



the **Flathead** **Post**

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 33

NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2008



FLATHEAD AUDUBON STARTS NEW SEASON WITH LOTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOU!



2nd Annual RAPTOR DAY In Memory of Rod Ash

Please join us on **Saturday, September 13** at Lone Pine State Park for the **2nd Annual Raptor Day, in Memory of Rod Ash**, brought to you in partnership by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park, to celebrate the many unique species of birds found in Northwest Montana, with a special emphasis on raptors and to honor the memory of Rod Ash for his conservation legacy for all things natural in Montana and, in particular, his enjoyment of raptors. We applaud his contributions to Montana and Flathead Audubon, the Swan and Flathead Valleys, and the state of Montana. Partial funding for the event comes from Art Ortenberg.

To open the day, there will be an early morning bird walk starting at 8AM, followed by a family bird walk and scavenger hunt at 10 AM. From 10AM - 4PM, enjoy education booths on birds, wildlife management, and habitat. Each education booth will also have a children's activity, such as wildlife origami and "raptor buddy" hats. Informative presentations will be held throughout the afternoon. Our own Bruce Tannehill holds... (*Raptor Day, continued on page 6*)

Owen Sowerwine Work Day Our 2008 Owen Sowerwine

Work Day promises to be the most diverse of any Work Day we've ever had. Put Saturday, September 27th on your calendar and be at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive at 9:00 AM, for a fun and educational 2 hours in the woods!

What's up this year? Regular trail maintenance, of course, adding some heavy duty trail signs made of cottonwood salvaged from the OSNA property. Fence repair in 2-3 spots where trees have fallen. These items come in response to your monitoring forms and requests submitted over the summer. And ... a large citizen-science-driven biological survey of permanent plots on the mainland portion of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. The survey will serve as a baseline set of data, to allow us to monitor changes which occur over the years. And YOU get to be one of the "founding members" of this survey! You need to have no specialized knowledge, just be able to walk in the woods, observe and count.

Furthermore, if more than 20 people show up for the 2 hours of work, we will qualify for Prudential sponsorship of "International Global Volunteer Day." (*Work Day, continued on page 7...*)

SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, September 8, 2008: General Membership Meeting. 7 PM, The Summit, Conference Room 3. Program on loons by Steve Gniadek. Details on page 3.

Tuesday, September 2, 2008: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM at Mike & Jill Fanning Residence, 380 Tally Lake Road. All are welcome.

Saturday, September 13, 2008: Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash.

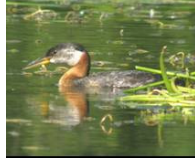
Saturday, September 27, 2008: Owen Sowerwine/Prudential Global Volunteer Work Day

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article & Photos by Jeannie Marcure

RED-NECKS IN THE FLATHEAD

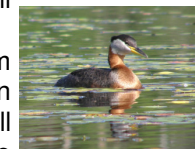
Webster defines a grebe as: “any of a family (*Podicipedidae*) of swimming and diving birds closely related to loons but having lobed toes.” In western Montana, six species of grebes are found during breeding season: Western, Clark’s, Eared, Horned, Pied-billed, and the topic of this month’s article, the Red-necked.



I became familiar with Red-necked Grebes a few years ago when I started exploring local waterways in my kayak. To avoid the noise and danger of speeding boats and jet skis, I began to gravitate toward smaller weedy lakes and ponds; in doing so, I unwittingly chose the favorite habitat of the Red-necked Grebe. I was first alerted to their presence by their hauntingly beautiful call which is somewhat like the loon. When I found the caller with my binoculars, I saw a large, long-necked water bird bigger than most ducks but smaller than a loon. As the name suggests, it had a distinctive rusty red neck topped by a whitish chin and cheek and a black cap. It also had a long yellowish bill and the body was black. In the summers since, I’ve had many memorable encounters with Red-necked Grebes and have learned fascinating things about them.

Like loons, grebes have physical adaptations that are closely tied to life on the water. Their legs are set far back on the body to help them swim underwater; therefore, they have a hard time walking and are seldom seen on land. Fish-eating grebes such as the Red-necked have long dagger-like bills and long flexible necks to help them catch prey. Their lobed toes, similar to those of a coot, are well-suited for propulsion and underwater steering. Although grebes typically feed near the water’s surface, dense bones and sleek bodies enable them to dive up to depths of 90 feet. A stubby tail cuts down on drag.

Red-necked Grebes arrive from their winter homes along the Pacific coast in early spring when the ice has left the small ponds and lakes that are their favorite homes. The monogamous pairs choose a territory of about 10 acres and vigorously defend this territory. After a courtship that may involve crest-raising, loud calls and a chest-to-chest head-wagging ritual, a floating nest is made of reeds, grass and cattails in water 2-3 feet deep. Sitting quietly in my kayak, I’ve had the privilege of watching an industrious pair of grebes carry reeds and cattails to the nest site and place them around a lily pad or other vegetation.



A successful nest of 2 to 7 off-white eggs typically hatch after 20-30 days of incubation by both parents. Over my years of observation, I’ve seen many nests destroyed by a sudden rise in water level caused by an unusually wet spring. When the chicks have all hatched, the nest is abandoned and the precocious young often ride on the parents’ backs, tucked under a wing. Although the chicks are able to swim and feed soon after hatching, this “free ride” helps them sustain body heat in cold spring weather and provides protection from predators such as bass, pike, gulls, coots and turtles. The downy chicks have bare spots on their crowns that are normally yellow but become vivid red when the chick is alarmed or begging for food. When the chicks are “hitchhiking,” the other parent dives for small fish and feeds them as they ride along. I’ve watched many a patient adult retrieve a small fish over and over before the chick can successfully swallow it. I’ve read that adults may dive and swim underwater with a chick on their back in times of danger but I haven’t been lucky enough to observe this behavior yet!

