



FLATHEAD BIRD FESTIVAL!



What does it mean to attend a Bird Festival? Although it was the weekend of our wedding anniversary, Jane and I attended the 1st Montana Audubon Bird Festival in Polson. Friday night was a real treat, seeing live owls, including a Snowy recovering at the Owl Institute. The Saturday morning field trip was a beginner's tour of Polson. The afternoon was full of workshops and the banquet speaker was fascinating. Sunday morning we drove to West Glacier and joined the Glacier National Park field trip with Steve Gniadek. The four hour scheduled trip turned into an all day adventure ending at 7:00 p.m.! Just to spend hours birding with someone as knowledgeable as Steve made the weekend a success!

Now, what can you expect from YOUR weekend at the Flathead Bird Festival? What could be more informative and fun than an evening with Dan Casey and Dr. Avian Guano Br.D, alias Denny Olson? Saturday morning, pick from the many field trips but be back for lunch and an afternoon of 15 workshop options. Which ones to pick will be the biggest problem! Be sure to look over the Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes before the banquet! What awards will be presented and who will receive them at the beginning of the program? I don't know!

The evening speaker is Terry Rich, well known for his work with "Partners in Flight." Scientists have recently made population estimates for all of the 448 species of land birds that regularly breed in the U.S. and Canada. This has never been done before. Which species is the most common? Which the rarest? Are there more wrens or swallows? Which weighs more - one teen-aged African elephant or all the Calliope Hummingbirds in the world? Some questions will be answered and many more will be posed for us to ponder. What will you take home with you from the 2005 Flathead Bird Festival at Marina Cay in Bigfork June 3 - 5? Register (see next page) and come for the fun!

By Bob Lopp

NATIVE FISH PROTECTORS RECOGNIZED

In the final presentation of our 2004-2005 Conservation Achievement Recognitions, recognition certificates and one-year memberships in Flathead Audubon were given at our March meeting to three people who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and recovery of the native fish populations in the Flathead River system. The three honored were: **Wade Fredenburg** (US Fish and Wildlife Service -- USFWS), **Beth Gardner** (US Forest Service -- USFS) and **Clint Muhlfeld** (MT Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks -- FWP)

Wade Fredenburg is Bull Trout Coordinator at the USFWS Creston Fish and Wildlife Center. He manages the Endangered Species processes for bull trout for the state of Montana. This involves

(continued, page 2.....)



MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, May 9, 2005: Flathead Audubon General Meeting & Potluck. Details on page 3

Saturday-Sunday, May 7-8, 2005:
Family Forestry Expo - see article on page 9

**Saturday, May 14, 2005: International
Migratory Bird Day**

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 3-5,
2005: Flathead Bird Festival**

Summer Field Trips: pages 7 and 8!

Audubon members will receive in the mail a Festival brochure with detailed information, schedule, and a registration form. A copy of the brochure can also be obtained by calling the Montana Audubon office, 406-443-3949, and is available on the Montana Audubon website, www.mtaudubon.org

Donations for Silent Auction Still Needed

The Silent Auction at the Flathead Bird Festival is an important fund raiser for Montana Audubon, as well as for the two chapters hosting the festival: Flathead Audubon and Mission Mountain Audubon. The items auctioned in this fund raiser are traditionally donated by members and friends of Audubon. The success of this event depends on offering a good variety of quality items in the auction.

Can you help? We are looking for things that will especially appeal to birders and bird lovers. Items that have helped make the auction successful in the past include bird and nature-related books and CDs, works of art, birding or hiking equipment, guided bird hikes or nature trips, weekend accommodations in a prime birding area, tickets for a nature-

related performance or outdoor event, handmade bird houses and feeders, homemade baked goods or other food items. Use your imagination!

You may bring your donations to the May Flathead Audubon potluck. If you are coming to the Festival, you may bring your donations then. Or call Paula Smith (837-0181) or Linda Winnie (755-1406) to make other arrangements.

In order to concentrate our efforts on this important fundraiser, Flathead Audubon will not hold a silent auction at our May potluck this year. So if you've been saving up something for the potluck auction, please donate it instead to the Bird Festival Silent Auction.

Linda Winnie

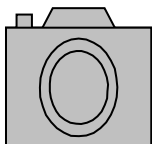
(Native Fish Protectors, continued...)

both initiating and coordinating bull trout recovery efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service throughout the state and meshing these with cooperative inter-agency projects that support bull trout recovery. Wade also oversees the numerous USFWS permitting and litigation processes that relate to bull trout's status as an endangered species. In addition, Wade participates in local field work aimed at bull trout recovery. For the last three years he has worked with a team of researchers gathering data on the size, location and spawning habits of the lake trout population in Glacier Park's McDonald Lake. The data will be used to determine how to suppress that lake trout population in order to revive the dwindling McDonald Lake bull trout population.

