of Commerce. A donation of \$1000 is made to the Flathead Audubon Society for their help in providing volunteer guides and creating the field trip itineraries. There will be field trips on Saturday and Sunday with featured speakers on Friday and Saturday night at Marina Cay Resort in Bigfork.

Friday, June 11 Speaker, 6-7 PM "Ospreys in Montana Project," presented by Dr. Charles R. Blem. Dr. Charles and Leann Blem, principal investigators from the Earthwatch Institute Expedition "Ospreys in Montana Project" were based at the Flathead Lake Biological Station for the past 3 summers.

Saturday, June 12 Keynote Speaker, 6-8 PM "Rediscovering the Joy of Bird Watching". Birds. They're all around us, easy to find but not always so easy to name. Local bird expert Dan Casey will present an entertaining talk using images and sounds of northwest Montana bird species to highlight the joy and challenge that is birding. The talk will interweave tips, anecdotes, natural history and local knowledge of habitats and seasons in an entertaining combination that will make you eager to visit our local hotspots or your favorite neighborhood patch. From the common bird to the "mega-rarity", Dan will remind us why we have such a passion for birding, and will present specific tips for sorting out those difficult flycatchers, sparrows, and sandpipers. Buffet Dinner will begin at 6PM. The menu is burger and chicken barbeque buffet, potato salad, baked beans, dessert and coffee.

Field Trips: Groups will be a pleasant size of 11-13 people per trip, in order for you to get the most from the experience and the guide. Saturday field trips will include a walk along the Swan River Corridor, a trip to the Smith Lake Waterfowl Production Area, an exploration of Tally Lake and vicinity, a field trip to Swan River Wildlife Refuge, and a wander around the recently burned areas in and around

Glacier National Park. The field trips on Sunday will be equally enjoyable and will include another walk along the Swan River Corridor and one in Wayfarer's State Park, a trip to Glacier National Park, and an all day trip to the Mission Valley and the National Bison Range. Other field trips will visit the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, the Lower Valley and Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information on the Bigfork Bird Festival, including a more detailed schedule of the events and fees and to find out how to register, visit <http://bigforkbirdfestival.com> or call the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce at 406-837-5888 to have information sent to you. Please come and enjoy

some exceptional bird watching right here in our very own backyard.

By Andrea Goff



MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, May 10, 2004: Flathead Audubon Annual Potluck, Silent Auction, and General Meeting and Elections, at **West Valley School** community room, followed by special photography program. Dinner starts at 6PM. See Page 3 for additional details.

Full list of Spring & Summer Field Trips on Pages 7 and 8.

Conservation - A Lifetime Affair



Rod and June Ash

How do you happen to be living in Montana? What brought you to the Swan Valley? Answering these questions for the Ash family is simple – years of patient anticipation and persistence.

In the summer of 1948, Rod left his U.C. Berkeley anthropology studies for a summer job in the Clearwater National Forest near Orofino, ID. While hitchhiking north through Montana at the end of the job, a thin black line on his map running up the Swan Valley caught his attention. He gazed at the tantalizing valley as his ride carried him to Glacier Park and vowed to return and explore it someday.

Rod met and married June, a social welfare major at Berkeley, and settled in Cottonwood, CA, where he taught high school anthropology and human ecology. June was always a bird watcher and served as Conservation Chair and the Civic Beautification Chair for Cottonwood Garden Club. “When we thought about organizing an environmental group, Audubon seemed like the natural choice in that conservative area.” Rod and June became charter members of the Wintu Audubon Society in Redding, with Rod as Conservation Chair.

They enjoyed the outdoors and decided to spend the summer of 1952 at the Big Swede Mountain Lookout near Libby. Friends offered Rod a teaching job in Libby, but it paid only half the salary he was earning in California. Finally making their first visit to the Swan Valley on July 4, 1960, they found the Holland Lake campground full of people with blaring radios. The district ranger, who turned out to be a comrade from Rod’s summer in Orofino, pointed them to Glacier Creek for a more peaceful camping experience. Thus began their regular summer trips to the Swan Valley.

The last day of their visit in 1969 was a sweltering 103 degrees. Hoping to buy some property, they investigated a cabin on 10 acres near Condon. Deserted by the renter during the previous winter’s cold snap, the cabin’s pipes had burst, windows had broken and critters had dug burrows underneath. The family drove toward home for only an hour before they decided to call the owners and buy the place. After that, they came at Christmas and in summer until 1984, when they finally made a permanent move.

Flathead Audubon absorbed Rod and June like a sponge. June took over as membership chair-

person and, later, organized the bird seed sales into a well-advertised, successful fundraiser. Rod became Flathead Audubon’s first Conservation Chair, stepping right into the hot and heavy issues of a new wilderness bill, oil drilling in the wilderness, and Forest Service and county land-use planning.

When Audubon meetings moved from Bigfork to Kalispell, driving time doubled for the Ashes. Remembering an auto accident one snowy night, June said, “We decided that it just wasn’t a good idea for us to make that late night drive.” June still helps with the bird seed sales and Rod continued to serve as president of the Montana Audubon board for many years. He especially worked hard to raise funds, teaching the chapters to do the same and creating an effective conservation presence in the state. Meanwhile, the Swan Valley had community problems of its own.

“Strong opinions divided Valley residents between those who wanted more logging and those who didn’t. The Forest Service had slowed harvesting, but the industrial forests continued a steady cutting program,” remembered Rod. The conflict spread throughout northwest Montana. In 1990, Rod helped organize the Swan Citizens Ad Hoc Committee, an open forum for discussions that would hopefully lead to understanding and solutions. They followed its success in 1996 with the formation of the Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC), to carry out projects identified by the Ad Hoc Committee, plus get more information to community members. Rod was the first and current president of the SEC board.

“Its amazing how many volunteers come from this little community,” reflected both Rod and June. One purpose of the SEC was to integrate the knowledge of experienced local folks with the science and economic realities of living near and depending upon the forest. “There are eleven people on the SEC board now and we balance it to reflect the community as a whole. On one hand we’re accused of being tree huggers and on the other, in bed with the timber industry,” Rod said, a wry smile crossing his face.

