



Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners  
Helena, Montana

August 22, 2006

Dear Commissioners,

The Flathead Audubon Society wishes to submit comments for your consideration concerning the proposed rules pertaining to exotic species.

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local, active group of people interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources. Although birds and their habitat are often our focus, Flathead Audubon is also very interested and involved in all our natural resources.

The Flathead Audubon Society supports the proposal to classify mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) as a prohibited species. The environmental problems to native swans and other species has been documented both in Montana and across the nation. The Atlantic Flyway Council adopted a policy in 1997 that described the problems and recommended that state agencies adopt programs to prohibit mute swans.

Flathead Audubon also supports the proposal to classify the other species in the new rule as controlled or prohibited because of the potential for effects on native Montana wildlife.

/s/Lewis Young

Lewis Young, Conservation Chair  
Flathead Audubon Society  
50 Garrison Drive  
Eureka, MT 59917