Beth Gardner is the Fish Biologist in the USFS Swan Lake Ranger District. She plans and oversees on-the-ground projects aimed at protecting and enhancing the westslope cutthroat populations in our area's small streams. These include efforts to improve cutthroat habitat through stream rehabilitation and the fencing of riparian areas. Beth's work also focuses on reducing competition between westslope cutthroat and the non-native brook trout that were introduced into this area many years ago. This can involve such things as electro-shocking stretches of streams and installing fish barriers in order to remove the invasive brookies.

Clint Muhlfeld is Native Fish Biologist in the FWP Region One office in Kalispell. He is part of the FWP team carrying out Region One's Native Fish Project as part of the Hungry Horse Mitigation Project funded by BPA. The Native Fish Project works to protect and recover the bull trout and westslope cutthroat populations in the Flathead River drainage in three ways: improvement of dam operations, improvement of native fish habitat and fish passage, and reduction of interaction between native and non-native fish populations. Clint is involved in both planning and carrying out projects in all three of these areas. He has designed and is now carrying out a research effort to determine abundance, genetic characteristics and year-long behavior of the fish populations in the Flathead drainage above Flathead Lake using fish tracking (using implanted electronic transmitters) and trapping. This work focuses on learning more about the hybridization between westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout, a fish not native to Montana. This hybridization is now considered to be the leading cause of the decline of westslope cutthroat in the Flathead system.

The latest challenge to native fish in the region is the recently confirmed presence of reproducing lake trout in Swan Lake. In order to preserve the Swan drainage's outstanding native bull trout population, the Swan Valley Bull Trout Working Group has been formed to develop an action plan for lake trout suppression. All three of our recipients are key members of the Group and enthusiastic supporters of this effort. Go for it, Wade, Beth and Clint!



MAY PROGRAM

The Joy of Bird Photography

Featuring Dr. Gene Grove



Our special May Potluck program features stunning bird photography from all over the North American continent. Dr. Vernon (Gene) Grove, a medical doctor by profession, caught the birding bug in the middle of his career. As so many of us have experienced, this "bug" manifests itself in a variety of ways; Dr. Grove took to photography of birds and it has been his avocation ever since. In fact, Gene has now published at least four books on the art and technique of bird photography, and is known as an authority on the subject, among both ornithologists and professional photographers. We are fortunate that Dr. Grove has chosen to retire in the Flathead Valley, and particularly happy to have him join us for our special May program.

PREZ

SEZ

THANKS!



From President Linda DeKort



We would like to give a hearty thank you to the following individuals and organizations:

To Leo Keane and North Country Builders, who donated the labor for constructing the kiosk that is now in place at the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. It is a sturdy attractive structure close to the Treasure Lane entrance that will provide a place where the public can obtain information about this Important Bird Area.

To the Sustainability Fund administered by Lex Blood for an additional \$1500 to our Education Committee. These funds will be added to others donated by the Sustainability Fund to promote the networking and outreach by Education Coordinator Rochelle Pope.

To Kay and Brent Mitchell who have started what we hope will become a FAS tradition...bringing recyclables to the General Meetings. Thanks for providing the trailer, for doing all the sorting and for maintaining smiles in the wind, rain and cold!

To Montessori School for generously storing our educational trunks and library materials.

To Bob Lee for building shelves to hold our educational materials.

To Montana Coffee Traders for providing shade grown coffee for our general meetings this year.

To Jane Lopp and Associates for providing a luxurious meeting place (and refreshments) for our monthly board meetings



The May Potluck will again be held at West Valley School, located at the intersection of Farm to Market Road (424) and West Reserve Drive. We will meet in the "small gym" and plan to eat around 6 pm. Please bring one of your favorite potluck dishes and dinner service including a cup. Juices and Good Migrations Decaf Coffee will be provided by the FAS board. We will be electing new board members and collecting silent auction items for the Bigfork Bird Festival. We will also be giving away a large variety of door prizes including wild berry jellies, note-cards, sun-catchers, a mock up of the exquisite Bird Habitat License Plate AND that Duct Tape Duck!! It could be your lucky night! The special program for this final meeting of the spring features Dr. Gene Grove, author of *The Joy of Bird Photography*. We will all luck out by being treated to his beautiful slides. See you there!

President Linda DeKort



Have a Wonderful Summer, everyone!

From your Newsletter Staff



Nominating Committee Report



The nominating committee has completed its work for the year. We have two fine candidates for the board, Paula Smith and Bob Rost, and a superb candidate for president, Bob Lopp. **The board terms will run through June 2008, the presidential term through June 2007.** Short biographical sketches are given below. One vacancy was left without nominees, the position of vice-president. If anyone has suggestions for that position, contact Mike Fanning.