The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation clearly recognized the uniqueness of SEC and provided early funding to get them off to a good start. In cooperation with US Forest Service,

(Rod and June, continued on page 6)

May 2004 Program

BIRDS ON ICE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARI TO ANTARCTICA



Steve Carlisle presents his images of a recent photographic excursion to the wild and frozen continent of Antarctica. Stunning shots of this remote and seldom visited geography and its highly adapted inhabitants promise to make this a most enjoyable tour of a world few of us will ever see.

Steve Carlisle is an amateur nature photographer with a special interest in bird photography. He became serious about his hobby 14 years ago and this led to several trips with photographic tours to Antarctica, Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve, the Galapagos Islands, Churchill, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Sanibel Island and the Venice heron rookery in Florida, the south Texas coast, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia Island in the southern Atlantic Ocean. Carlisle has also photographed extensively in Washington, Oregon and Montana. His photographs have been published in *Birder's World*, *Ducks Unlimited*, *Wildbird*, *Nature Photographer* and *Sunset* magazines, several national calendars and two nature photography books. He has received first place awards in several regional, national and international photographic competitions.

Steve's professional career has been as a psychiatrist in Longview, WA, and he currently works at the Western Montana Mental Health Clinic in Kalispell. He and his family first moved to Kalispell in 1943.

MAY 10th POTLUCK, PROGRAM AND SILENT AUCTION

The May Potluck will be held at West Valley School, located at the intersection of Farm to Market Road and West Reserve Drive. We have moved the potluck location because Lone Pine cannot accommodate the size of our group. We will meet in the "small gym" and plan to eat at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite potluck dish and dinner service. Hot tea and coffee will be provided by Judy Spence – thanks, Judy!

Come early so that you can contribute to and have a look at the silent auction items and start the bidding! Silent auction items may include: bird houses and feeders, bird logo stationery, homemade jams, art objects, guided bird hikes, walking sticks, a tap dance lesson, chocolate truffles, nature books, CDs, etc.

An added feature this year will be a display of bird books created by Pat Lambert's 5th grade class at West Valley School. FAS sponsored Pat's class with Project Feeder Watch this year, and Pat has successfully taught birds across the curriculum. Some of the poetry and drawings from her class were featured in the *Missoulian* on April 12th. Her class is now busy incubating pheasant eggs. By May 10th, there should be some hatchlings at West Valley School!

We look forward to seeing you there, too.

Linda deKort, President

Farmers' Markets Open!



Whitefish: Thursdays, starting May 6, 4-6 p.m. at Mountain Mall

Kalispell: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Kalispell Center Mall West Parking Lot

Tuesdays, beginning May 11, 4-6:30 p.m., also at KCM West Parking Lot

Bigfork: Wednesday afternoons, beginning in June (Watch for newspaper announcements as to time/place)

CSA – Community Supported Agriculture: For healthy eating and to support sustainable farming, join and become a shareholder in a CSA. You can secure fresh produce from early spring to late fall. You will get closer to your food and those who grow it. Your produce will likely contain fewer pesticides, if any, and fertilizers, as well. Energy required for transportation will be reduced. You may also earn the opportunity to get your hands in the soil, helping to maintain the vegetables! For information on CSA in your community, contact:

Bigfork – Julian Cunningham (837-1139)

Kalispell – Kip Drobish of Raven Ridge Farm (752-6837)

Whitefish – Judy Owsowitz of Terrapin Farm (862-6362)

Preserve habitat! Purchase from our local farmers! Support our local economy!

From Ferne Cohen



CHICKADEE CHATTER

Spring, just the word is evocative. So many wonderful images pop into my mind and a smile of anticipation appears on my face just at the mention of the word. It has been so lovely this year, with days filled with sunshine and brilliant blue sky and warm gentle breezes. I have spent many hours outside in the yard cleaning the old canes and tall grasses out of an overgrown raspberry patch. The raspberry patch is showing some promise, finally. And all the while as I worked I enjoyed the lovely songs of the birds of early spring.

While we all look forward to the arrival of the feathered migrants from far away, it is the beautiful lilting song of vibrantly colored House Finches I long to hear after a long winter, such a pretty song from such a common bird. Or perhaps that of the Song Sparrow who, after many months of quietly retrieving sunflowers seeds from under my feeder, bursts into song atop a nearby fence post. Many times I will stop what I am doing and just listen until it has finished singing. Nor can one discount the exuberant spring songs of the chickadees. It is delightful just to watch those tiny bundles of energy this time of the year as they search for the best nest sites.

This year, a pair of Mountain Chickadees and a pair of Tree Swallows are vying for the same nest box. In the morning, the swallows will be seen perched on or near the box and in the afternoon the chickadees will be flying in and out the box. I wonder which of the feathered ones will win the right to nest in the box? I am looking forward to finding out.

The robins made an appearance many weeks ago now and have been filling the dawn and the dusk with song. Just last week I found the shards of a lovely sky blue egg beneath a large fir tree. Baby robins, already?

Another song that I long to hear in the spring is that of the Ruby Crowned Kinglet. These diminutive birds arrived this year in early April and proceeded to perch high in the tree tops and break into a lively, cheerful song that I never fail to enjoy.

A Sunday drive around Flathead Lake in the midst of April can be full of pleasant surprises, too. On a drive around the lake, you might be fortunate enough to spot a Common Loon. I saw one such bird not long ago just 50 feet or so off of the shoreline. I watched it for many moments as it dove into the dark waters, only to resurface many feet from where it went under. It is hard to believe the length of time they are able to stay under the water. The bird was

soon little more than a black speck out on the water and I went on my way.

Further down the lake, I stopped again; this time it was not a bird that had captured my attention, but the vibrant yellow blossoms of Arrowleaf Balsamroot that had opened and were bobbing in an errant breeze. I knelt down to look at them carefully, trying to absorb some of their sunny character, when a bumble bee flew in front of my face. I knelt for some time in the warm sunshine surrounded by bobbing yellow flowers. Not far away, the calls of a pair of Osprey came to my ears. They had built a wonderful nest in the top of an ancient dead Ponderosa Pine.

On the same hillside where I found the balsamroot were the lavender blossoms of Shooting Stars and the drooping bells of the *Fritillaria*, Yellow Bells. Green things were sprouting everywhere from the sun-warmed hillside and I recognized some of the leaves and wondered about others. I might just have to take another drive next week and see what has come into bloom since my last visit.

While walking along the rocky lakeshore, I spotted a pair of Canada Geese swimming a short distance off of the shore; lo and behold they were carefully tending four tiny, yellow, fluffy babies. It is the first of the babies I have seen this spring. Imagine baby geese on the 19th of April! It is good to see babies, very life-affirming.

In the marshes beside the lake, the cattails have many days to go until they will be green but the Red-winged Blackbirds perch on the old stalks and call out to one another, brilliant red epaulets fluffed up. There are also a good number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, also making good use of their vocal chords. And in between this cacophony of sounds, one could hear the song of a March Wren. All in the good name of love, I guess.

As I drove home I caught a hint of brilliant blue and there on the fence beside the car were a male and female Mountain Bluebird. It was a good way to end a Sunday drive in the early spring.

It is the early birds of spring that make Spring so special for me. It is the anticipation of the common place that I await, the familiar song of the robin, a flash of bright red of a finch or the bright blue of a bluebird. These are things I have experienced many times but each spring it is as if it is for the first time. While I look forward to hearing and seeing the Gray Catbirds, the Lazuli Buntings, the Yellow Warblers and the myriad of other migrants that will soon make their way to NW Montana, I am already content because I have a robin singing in my back yard. It is my hope that you will have the chance to get out this spring and enjoy both the common and the not so common wonders of Spring.

By Leslie Kehoe

FROM THE BOARD:

SONJA HARTMANN

FAS COMMUNITY NATURALIST
EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR



Towards a Sense of Place

I stared, eyes fixed on the bird feeder, not quite believing what I was seeing. A true horde of Pygmy Nuthatches was swarming the deck, crawling on every available surface, and the surrounding Ponderosa Pines. Wow. I had been in search of what I thought was the elusive Pygmy Nuthatch, and here, at a friend's house in the valley, they were around in such numbers. After researching the little chaps further, I noticed that they were not on the Glacier Park bird list. I gave Steve Gniadeck, biologist and avid birder at Glacier Park, a ring and confirmed that this was correct. Seeing that I live just outside the park, and do most of my birding up this way, I was not in prime Pygmy Nuthatch habitat. The open Ponderosa forests are the place to look.

Experiences like this make me reflect on how the natural world still continues to enthrall and surprise me, drawing me in to want to learn more. With this comes a continued sense of awe, and the sense that I am missing most of what is going on around me. I am continually thankful that the natural world holds this special place in my life, and that I was out exploring and building forts at an early age. Maybe it is this sentiment that leads me to want to share this joy with others. Being part of Flathead Audubon's education programming has filled this need for me.

Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon hosted our second workshop for teachers and Community Naturalist volunteers at the Montessori School in Kalispell on March 13th and 14th. The agenda was to help teachers feel more comfortable teaching a bird curriculum unit in their classrooms, with support from Audubon and volunteers willing to come help in the class and field. With this goal in mind, Paul Belanger from Montana Audubon, who led the workshop, had some exciting ideas on teaching to share with us.

One of these ideas is that birds can be a window of awareness to the natural world. We not only want teachers and students to know birds, but also want to foster a connection with and a base of knowledge about the place we call home. This goal is sometimes described as environmental literacy.

So, how do young people connect with the place they live in, and why is this important? Young people often see the natural world a bit differently than the average adult. While we stand enjoying the beautiful vistas and sunsets, young ones are investigating the more immediate landscape at our feet. As Stephen Trimble in *The Geography of Childhood* states, "In a child's landscape, everything reduces in scale. If we can be sufficiently patient, we adults can partake a little in our children's journey." Gary Paul Nabhan, coauthor of *The Geography of Childhood* also mentions those "Lilliputian landscapes often overlooked by educated adults seeking the big picture". Children connect by playing in landscape, exploring, and naming plants and animals. This can be a powerful thing. As Stephen Trimble states, "By forging connections with plants, animals, and land, by finding ways to experience some relationship to the earth, individuals can gain a sense of worth. Herein lies security."

My hope is that through Audubon's Community Naturalist Program, we can help teachers get their students hooked on the natural world, through exploration of our local birds and their habitats. Birds are everywhere - from downtown, to our backyards, to pristine wilderness. You don't have to have a National Park in your backyard to connect with the natural world. You just have to have a sense of wonder and a little time to get outside. You don't have to be a bird specialist to share your enjoyment of birds, either. A good field guide, or the Internet, can be a good place to look up questions that come to mind when exploring with young people. As they come to understand the workings of their place, they will be more likely to create a bond that will encourage stewardship of natural places for future generations.

So, where is your place? How are you connected to it? How can you share this sense of place with others in your life? It may be as easy as taking slow saunters through your backyard with the special young people in your life, or taking them fishing or bird watching. Spring is in the air and is a time of

(Continued, next page....)



FAS THANKS THE SUSTAINABILITY FUND FOR EDUCATION GRANT

The Sustainability Fund has awarded \$1500 to Flathead Audubon for our ongoing educational projects. This award will provide much needed funds for such things as upgrading the educational materials that FAS makes available to Flathead Valley teachers, organizing volunteer naturalists to assist teachers in their classrooms and class field trips, and organizing, advertising, and hosting our spring teachers' workshops. Flathead Audubon sincerely thanks The Sustainability Fund, and the Fund's Managing Director, Lex Blood, for their generosity.