Bob Lopp has lived in the Flathead all of his life. He has been birding since he was a teenager. He has served on the Flathead Audubon board since 2001 and has been Vice President the last two years. Bob has served on the Montana Audubon board during a particularly difficult period and is slated to be the next treasurer for Montana Audubon. He has generously made office space for our board meetings. Bob is that rare specimen who can be a passionate advocate while retaining a sense of balance. He is invaluable as a communicator since he can hear both sides of an issue and broker reasonable agreement. He taught German at Flathead High School for 25 years, was department chairman for 20 of those years and established the ongoing Braunsweig exchange in 1982. Bob and his wife Jane have the Jane Lopp & Associates office which is affiliated with Prudential Financial Agency. They have two children and six beautiful grandchildren. Bob's hobbies include gardening and fly-fishing.

Paula Smith has had a lifelong interest in birds, plants, and the natural world. She is a graduate of the University of Montana and fell in love with the Flathead Valley years ago. Retirement (from the Colorado State Auditor's Office) now allows her to go on Audubon field trips and to learn more about birds. She and her husband, Bob, moved back to Montana three years ago. They live in Bigfork where they are attempting to create better bird habitat by planting native species on their "blank slate" of a yard. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Bob Rost was born in 1933 and raised on a homestead in the Swan River Community. He attended the Swan River School, spent 4 years in the Navy, enrolled at Montana State University in 1957 (now University of Montana), and received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Washington State University in 1964. Bob and his wife Mo and kids moved to Alaska where they homesteaded and worked construction during the pipeline construction phase. In 1978 they returned to the Swan River community and started Mo's Greenhouse. Bob has always had a strong interest in the natural world, including birding. The last several years following retirement have been largely devoted to birding.

By Mike Fanning, Nominating Committee Chairman



A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary. Dorothy Fisher
Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, and especially to mine!



GLACIER INSTITUTE SHOWS ITS CLASS

Glacier Institute's roster of courses includes several that focus on birds in Glacier National Park and nearby Flathead National Forest. Taught and guided by recognized bird experts, these classes pack lots of learning into one to three days. The following courses may be of special interest to Audubon members:

Glacier's Harlequins, Saturday, May 7, with Instructor John Ashley

Birding by Ear, Friday through Sunday, May 27-29, with Instructor Denny Olson, M.S.,
a.k.a. "Critterman"

The "Uncommon" Loon, Thursday and Friday, June 16-17, with Instructor Denny Olson

Birding Glacier's West Side: Songbirds, Swifts, and Swallows, Friday and Saturday, June
17-18, with Instructor Lou Bruno

Birding Glacier's East Side: Peaks to Prairies, Sunday, June 19, with Instructor Lou Bruno

Glacier's Birds of Prey, Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, with Instructor Dave Shea, M.S.

Birding and Kayaking the Owen Sowerwine, Wednesday, June 29, with Instructor Dan Casey

Call Glacier Institute at 755-1211 for details on registration and fees.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

This month's feature bird might well be described as the "Mighty Mouse" of our local marshes and ponds. My memorable first encounter with this little dynamo occurred one spring day as my husband and I were carrying our kayak through a wet area to reach water. Alerted by a noisy chattering sound, we saw a small sparrow sized, brown bird perched on top of a nearby cattail, tail cocked and head thrown back in song. Far from shy, this little guy cooperated by standing his ground (or should I say cattail!) for several minutes and posing for this picture.



Later, when I checked my bird guides, I learned that I had just encountered a male Marsh Wren doing "just what comes naturally"—establishing and protecting his territory and looking for a mate. As the name implies, these diminutive birds are found exclusively in marshy areas with plentiful cattails and reeds.

In the Flathead, Marsh Wrens are migratory, arriving in April or May and leaving in late September or October. In the spring, the male arrives first and builds several "courtship nests" consisting of an oval outer shell of woven cattails and reeds which is anchored above the ground or water in vegetation. When the female arrives and pairs with the male, she selects one of the nests and adds a lining of feathers and cattail down. Marsh Wrens are often polygynous with two to three females paired with one male. Extra nests may be used for roosting but in general probably act as decoys for predators. Some proof exists that females prefer the males who have the most nests on their territory, maybe because this skill serves as an indicator of his general abilities as a provider.

Despite the fact that they are only about 4 inches long and weigh only about 10 grams, male Marsh Wrens are extremely aggressive and often fight over territories until one is forced to leave. They also decrease rivalry for food near their nest by destroying the eggs and nestlings of much larger birds such as Red Winged and Yellow-Headed Blackbirds. A few summers ago I was fortunate enough to ob-

serve a Marsh Wren chase a mink out of the cattails and into the water. Amazing behavior when you consider the difference in size.

The male and female Marsh Wren are very similar in appearance, but only the male sings and male juveniles learn the songs and can duplicate them by about 15 days of age. Remarkably, western Marsh Wrens know an average of 150 different songs and scientific research shows that they do not randomly pick songs from their repertoire but rather tend to follow a few specific patterns.

Thus, a male will move from song to song in a fairly predictable pattern. Males on neighboring territories often engage in matched counter-singing, the second offering up the song just given by his rival. Observers think that this behavior may reduce tensions between territorial neighbors.

The Marsh Wren feeds entirely on insects that it takes from plants as well as the surface of the water. It is typically a secretive bird, remaining well hidden in the cattails and reeds, briefly climbing a cattail for a look at an intruder; however, I've found that in the early spring, it's fairly easy to spot the males by listening for their distinctive song or by listening for the rustling noise they make as they feed in the cattails.

Marsh Wrens can be found in the Flathead on most marshy ponds and lakes. My most reliable spots for sightings are at Smith Lake where they can readily be found in the cattails on either side of the boat launch area (no boat needed) and at Blanchard Lake where you'll need to paddle along the cattails. Since I usually hear them before I see them, it may be useful to familiarize yourself with their sound before you head out. If you have internet access, there's a good recording at:

www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/Guide/Marsh_Wren

Sources used for this article include *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*.

by Jeannie Marcure



Bare facts 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 (at least 10 feet up and 4 feet out from any branch), and bring your pet and horse food inside a building. You may save a bear's life by not providing attractants. This is all you want to see of a bear in your yard!





FARMERS' MARKETS ROCK!



When was the last time you bought new potatoes that still had dirt on them? Or selected a box of raspberries just because they looked so perfect with the sun shining on them? Or shopped with breezes blowing through your hair with friends all around you? Those are not days gone by, but rather, days about to dawn! Farmers' Markets are opening all over the Valley, with the freshest food, bedding plants for starting your own garden, and crafts to brighten your home. This is also a great way to do your part to reduce our dependence on petroleum, since these products only have to travel a few miles from garden to market to your table. So choose a market from the list below and go shopping!

BIGFORK: Fridays, beginning May 27, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesdays, beginning June 1, 4-6 p.m.

When school is over (about June 15), both markets switch hours to 9 a.m. to noon

Located at Bigfork Elementary School on Grand Ave., in the bus parking lot

Need more info? Call Julian Cunningham (756-0462) or Carol Nelson (837-1443)

KALISPELL: Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, beginning May 3, 4-6 p.m.

Located at southwest parking lot of Kalispell Center Mall

Need more info? Call 881-4078

WHITEFISH: Dirty Hands Garden Club, who use proceeds for landscaping community areas

Thursdays, beginning May 12, 4-6:30 p.m. (no market on May 19)

Located in the parking lot of Super 1 at the Mountain Mall

Need more info? Call Joann Barnes (862-3451)

- also -

Heart of Whitefish, a local community action group

Tuesdays, beginning May 31, 5-7:30 p.m.

Located at the north end of Central Ave., near the depot

Need more info? Call Nancy Svenningsen (862-2043)



And whenever you have the opportunity, be sure to thank the following for generously providing space for the markets:

Bigfork Elementary School

Kalispell Center Mall

Super 1 of Whitefish, for allowing the market to continue in its traditional location

City of Whitefish, for closing the street during market hours

If you can't get to the Farmers' Markets often enough, 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. For a once-a-year fee, they will supply you weekly with locally grown garden produce throughout the season. Following are those CSA growers we are aware of in the Flathead Valley:

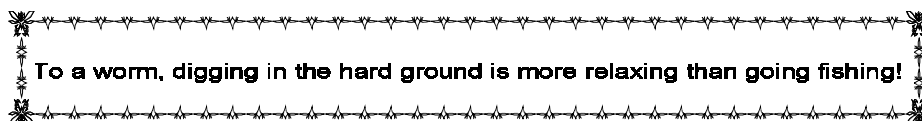
Bigfork – Julian Cunningham (837-1139)

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



To a worm, digging in the hard ground is more relaxing than going fishing!



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

2005 SUMMER FIELDTRIPS

The Public is Invited. All trips are free of charge!



TUESDAYS IN MAY & JUNE: BIGFORK WILD MILE CORRIDOR WILDFLOWER &

BIRD WALKS. Each Tuesday of May and June, 10 a.m. until noon (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & June 7, 14, 21, 28). Join Chista Eisenberg 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: Chista at 837-5754.

SUNDAY, MAY 8: HARLEQUIN DUCKS AND AMERICAN DIPPERS. What could be more appropriate for Mother's Day than a Harlequin Duck hike? Breeding females often return to the same stream where they were born, so local populations include related mothers & daughters (and sisters, aunts, nieces, etc.). 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. Please contact: John Ashley 892-3825 or Ashley@bigsky.net.



SATURDAY, MAY 14: 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 variety of other activities, including 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 14: SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help look for and count loons on the lakes throughout northwest Montana on this day. The need is especially great for people to help in the North and Middle Fork areas, the Thompson Chain of Lakes, and the Troy and Libby areas. If you can help, please contact one of the following: for north and west of Kalispell or the Swan Valley, Jane Ingebretson, 837-5081, or Gael Bissell, 752-3874; for the Libby/Troy area, Joni Manning, 295-7495.