Clear the way for Bears! Along with your usual spring raking, digging, pruning, and planting, be sure to create some "non-bear habitat" around your home. This is the time of year to empty and clean your bird feeders, take down your suet, and



clean out and secure your garbage cans. Make sure your hummingbird feeders will hang out of a bear's reach, and bring your pet and horse food inside a building. You may save a bear's life by not providing attractants.

(Rod and June Ash, continued...)

the Condon Work Station, which budget cuts had threatened to close, became home to the SEC. Center staff members and volunteers provide public information and sell permits for the USFS, and even became dispatchers, coordinating firefighting efforts during last summer's blazes. "We spend a lot of time in wildfire education," Rod explained. "We developed the Fire Wise Trail at the Center showing people how to reduce fuel around their home site." June added, "We want to encourage people to be fire safe and to be prepared for wildfires in the future."

Working hand-in-hand, the Ad Hoc Committee and SEC saved the Elk Creek drainage, premier wildlife and bull trout spawning habitat that begins in the Mission Mountain Wilderness, but soon crosses the checkerboard ownership of industrial, USFS and State Forest land. Plum Creek Timberlands wanted to log along Elk Creek and wouldn't sell the land. The Ad Hoc Committee decided upon a Land Exchange with the USFS and after patient work over many years, the exchange was consummated.

"Our dream is to raise money to buy the forest land that Plum Creek wants to get rid of, so that it could be owned and managed by the community. It sounds farfetched, but has worked in other places," said Rod. "We hope that Plum Creek will slow their

sales process to give us a little time."

When Plum Creek started selling land, Rod recognized their Van Lake property, a popular fishing destination for valley residents, as prime real estate. "SEC really pushed Plum Creek and the USFS to put this land into public ownership," said Rod. "We worked through the non-profit group, Trust for Public Lands, obtaining Land and Water Conservation Funds from Congress to purchase the land for the USFS."

"Many of our projects are funded by grants," said Rod, "which allows us to hire more staff." From water quality monitoring to cultural and environmental mapping to trail maintenance, the projects empower the community by giving them ownership in the process as well as the product.

Rod and June have really made the Swan Valley and the forest a family affair. Two of their children work for the US Forest Service, one builds log furniture and the fourth works out of state. Their friends and neighbors have become an extended family. "Relationships here have developed nicely," June mentioned. And because of their participation in the Ad Hoc Committee and the SEC, Rod says with a smile, "We've all learned to live with one another."

Written by Robin Magaddino

American Redstart image from www.caosclub.com/nsw/funstuff/dredstart.html

(From the Board, continued...)

rebirth. Maybe this spring you can renew your commitment to getting yourself and the ones you love outside to reconnect with this amazing place we call the Flathead Valley. As Stephen Trimble states, "As parents, our job is to pay attention, to create possibilities, to be careful matchmakers between our children and the earth."

"Sound of melting snow – pops and crackles, wind in dry grass, whistling ducks wings, flowing water, sun on my back, stirrings in the underbrush – spring is around the corner!"

Written by an Audubon workshop participant during solo time in the Owen Sowerwine natural area during the recent Teacher Workshop at the Kalispell Montessori School

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

2004 SPRING & SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

The Public is Invited on all Field Trips
All Trips Free of Charge unless Otherwise Noted



MAY & JUNE. BIGFORK WILD MILE CORRIDOR WILDFLOWER & BIRD WALKS. Each Tuesday of May and June, 10 AM to Noon (May 11, 18, 25 & June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29). Join Anne Morley (Montana Native Plant Society) and Neal Brown (Flathead Audubon Society) for a gentle morning of wildflower and bird identification along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme Restaurant in downtown Bigfork. Contact: Neal Brown at 837-5018 or nealpatt@cyberport.net

SATURDAY, MAY 8. HARLEQUIN DUCKS AND AMERICAN DIPPERS. See first hand the amazing adaptations of Harlequin Ducks, one of Montana's rarest birds. We will watch them courting in the rapids alongside the American Dipper, a hearty year-round resident. Easy, all morning trip with short level walks. Glacier National Park entrance fee or pass required. The number of participants is limited to minimize disturbance to these shy ducks. Contact Jim Swab (387-4299) or suejim@bigsky.net for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 8. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE BISON RANGE. The birds brought spring back, and here's your chance to enjoy it by celebrating International Migratory Bird Day at the National Bison Range. A variety of bird activities are planned, including an advanced birding hike and a beginning bird walk (space is limited, so pre-registration is required). There will also be a talk about bluebird habitat and houses, information on backyard bird feeding, special bird video showings, giveaways, contests, coloring pages, and a book sale. The National Bison Range is also planning to open the 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain Drive in time for this celebration (fees are charged for the drive). The Range will open at 7:00 a.m. Please call the National Bison Range at (406) 644-2211, extension 207 to register for activities.



SATURDAY, May 15. BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY. Dave Dyer of the University of Montana will teach us how to make museum mounts of birds to help enhance our teaching collection. Meet at the FWP building at 10 AM to carpool to Missoula for the afternoon class. We can return that afternoon or stay and have an impromptu birding trip later. For more information, please call Bob Lee at 257-0363 or rml3@centurytel.net

SATURDAY, MAY 15. SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help count loons in northwest Montana, especially in the North and Middle Fork areas, Thompson Chain of Lakes, Troy and Libby areas. If you can help, contact one of the following: for north and west of Kalispell or the Swan Valley, Jane Ingebretson (837-4081) or Gael Bissell (752-3874), for the Libby/Troy area, Joni Manning (295-7495).