SUNDAY, MAY 15: LOST TRAIL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP. Join us for a trip to the new National Wildlife Refuge in the Pleasant Valley near Marion. This is a very exciting time to visit this wonderful place. The fields, 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. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Building in Kalispell. To sign up, contact Leslie Kehoe at 837-4467 or likehoe@digisys.net



SATURDAY, MAY 21: HOT SPRINGS AND CAMAS PRAIRIE TOUR. Join Bob Rost for this unique birding adventure. Search for White-throated Swifts, Sage Thrashers, Western Bluebirds, Canyon Wrens, Lewis Woodpeckers and many more. Meet at the Park'n'Ride at Hwys 93 & 82 at 6:00 a.m. for this all-day fieldtrip. For more information, call Bob, 837-2255.

SATURDAY, MAY 21: GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER DAY. Join members of GNPA for the annual Volunteer Day in Glacier National Park. Volunteers should 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 jsswab@montanasky.net.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 3-5: FLATHEAD BIRD FESTIVAL at the Marina Cay Resort in Bigfork. Sponsored by Montana Audubon, Flathead Audubon, Mission Mountain Audubon and the Bigfork Bird Festival, there will be three days of fun, learning, and sharing the wonders of birding.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY: 2005 SPRING FIELDTRIPS

The Public is Invited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4: BIRDING IN THE NORTH FORK. This is a unique opportunity to explore the northern part of the North Fork of the Flathead River corridor for birds such as warblers. If interested, contact Donna, 257-4362.



SATURDAY, JUNE 18: SQUEEZER CREEK BIRDING AREA. Join Rod Ash for a unique birding experience in the Swan Valley's Squeezer Creek area. For details, call Rod, (406) 754-2289.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 & 29: ANNUAL HERP DAYS, sponsored by Flathead National Forest. Work with a team of 2 to 5 people, and an experienced team leader, to survey 5 local ponds for populations of amphibians and reptiles. Come one day or both. Each day begins with a 1 1/2 hour training session on herp identification and survey techniques. Anyone 7 years or older may participate, but children must be accompanied by an adult and bring a permission slip signed by a parent. Bring lunch, drinking water, and something to keep your feet dry (waders, hip boots or irrigation boots are ideal). Insect repellent, extra socks, raingear and a change of clothes are recommended. On Tuesday, June 28, meet at the Tally Lake Ranger District office (west edge of Whitefish); we'll survey in the Tally Lake Ranger District. On Wednesday, June 29, meet at the Condon Work Center (south of Condon); we'll survey in the Swan Valley. On both days meet at 8:30 a.m. We should be done by 3:30 p.m. PLEASE RSVP, so we can arrange vehicles and gear logistics. Contact Beth Gardner (863-5444 or bgardner@fs.fed.us) or Amy Jacobs (863-5444 or ajacobs@fs.fed.us).



SATURDAY, JULY 16: MONTANA LOON DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help look for and count loons on the lakes in northwest Montana. Need is especially great for people to help in the North and Middle Fork areas, Thompson Chain of Lakes, and the Troy and Libby areas. Please contact one of the following: for north and west of Kalispell or the Swan Valley, Jane Ingebretson, 837-5081, or Gael Bissell, 752-3874; for Glacier Park, Steve Gniadek, 888-7833 or Steve.Gniadek@nps.gov; for the Libby/Troy area, Glen Gill, 295-7445.

SUNDAY, JULY 17: 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 dcasey@abcbirds.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 25: LOONS OF THE THOMPSON LAKE CHAIN. The Loon Ranger for the Thompson Chain conducts this tour of known and potential loon nesting lakes in the Thompson Chain of Lakes and other loon spots along Highway 2 west of Kalispell. We should be able to see loon families with 1 or 2 chicks. This tour will last about 5 hours, including driving time. Meet in the parking lot of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Building (Meridian Rd, Kalispell) at 8:30 a.m. to car pool, or in the parking lot of Logan State Park at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact Gael Bissell, 752-3874, gbissel@mt.gov.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13: 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 dcasey@abcbirds.org



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: 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 jsswab@montanasky.net

Thanks to Jim Swab, Flathead Audubon Field Trip Coordinator!

BE WHERE THE ACTION IS!



CELEBRATE MIGRATORY BIRD DAY IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Glacier National Park hosts special events and activities in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 14. Apgar Visitor Center will serve as the meeting place for IMBD activities.

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| * Lower McDonald Creek Bird Walk | 9:00 a.m. | Becky Williams |
| Beginning birders welcome - bring binoculars! | | |
| * Slide Program - "The Birds of Glacier" | 11:00 a.m. | Susan Sindt |
| and short presentation "Raptor Profiles" | | |
| * Slide Program - "The Effects of Fire on Birds" | 1:00 p.m. | Dr. Sallie Hejl |

COME ONE, COME ALL!

The Seeley Lake Loon and Fish Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, at the Seeley Lake Elementary School. Enjoy loon walks, talks, children's activities. A family friendly event with fun for everyone.