SATURDAY, MAY 15-29. LOON CENSUS IN GLACIER PARK. Count loons in Glacier National Park on any day during this 2-week period. To help, contact Steve Gniadek (888-7833) Steve_Gniadek@nps.gov

FRIDAY, MAY 21-23 MONTANA BIRD FESTIVAL IN STEVENSVILLE. Don't forget this year's big birding festival! For information about this annual event, see the Montana Audubon website www.mtaudubon.org or contact Diana in the Montana Audubon office in Helena (406)443-3949. The website contains a summary of the full program and registration information

SATURDAY, MAY 22. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER DAY. Join members of GNPA for their annual Volunteer Day in Glacier National Park. Volunteers will meet with park officials at 9:15 a.m. in front of the GNP Community Center to select from a list of work projects ranging from trail clearing (bird watching opportunities) to working in the park nursery. For additional information, contact Jim Swab at 387-4299 or suejim@bigsky.net



SATURDAY, MAY 22-23. SEELEY LAKE LOON & FISH FESTIVAL. Two days of fish, loons and loon viewing. Contact the Montana Loon Society secretary, Donna Love at 677-3767 or tlove@blackfoot.net or check out <http://www.seeleylakepathfinder.com>.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY 2004 SPRING & SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

The Public is Invited on all Field Trips
All Trips Free of Charge unless Otherwise Noted

SUNDAY, MAY 30. LOST TRAIL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP. Join us for a trip to the new National Wildlife Refuge in Pleasant Valley near Marion. This is a very exciting time to visit this wonderful place. The fields and marshes and woodlands are alive with bird song, not to mention birds. The habitat is very diverse, and we will have a chance to see everything from shore birds to ducks to warblers to raptors. We will meet at 7AM at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Building in Kalispell. To sign up, please contact Leslie Kehoe at (406) 837-4467 or lkehoe@digisys.net

SATURDAY, JUNE 5. BIRDING IN THE NORTH FORK. We will meet at the Polebridge Mercantile store at 9:00 a.m. and car pool to 8 miles north on the Outside North Fork Road and begin our search for warblers and other birds. Contact Donna at 257-4362.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11-13. BIGFORK BIRD FESTIVAL. For complete details, see page 1 of this newsletter.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13. OWEN SOWERWINE CANOE TRIP. Join Susannah & Dan Casey for a half-day exploration of an island park in the Flathead River near Kalispell. Canoe to the island (easy flat-water paddling) and bushwhack through the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Features breeding birds and a close-up look at the diversity of endangered cottonwood communities. Bring canoe and life jackets (one jacket for each person). Contact Susannah and Dan Casey at (406) 857-3143 or caseys4@centurytel.net to sign up for this trip.



SATURDAY, JUNE 19. SQUEEZER CREEK BIRDING AREA. Join Rod Ash for a unique birding experience in the Swan Valley's Squeezer Creek area. Afterward, the group will gather for lunch at the Swan Ecosystem Center in Condon, and an optional tour of the Center will be offered. Meet at the junction of Rt. 83 and the Swan River State Forest Headquarters (1/2 mile south of mile post 59), 9:30 a.m. and bring a lunch. For more information, call Rod at (406) 754-2289.



SATURDAY, June 26. LOONS OF THE THOMPSON CHAIN OF LAKES. The local Loon Ranger will conduct this tour along Highway 2 and the Chain of Lakes area. There should be loon families with 1 or 2 chicks. Meet at the FWP building on Meridian Rd. in Kalispell at 8:30 AM.

SATURDAY, JULY 17. MONTANA LOON DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group will need volunteers to help count loons on the lakes in northwest Montana, this time for reproduction as well as a general census. Please contact one of the following: Jane Ingebretson, 837-5081, Gael Bissell, 752-3874, or Joni Manning, 295-7495 for the Troy/Libby area.

SUNDAY, JULY 18. FLATHEAD RIVER FLOAT. Join Susannah & Dan Casey for a canoe trip from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island in Kalispell. This beginner level float is an easy six hours on the river (no whitewater) through a variety of riparian habitats. Bring canoe, lifejackets (one jacket for each person), lunch, and raingear. Meet at 9 AM at the Kalispell K-Mart parking lot. Please RSVP to Susannah or Dan at (406) 857-3143 or caseys4@centurytel.net.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14. MIGRANT SHOREBIRDS. This trip will highlight the shorebirds of the Flathead Valley, and will offer you a chance to see dowitchers, phalaropes, yellowlegs and sandpipers -- up to 15 species may be seen! Dan Casey will lead this trip to various locations around the Valley. Meet at the west end of the Tidyman's parking lot at 9:00 AM. Please RSVP with Dan at (406) 857-3143 or [ca-seys4@centurytel.net](mailto:caseys4@centurytel.net).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11. LUBECK-AUTUMN CREEK TRAIL. This is an easy to moderate 4 mile hike in the southern part of Glacier National Park. Bring food and water. We will look for fall migrants and listen for elk bugles. It is a beautiful time of year to appreciate this trail. Please RSVP Jim Swab at 387-4299 or suejim@bigsky.net



BIRD OF THE MONTH

WAITING FOR LATE ARRIVALS



When I moved to a new neighborhood three years ago, I was fairly confident in my ability to identify the birds that frequent the Flathead Valley. However, that confidence was soon shaken when I met my new neighbors who were camping and building a house on the hill above us. Once I'd told them of my interest in birds, they asked me to identify the bird making that "rude sound" in the early morning and evening. Well, I didn't have a clue! Of course I'm always up for a birding challenge and so after a few days of research and with the help of some friends, I was able to determine that the "rude sounds" were being made by a male Common Nighthawk making aerobatic displays over his territory. The loud **buzzing** or **whooshing** sound is created by the wind rushing through the primary feathers as he plummets rapidly toward the ground and then soars to dive again. This display is the nighthawk's way of impressing females and is also used to scare intruders away.

In the years since, that sound and also the nighttime "**peent**" made by the nighthawks as they snatch insects from the air, have become some of my favorite summer sounds. The presence of the nighthawks may also explain why our neighborhood is relatively free of mosquitoes.

Nighthawks were often called "goatsuckers" because of the erroneous belief that they flew into barns at night and sucked the teats of goats dry. While this legend is not true, the mouth shape of the nighthawk makes it seem plausible. They have relatively small beaks, but a large gape is created when the shape of the lower jaw changes from a V into a semicircle as the mouth opens to take insects.

Migration data for the nighthawk shows them as Montana residents from June through September. Not coincidentally, they arrive with the first hatch of insects and leave when the nights cool and the insect population dwindles. Of course, this late arrival may also be because they winter in Central and South America, making for a very long flight! Choosing a diet of flying insects including ants, moths, mosquitoes and small flies, these birds are real bug zappers, sometimes stuffing as many as 2000 bugs into their gullets as they fly open-mouthed through the night air. Interestingly, unlike most birds, nighthawks do not have a bony palate. Instead the upper jaw is lined with an unusual soft membrane which some researchers believe is sensitive to collisions with small insects and causes the mouth to snap shut upon impact.

Nighthawks nest on the ground in open arid, gravelly rural areas. Town residents often nest on gravel rooftops. Here again the soft membrane of the palate comes into use with the capillary-rich tissue of the mouth and throat collecting heat which is then dispersed by gular (throat) fluttering and panting. This allows nesting nighthawks to survive very high temperatures. Incubation and brooding chores are shared by the parents. The two olive eggs with dark marks are hatched in 19-20 days and the precocial chicks leave the nest within a day or two and can fly in about three weeks.

If you'd like to see a Common Nighthawk this summer, I'd suggest first familiarizing yourself with their sounds by listening to the recordings in the on-line Cornell guide at:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/>

Because their brown, black and gray coloring is camouflaged perfectly by their habitat, the presence of these small birds is most readily identified by voice. They will most readily be seen in flight at dusk and dawn where they can be identified by their long, thin rounded wings with conspicuous whitish bars near the tips. Listen for those "rude sounds" and scan the skies over open, rocky areas **or** give me a call and come enjoy an evening with the nighthawks from our deck! I'll post their arrival on the MOB hotline. Last year it was near the middle of June.

Jeannie Marcure (755-1808)

Facts for this article were obtained from: *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, *Stokes Field Guide to Western Birds*. www.e-nature.com. and www.CommonNighthawk.html.

No ray of sunshine is ever lost, but the green which it awakes into existence needs time to sprout, and it is not always granted to the sower to see the harvest. All work that is worth anything is done in faith.

Albert Schweitzer



Nominating Committee Report



The yearly Flathead Audubon election of officers will be held at the upcoming May meeting. FAS members at that meeting will vote on candidates for Secretary, Treasurer (both are two-year positions) and the Board of Directors (a three-year position). The Nominations Committee offers the following slate of nominees for these offices.

Flathead Audubon is extremely fortunate that the current Secretary and Treasurer are both willing to run for re-election.

Gail Sullivan has served as Secretary of FAS for the last eight years. Gail has provided the board with accurate minutes of its meetings -- no easy task, considering the often chaotic nature of these gatherings and the rambunctious nature of the board. Her perseverance and dedication are greatly appreciated. When not trying to keep track of the FAS board activities, Gail works at the Tally Lake Ranger District, kayaks with her husband Brian, and takes care of several rambunctious dogs.

Bruce Tannehill has served as Treasurer of FAS for six years. Bruce heads the FAS Budget Committee, and with his custom-designed bookkeeping system, he tracks the organization's financial activities. Throughout the year he keeps the board up to date on our budget and financial issues, and advises us on what we can and cannot afford to do. Before retirement, Bruce was a high school science teacher in Whitefish. He now devotes much of his time to conservation activities, recording bird songs, and birding and traveling with his wife Gail. He and Gail generously share their expertise and enthusiasm on the numerous Audubon field trips they lead.

Three candidates for the Board of Directors will be offered; any number may be elected.

Dan Casey has served on the FAS Board for the last three years, and has agreed to stand for re-election. Dan and his wife Susannah have served Flathead Audubon in many capacities over the years. Dan currently serves on the Owen Sowerwine Committee, leads FAS field trips, oversees the distribution of our Flathead Basin Birding Hotspots brochure, and provides invaluable advice and wisdom to

the FAS Board. Dan, who is Regional Director of the American Bird Conservancy, organizes the Bigfork and Kalispell Christmas Bird Counts, teaches classes on bird identification at FVCC, and graciously answers any and all questions about birds that he receives from people all over northwestern Montana.

Bob Lee was appointed to serve on the Board for a partial term last fall, and has now graciously agreed to stand for election to a full three-year term. Bob has served as a very active member of the Education Committee. He hosted Flathead Audubon's recent bird tubing work session in February. His contributions to planning and carrying out the Audubon Teachers Workshop in March were invaluable, and he organized and taught the Beauty of Birds this April. Also in April, Bob has taken over as Editor of the Pileated Post. He is fast becoming an indispensable member of the Flathead Audubon family. In addition, Bob is a Fisheries Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and a member of the Flathead County Search and Rescue Team. We are very lucky to have him!

Ansley Ford is a new addition to the FAS family. Ansley's own words tell the rest: "I moved to the Flathead Valley from Alaska about three years ago, and was immediately in love with my new surroundings. I had grown up in Alaska, and had been doing environmental education there, so I had become pretty familiar with the Alaskan flora and fauna. I was excited to begin attending Flathead Audubon's monthly programs and start learning more about the plants and animals here. This year, I joined FAS's Education Committee, attended the Audubon Teacher's Workshop in March, and am assisting Bob Lee with this spring's Beauty of Birds class. My latest goals include beginning a master's program in "ecological teaching and learning" with Audubon Expedition Institute, and co-authoring my first children's book! I'm sure my class of third graders at Lakeside School will have plenty of advice for me!

FAS Nominating Committee
Linda Winnie, Chair



THANKS TO PAUL MENSSEN From the FAS Education Committee



When the FAS Education Committee produced its "Common Birds of the Flathead" educational box, Paul Menssen and Photo Video Plus provided multiple copies of over 100 slides for the box at cost. In response to increased use of the "Common Birds" box by Flathead teachers, the Committee has produced a second such box, and is in the process of putting together a third. The Committee had anticipated a second box, so had enough slides for it. But we had not expected to need a third box so soon!

Paul provided the slide-copies needed to complete the new box free of charge.