There is a destiny
That makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone.
All that we send into
The lives of others,
Comes back into our own.
Edwin Markham

<http://www.caosclub.com/new/funstuff/dredstart.html>

FAMILY FORESTRY FUN

Don't miss the 16th annual Family Forestry Expo, scheduled for the weekend of May 7 and 8. It is a fun family outing, and is free of charge.

The Expo includes a demonstration of past and current logging skills by the FVCC Logging Sports Club; posters and stories about the forest and its inhabitants by local students; stations along a forest path that feature exhibits and kids' activities related to forest uses; a tour of the Stoltze Mill; and a free lunch for all the family. The theme of this year's Expo is "Forests—Landscapes of Many Uses."

The Expo is produced cooperatively by a variety of local organizations and agencies. Its aim is to provide information to students and adults on a wide range of forestry issues, presented from a variety of viewpoints. Last year, the forest stations focused on such diverse topics as archaeology, fisheries, plant identification, forest management, forest wildlife, low impact camping, logging practices, gold mining, and Montana birds. Similar topics will be covered this year, though at press time, a detailed list has not yet been provided by Expo organizers.

For a look at what the Expo is like, go to www.familyforestryexpo.org. This website offers short descriptions of last year's activities and some great pictures from the 2004 Expo. Be sure to click on Weekend Exhibits, and then Bird Station, to see pictures of the station that Flathead Audubon provided last year.

Flathead Audubon traditionally provides the station on Montana birds for the Family Expo, and will be doing so again this year. Our new Cavity Nester's Education Box will be featured. Please stop by our bird station to chat with the FAS volunteers working there and see some of the educational materials we make available to local educators. Perhaps you will also learn something new about Montana's forest birds.

The Family Forestry Expo is held at the Stoltze Experimental Forest on Trumbull Creek Road. The route to the site is well marked by signs, starting at the junction of Highway 2 and Half Moon Road, west of Columbia Falls. Watch your local paper for times.

The Bigfork Art and Cultural Center's "Take Flight" exhibit will open July 1, with an artist reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The show presents art works featuring birds by 27 artists. It will continue until August 6.



LOONEY TUNES

Attention All Loon Watchers – We Need Your Help!

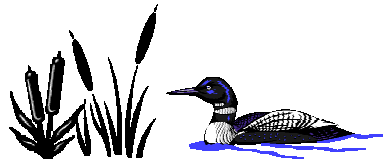
If you spot common loons this spring, summer, or fall, and have a spotting scope handy, take a few minutes to check them for color leg band combinations. Observing them for a short while may catch them raising a leg out of the water to stretch or scratch and could yield valuable research information. Each leg will have a band; sometimes two on each. Some bands have stripes or dots. Record the color combinations that you see on the right leg and left leg. Be sure to figure out correctly which leg the bands are on when you record them and which color band is closest to the body and which is closest to the foot (not always intuitive when the bird is facing you and moving around!). Example: Left leg: red band on top of silver means the red band is closest to the body and the silver is nearest the foot; Right leg: green on top of yellow means green is closest to the body and yellow is nearest the foot.

A research study coordinated through FWP is in progress, studying the long-term population trends, migration, and recruitment patterns of adult and juvenile loons in northwest Montana. The study will also include a satellite telemetry project by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. About 80 loons have been banded to date. Several banded Montana loons have been observed off the California coast, indicating some of our loons may overwinter in this area. Some key questions are: Is our loon population increasing, decreasing, or stable? Can our population expand? How do loons migrate from the Pacific coast to Montana? Where exactly do they overwinter? Do young raised here in Montana come back to breed here? Much more needs to be learned to ensure the loons' continued success in Montana.

Please report observations of any of the following to Gael Bissell at MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, 406-751-4580 or gbissell@mt.gov:

1. Any breeding activity (observations of pairs and/or young from May to August) in new areas or lakes.
2. Migration concentration areas.
3. Help identify important loon migration staging areas or stopovers during April/May and September/October periods. Reports of loons in groups greater than 4 individuals are helpful.

From Henning Stabins



Volunteers needed for new expanded Common Loon monitoring program in Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park is in the process of developing a new citizen science program that includes organizing volunteers to assist in gathering better information on loons. We need volunteers to help us determine the use of lakes and nesting success of Common Loons in Glacier NP. Volunteers can help in one of 2 ways: (1) volunteer to determine if a particular lake has single loons, paired loons, or loons with young on Glacier Loon Day (July 16, 2005), and/or (2) monitor one lake periodically throughout the nesting season (May through August) to begin to elucidate factors affecting nesting success. Volunteers will count loons and document loon behavior. Participants will: (1) learn to

discriminate between Common Loons and other waterfowl; (2) be introduced to the current state of knowledge about the distribution of loons in Glacier, loon breeding biology, the potential impacts of recreationists on loon population health, and management concerns for Common Loons at Glacier; and (3) be taught how to observe the birds to determine whether they are mated and have young. We would appreciate the help of anyone who is interested. If you're interested in participating and contributing to the protection and management of loons in Glacier National Park, call Amy Edmonds (888-7852) or Sallie Hejl (888-7863).