Thank you, Paul and Photo Video Plus, for contributing so generously to this project!

Annual Blizzard at Freezout Lake

For the 7th straight year, Dan Casey led an intrepid group of Flathead Auduboners to Freezout (yes, that's really how it's spelled) Lake near Choteau for the annual spectacle of the spring Snow Goose migration. The geese traditionally stop over at Freezout on their migration from the central valley of California to their breeding areas in the arctic, attracted by the combination of large, shallow wetlands and expanses of barley fields to feed in. This year, a loosely knit group of about 17 made the trip, some traveling Friday to get a jump on the crowds, and others caravanning with Dan on Saturday, 27 March and returning home the next day. As usual, the geese did not disappoint. Although estimates from the previous week indicated an early peak of migration might have already passed, we were lucky (?) enough to have a cold front arrive with us, and bird numbers reached their seasonal peak while we were there. How many Snow, "Blue" and Ross's Geese did we see? As anyone who has made the trip can attest, counting the huge flocks is no small task. I heard estimates from 30,000 to 150,000, and my own guess was about 80,000 – 100,000. But when flocks of brilliant white birds are swirling against a dark cloud, or peeling off the water in waves against a flaming orange sunrise, who's counting?

We didn't focus just on the geese. There were small numbers of American White Pelicans, many ducks, the first American Avocets and Franklin's Gulls of spring, and a few grassland birds that also rewarded our efforts. All in all, we saw a minimum of 53 species for the weekend, with great looks at Northern Pintails, American and Eurasian Wigeon, Red-breasted Mergansers, Canvasbacks, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, and every plumage Snow Goose. A scan of Priest Butte revealed a Prairie Falcon setting up for nesting, and a stop outside of East Glacier gave us a chance to compare Tundra and Trumpeter Swans in the scope.

Freezout Lake, a low-lying basin that traditionally flooded in wet springs and with collected irrigation water, was acquired with sportsman's dollars starting in 1953, and has been managed as a nesting area for waterfowl and upland game, and as a popular hunting area ever since. It has also been recognized as one of the 500 most important bird areas in the United States by the American Bird Conservancy. Its renown and popularity among birders continues to grow, and the community of Choteau has realized and acknowledged the economic benefits that popularity brings. At most times over the weekend we were there, at least 100 people from all over the state were there following the flocks, huddling over their coffee mugs (the smart ones, anyway) to fend off the cold wind. If you've never made the pilgrimage to Freezout, mark your calendars now for the last weekend in March. It's a spectacle you don't want to miss. Bring your long johns.



By Dan Casey

International Migratory Bird Day

International Migratory Bird Day is a special day held the second Saturday of each May to celebrate the wonder of migratory birds. It is an annual event created in 1993 by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to help raise awareness of the needs of migratory birds, the threats they face and what we can do to help these birds. IMBD is now under the direction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and is celebrated all over North America, Mexico and Central America.

The National Bison Range will be celebrating IMBD on May 8, 2004 by opening the 19 mile Red Sleep Mountain scenic drive for the spring and summer season. There will be several guided bird walks led by the Bison Range Staff; a discussion of bluebird habitat and houses will be held by local bluebird expert Erv Davis, and photographer Donald Jones will be on hand to sign his new photography book, *Montana Wildlife Portfolio*. He will also give a pro-

gram on nature photography. In addition to these events, you can learn about backyard bird feeding, watch special birding videos and get a free 2004 IMBD poster. The theme for this year is the "Conservation of Colonial Birds." Did you know that congregatory (birds of a feather nesting together) nesting behavior has been a successful strategy evolutionarily for 1 in 8 bird species worldwide? Our best known colonial nester here in Montana is the Great Blue Heron.

If you would like more information on International Migratory Bird Day, you can log on to the following web site: <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd.html>. You may also call the National Bison Range and Pat Jamieson, the Outdoor Recreation Planner, at 406-644-2211, ext 207, for further information and to sign up for the walks and programs

From Leslie Kehoe

REPORTS FROM ALL OVER

Beauty of Birds



The Beauty of Birds will have ended by the time you read this; but, as I write, it is only half-way through. With about 25 attendees, the class started off with a bang – Beth Benjamin brought 3 of her educational birds to the first meeting . a great presentation and great interaction with the participants. Denver Holt followed up the next week with another great presentation of the owls of the Flathead. No one can imitate owls like Denver, and we are all on our way to becoming owl experts. Other classroom activities have included dressing up like birds (to better understand how they are put together), learning how to use binoculars and spotting scopes, and becoming familiar with some of the common birds of the Flathead.

In addition, we had a field trip with Bob Rost on a Saturday. We met at the high school and headed into the Lower Valley to check out some ponds. From there, we swung around past Foy's Lake and on to Smith Lake. A total of 50 species were seen, including Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Marsh Wren and lots of ducks. What a day!

From Bob Lee, Co-Instructor



MONTANA AUDUBON BOARD MEETING

It was a glorious, sunny Friday in the Flathead as Jane and I left for Choteau and the quarterly meeting of Montana Audubon. Pleasure before work meant several hours at Freezout Lake. The major flights had already gone north but there were still lots of birds, from Cinnamon Teal to Avocets.

Saturday, April 3, the board meeting started with an in-depth review of the current and projected budget for next year, presented by Ray Johnson, the retiring director of Montana Audubon. Janet Ellis will fill in as director at least for a few months. Dan Taylor, Regional Director for the Western States, also participated in the discussion. Each of the program directors is responsible for their program and to a great extent, the funding of that program. Many of the state Audubon organizations are having difficulties raising the needed funds for current programs because of the slow economy of the past three years. Nineteen of twenty-six are running a deficit, including Montana. Removing that deficit will be the main task for the 2005 budget year, which starts July 1.

Bob Fitzgerald, Development Director, and Rusty Harper, Assistant Development Director, have resigned to assume similar positions at their alma mater, Rocky Mountain College in Billings. A replacement for Bob is being interviewed this week.