First Condor Hatchling Lost

From a press release from GRAND CANYON, Ariz.

Biologists have located the dead body of the first condor chick that hatched in the wild in Arizona in more than 80 years. The chick's body was found inside Grand Canyon National Park on Saturday, March 26.

The chick was just under two years old. It hatched May 3, 2003, in a nest cave near the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, and had been doing well since it fledged November 5, 2003.

Data indicate the chick was moving around extensively until March 17 or 18, including two trips to the Vermilion Cliffs site where captive condors are released into the wild. The bird was then detected in the area between Yavapai Point and Yaki Point in the Grand Canyon on March 18, 19 and 20. Then biologists saw that a transmitter attached to the chick stopped moving the evening of March 20. Initially biologists hoped the transmitter had simply fallen off, but that hope began to fade when the satellite-GPS transmitter indicated no movement over the following three days.

A recovery effort was launched on Friday, March 25 cooperatively by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, The Peregrine Fund, and the National Park Service. Biologists found the carcass on Saturday. It was on a slope in the Supai layer (approximately 1,200 feet below the rim) below Ya-

vapai Point. No immediate cause of death was determined. The carcass will be shipped to the Pathology Lab at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, California, where a necropsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death.

"As the first wild fledged chick in Arizona, this bird represented a significant step forward in the condor recovery program," stated Chad Olson, Raptor Biologist for Grand Canyon National Park.

"Although not critical from a population standpoint over the long-term," said Olson, "this bird was important symbolically to the condor reintroduction effort. I have been personally involved with the study of this bird and am truly saddened by its loss."

The two younger condor chicks that fledged in the wild in 2004 continue to do well. They feed, interact with other condors and explore their natural areas.

Chad Olson was a Masters Degree student at University of Montana before taking a position at Grand Canyon National Park. His Masters research on rough-legged hawks in the Mission Valley was partially funded by research grants from the Flathead Audubon Society. While doing his research, many birders of the Flathead enjoyed Chad's yearly Flathead Audubon fieldtrips to view the raptors of the Mission Valley.

FWS Returns Smuggled Birds to Mexico

Ninety rare parrots, smuggled into the United States for the black market pet trade, were returned to Mexico by FWS authorities on December 20, 2004, at Otay Mesa on the U.S./Mexico border. The parrots, which were recovered during two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigations of bird trafficking, are native only to Mexico and are protected by international treaty and U.S. and Mexican laws. The birds, which included 68 lilac-crowned Amazon parrots and 22 red-headed Amazon parrots, were among those seized in two separate foiled smuggling attempts earlier this year that involved interagency assistance. The Service works closely with Mexican authorities, including that country's Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA), and with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to police wildlife trade along the border and uphold wildlife protection laws and treaties.

CBP inspectors stopped the first suspect at the San Ysidro border crossing in August as he was returning from an overnight trip to Mexico; they discovered 128 birds hidden in the side panels and under the rear seats of his pickup truck. Birds seized at the time of his arrest included 48 lilac-crowned Amazons as well as orange-fronted conures, cardinals, and mockingbirds. The subject eventually admitted to smuggling birds on as many as 20 different occasions. In the second case, CBP stopped a suspect returning from Mexico via Otay Mesa in October with 45 parrots (including lilac-crowned and red-headed Amazons) concealed behind the rear seat of his car. Of the birds seized in the investigations, 90 were available for repatriation. Both defendants await sentencing.

Lilac-crowned and red-headed Amazons are among the more than 300 parrot species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). As officials at the repatriation event pointed out, parrots and other wild birds remain a target for smugglers, despite efforts to meet consumer demand for these exotic pets through captive breeding. Illegal trade and loss of habitat have depleted many wild populations.

Taken from a news release on the US Fish and Wildlife Service website: <http://www.fws.gov>.

EXCITING RECYCLING NEWS

Earlier this year, we received the letter below, courtesy of Paul Rana, who was investigating the possibility of glass recycling. In following up on this information, Brent Mitchell received an update on the project, reported on the next page.

Mobile Glass Pulverizer

The Business and Community Assistance Program of the Department of Environmental Quality, Air, Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau have sought funding for a mobile glass pulverizer to meet the challenges of recycling glass in Montana by developing partnerships and mobile processing for a local end use. The pulverizer is mounted on a trailer with its own generator, which we hope to power by biodiesel.

A funding source for a mobile glass pulverizer was obtained in July 2004. It will be operated by Headwaters Cooperative Recycling and will be placed in operation Spring 2005. In addition to Headwaters' region, it will enable glass recycling throughout Montana. Initial rollout will take place in western Montana; afterwards, communities in the east will be briefed and the pulverizer will rollout to their communities.

Headwaters Cooperative Recycling includes thirteen counties in Montana, in addition to a partnership with Yellowstone National Park. They are a 501C-3 nonprofit entity, which operates by an interlocking agreement. Headwaters is the largest recycling cooperative in the United States and has vehicles collecting recyclables throughout their counties. They are well suited to coordinate and operate the equipment.