Of direct importance to Flathead Audubon, the board approved the revised agreement for the Owen Sowerwine Nature Preserve. The agreement will prohibit horses and horse riding on the Owen Sowerwine. Dogs, other than during the fall hunting season, will also be prohibited. The future of "Audubon Centers" in Montana was discussed at length but with the current deficit financial picture, no actions were taken.

The next Board meeting will be at the Bird Festival in Stevensville in May.

Bob Lopp, Flathead Audubon Representative.



On the evening on April 17th, Karen Nichols (Pileated Post editor until recently) and Ben Long met their new son, Aidan Nichols Long. As soon as he arrived home, Aidan was shown a Mountain Chickadee. He now has a life list of 1! Congratulations to Karen and Ben and best wishes to all three!

Rost on the Road

Bob Rost has been very active in leading birding trips recently. On 21 March, he toured the Lower Valley with a few intrepid birders. They had nice weather and saw 51 species, all the hoped-for species except Trumpeter Swan. These included some "new for the year" birds: Violet Green Swallow and Shoveler, as well as small numbers of the usual raptors: Redtail, Rough-legged Hawk, Harrier and a Bald Eagle.

The first weekend in April saw Bob on the road with another small group, heading for Smith Lake. They saw most of the species of ducks, a few grebes, plus a lot of passerines. An immature Bald Eagle was trying to catch a duck but only caused a great amount of confusion. They heard Sandhill Cranes but were unable to get a visual. They also saw a cooperative Cliff Swallow resting on a wire after the long trip up.

REPORTS FROM ALL OVER

We were saddened to learn of the death of Carla Prach, who passed away in March. Carla gave Flathead Audubon Society several years as our greeter and hostess, taking care of name tags and setting up our beverages and treats for meetings. We will miss her and extend our sympathies to her husband of 54 years, Ed Prach, longtime Flathead Audubon member.

Frog Days!!! Flathead National Forest, June 23 and 24, 2004

Amphibians are declining around the world and scientists are struggling to figure out why. Each year we survey as many ponds as we can using employees, volunteers, and kids! It is fun work and we have gained valuable data. No prior experience necessary. We'll start with a training session and work in teams, with an experienced person leading each crew. Anyone 7 years and older is invited, although children must be accompanied by an adult and they will need a permission slip signed by a parent. Each group will survey up to 5 ponds that day. You will need to bring your lunch, water to drink, and something to keep your feet dry. Waders, hip boots, or irrigation boots are ideal. If you don't have any, we can try to find something for you. It would also be a

good idea to bring insect repellent and extra socks. We'll go out rain or shine, so consider raingear and a change of clothes.

There are two frog days again this year. Come to either one or both! On Wednesday, June 23, we will meet at the Tally Lake Ranger District office (on the west edge of Whitefish), and will survey on the Tally Lake Ranger District. On Thursday, June 24, we will meet at the Condon Work Center (south of Condon), and will survey places in the Swan Valley. On both days we will meet at 8:30 AM, and we should be done by 3:30 PM. Please RSVP to Beth Gardner (837-7508) or Roger Lindahl (758-5309).

From Linda deKort



SPRING MOB REPORT

Dan and Karen Owens started MOB (Montana Online Birders), an email birding list, shortly after moving back to Montana in 1998. Dan had been the list administrator for OBOL, Oregon's birding list for a couple of years. Saying that they didn't want to miss interesting bird sightings and discussions, Dan and Karen decided to start a list in Montana, like the one in Oregon. Karen came up with the name. She thought it would be cute to be known as Mobsters (also a nice pun on mobbing).

Most of the traffic on the list is about bird sightings. One of the members has started keeping a year list for Montana, based on sightings reported to MOB; now that spring has arrived, the reports are really coming in.

Spring migration has hit full stride and MOB (Montana Online Birders) is tracking the influx of bird species through the creative efforts of Patrick Toomey, a poster out of Victor, Montana. He conceived of the idea of creating a Montana Big List and solicited MOB for bird sighting dates and places. He posts the updated list as birds appear and are reported to MOB. As of March 19th, we were at 149 species for the year, with the addition of Savannah Sparrow and Sage Thrasher. The list gets to share the excitement of the first sighting of a bluebird, swallow, meadowlark and the knowledge that local feral peacocks can be seen yowling from the top of a Mobster's house in Bigfork.

People traveling to Montana with the intent of including birding in their travels are also using MOB; the list received a posting from Sweden asking for birding hotspots near the writer's destination. The list also has important information, like the percentage of ice on Freezout Lake in the spring and the numbers of ducks and geese gathering there.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse have been providing quite a show in Ft. Peck. There are White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants back at Canyon Ferry. A large group of 38 Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle was seen in the Flathead Valley recently. Chickadees, nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Pileated Woodpeckers, and American Robins are all serenading us with their spring songs, and others on the list are reporting the same spring chorus.

Currently, the list has 145 subscribers, many of them in other states, including many of the best birders in Montana. All it takes to be a member of MOB is an internet connection, email program, and a desire to read or write about birds in Montana.

To subscribe to the list, just go to <http://www.redmeadow.com/mailman/listinfo/mob> to sign up or see information about the list.

Contributed by Karen and Dan Owens

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MAY, 2004

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 7:00 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 257-0363; email submissions to pileatedpost@hotmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President (Interim)	Linda deKort	(dekort@digisys.net)	755-3704
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

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2001-2004	Dan Casey	(dcasey@abcbirds.org)	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	(shrldu@centurytel.net)	862-8070
2003-2004	Mike Fanning	(shrldu@centurytel.net)	862-8070
2003-2004	Bob Lee	(Robert_Lee@fws.gov)	758-6879
2003-2004	Neal Brown, 670 Wolf Creek Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911		837-5018
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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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	Judy Spence	857-2599	Sales	Lisa Discoe	837-1456
			Wetlands/Waterfowl	Neal Brown	837-5018

MONTANA AUDUBON

State Office	Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
Western MT Office	Bob Petty, P.O. Box 831, Stevensville, MT 59870	777-0780
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