Headwaters Cooperative Recycling selected the manufacturer, Andela Products, Inc., <http://www.andelaproducts.com/products/pulverizer.html> and placed the order for the mobile glass pulverizer. Furthermore, the decision was made to upgrade the pulverizer to a 3-5 ton per hour that will allow the market to grow into the pulverizer. Andela personally builds the pulverizer to the customer specifications; therefore, it will be finished December 2004 and delivered to Headwaters Cooperative Recycling.

We have partnered with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and their specifications now allow for glass cullet for soil-aggregate filler for road construction. A pilot project is scheduled for spring 2005 at the Montana City interchange improvement.

Other partners are Yellowstone National Park, Flathead County Solid Waste District, Glacier National Park, Montana Solid Waste Contractors Association, Lake County Solid Waste District, City of Bozeman, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, RecycleMT, Montana Association of Counties (MACO), Jackson Wyoming Recycling Center, City of Great Falls, MT Public Interest Research Group and the Blackfeet Nation.

Some other markets for glass cullet are as follows:

- Landscaping
- Septic drain fields
- Retaining wall backfill
- Drainpipe bedding and backfill
- French drains
- Other uses



It is my belief and goal that partnerships of state, tribal and local governments, private industry and non-profit organizations can move recycling forward in the state. This project, which will further establish glass recycling in Montana, is a great step towards this goal. I look forward to keeping you apprised of further progress of the mobile glass pulverizer. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brian Spangler
Department of Environmental Quality
Air, Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau
Business and Community Assistance Program Manager
1100 North Last Chance Gulch
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 841-5250 Telephone
(406) 841-5091 FAX

Forecasting is very difficult -
Especially if it is about the
future.
He who lives by the crystal ball
Soon learns to eat ground
glass
Edgar Fiedler

UPDATE ON GLASS PULVERIZER PROJECT

I spoke with Brian Spangler on April 20 and learned that the Department of Environmental Quality and other cooperators have indeed gone through with the purchase of the \$115,000 glass pulverizer. It is scheduled to be piloted on a community garden on about May 1 in Helena. The machine is mounted on a 40 foot trailer. They are planning to use the crushed glass on paths in the garden. Before you say "ouch!" and envision cut feet, I'll add that by the way the crusher works, the pieces (called cullet) end up completely smoothed, like pebbles in a stream.

Mr. Spangler is enthusiastic about this project and wants to get the word out about it. He is sending us photos of the pulverizer and a sample of the pulverized glass. We're hoping to have those available for you to see at the May potluck.

There is also now a facility accepting glass in the vicinity of the Missoula airport. Hopefully, we can develop something closer to home that will fill this need. Corry Cullen of Whitefish has made a great effort with glass recycling, but has not been able to achieve the large scale operation that is needed to make any money.

Now may be the time to start saving your glass. It's amazing how many things that used to come in glass are now packaged in plastic. You will find that you don't generate much anymore. Our only hope is to drink lots of bottled beer this summer!

Brent Mitchell

People are down on what they're not
up on.
Tom Jay



The greatest thing in the world
Is not so much where we stand,
As in what direction we are moving.
Oliver Wendell Holmes



MITCHELL RECYCLING WAGON RIDES AGAIN!

Well, we can't compete with a 3-4 ton pulverizer, but here's some more good news to launch you into summer with a smile. Last November, we set our utility trailer at the edge of The Summit's parking lot and invited members to put their recyclables in the trailer and let us haul them to the recycling center on behalf of Flathead Audubon. It was just an experiment to see if we could help make it easier for folks to recycle. It has now been 6 months (6 meetings) since November and here's the report: (drum roll here....)

Ladies and Gentlemen, by the end of the May run, we will have saved over TWO TONS of materials from going into our landfill! Volume-wise, that's the size of a small house! We picked up the money that has accumulated at just one of the recycling centers and received over \$100 for Flathead Audubon! No, it's not a big money-making project, but Audubon does a lot of good with those dollars. So, if you were thinking that one person can't make much of a difference, read this paragraph again and give yourselves a big hand!

We will be bringing the trailer to the May potluck for the last load before summer break. We'll try to park along an edge of the parking area, so you can drive by and give us the results of your spring cleaning. And this month, in addition to the regular recycling, we will be making a special run to Pacific Steel & Recycling with a load of metal of all kinds. To save on gas, we generally don't go there every month, and also because they keep trying to put our trailer in their scrap heap. (just kidding!) So check behind the garage and use this as an opportunity to get rid of old wire, fence posts, car parts, or any other metal stuff that's hanging around.

Thanks for doing such a great job this year, recyclers! Oh, and forget the glass - - drink beer in aluminum cans all summer!

Kay Mitchell

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MAY, 2005



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 Board of Directors meets the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN, in Kalispell. 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

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| Western MT Office | Bob Petty, P.O. Box 831, Stevensville, MT 59870 | 777-0780 |
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