Besides their diet of fish, aquatic insects and vegetation, Red-necked Grebes ingest large numbers of their own feathers, taken mostly from the flanks and belly. The feathers are also regularly fed to the chicks. It is thought that this behavior protects the stomach and intestines from puncture by parts of their prey such as fish bones that are indigestible. Feathers also provide the binding material for the pellets that the grebes regurgitate.

At present, the conservation status of Red-necked Grebes seems to be stable. However, like other fish-eating birds, they are affected by pesticides that concentrate in the eggshells, causing breakage and nest failure. Also, the introduction of non-native fish such as pike into our lakes threatens the grebes, since the pike will eat the chicks and compete with the adults for food.

In the Flathead, Red-necked Grebes can regularly be seen (and heard) on many of our smaller lakes and ponds including Lake Blaine, Smith Lake and Blanchard Lake. If you boat or paddle on any of these lakes, watch carefully for nesting grebes and be careful not to disturb them. Sit quietly and observe their behavior and perhaps you’ll be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a patient parent feeding a “hitchhiking” chick. The Flathead is a special place. Get out and enjoy all it has to offer!



Rebecca King

September 2008 Program COMMON LOONS OF GLACIER NATIONAL PARK: AN ENDURING RESOURCE?



Rebecca King

Are you among those for whom the haunting wail of the Common Loon, *Gavia immer*, represents the sound of wilderness? If so, you'll want to be sure to attend our September 8 program. Wildlife Biologist Steve Gniadek will talk about the history of Common Loons in Glacier National Park. Steve's program will encompass the earliest records of loons in the park, district ranger sightings from the 1960s, the creation of an annual Loon Day 25 years ago by Don Skaar and Lynn Kelly and the expanded park-wide Citizen Science monitoring of the last five years.

Steve will report on the data from and reliability of loon surveys and where they are leading. He will conclude with thoughts about the long-term persistence and viability of Common Loons in Glacier National Park and expand on how they reflect the broader environmental community.

Steve has been a Wildlife Biologist in Glacier National Park since 1987. Until 2001, when a Carnivore Biologist was hired, Steve was also the sole Wildlife Biologist. Although he is now responsible for non-carnivores and birds, he still retains authority for lynx because he is on a national lynx biology team.

Steve lives south of Columbia Falls. You may have participated in one of the field trips he has led for Flathead Audubon in the park. He will be glad to field your questions about the park and its wildlife at the end of his program. Join us at 7 PM on Monday, September 8, in the Community Room of The Summit, 205 Sunnyview Lane in Kalispell.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON AGAIN SELLING SUNFLOWER SEEDS



Welcome back to the members of Flathead Audubon ... and welcome to the feathered migrants as well as the winter residents. Winter bird feeding season is coming fast and it's time for Flathead Audubon's annual birdseed sale. This is one of FAS's major fundraising events of the year and your support is needed to ensure our ongoing commitment to environmental and educational programs in Flathead Valley. Last year, we partnered with Western Building Center, a locally owned and operated business, for the purchase of sunflower seeds. It

worked so well that we're doing it again this year.

Go to a WBC store: south Kalispell, Evergreen, Columbia Falls or Whitefish, and buy your black oil sunflower seed from October 1st through December 31st. WBC will donate a portion of the profit from each bag sold. A word of warning: the cost of sunflower seeds had risen dramatically this year, so don't be caught off guard with sticker shock.

Bob Lee & Mary Nelesen
Sunflower Seed Sale Co-chairs



Flathead Audubon Society Tote Bag Update

This past spring, FAS ordered 150 natural cotton canvas tote bags with our logo, the Pileated Woodpecker, and the message "Conserve Our Natural Resources" printed on the bag. To date, we have sold approximately 130 bags. Western Building Center has a limited supply in their Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls locations. Gresko's Bakery and Deli in Kalispell also has a few available for purchase. The \$10 purchase price benefits FAS educational and environmental projects throughout Flathead Valley. Don't miss out on being a proud owner of this very special tote bag...soon to be a "collector's item".

Mary Nelesen, FAS Bag Lady



The Owl Research Institute (www.owlinstitute.org) hosts the 8th Annual Hat Party and Fundraiser on **Saturday, September 6, 2008**. Live music at 4:00, food served at 5:30. \$15 donation covers everything! Don't forget your hat! Ninepipes Center, 5390 Ninepipe Lane; Charlo, MT 59824

May 21, 2008

Dear Members of Flathead Audubon Society,

Glenn and I would like to thank you for the award presented to us for Outstanding Conservation Achievements. What a wonderful group of people your membership has (and good cooks)! We enjoyed the program that Steve Hoffman gave on raptors. Thank you for honoring us.

Sincerely, Dr. Glenn & Hazel Johnston

THANK YOU!

A Busy and Exciting Year for the Audubon Conservation Education Program

What an exciting year full of both new and established, education activities! In July, we brought to a close a year of the part-time conservation education program AND the contract was recently renewed for another year, in partnership and with financial support from the Sustainability Fund! We thank Lex Blood and the Sustainability Fund for their continued support, as we move forward into another rousing year of conservation education programs.

The year's activities included programs for the community and families, school-related and educational trunks, teacher/educator workshops, senior programs, and program planning, including networking and building of partnerships. The conservation education program has been well-received and reached over 4,000 youth and adults in the community under the 07/08 part-time contract.

Flathead Audubon's Conservation Education Program goal is to promote enjoyment, understanding and conservation of the Flathead Valley's natural environment, in particular its native birds and other wildlife and habitat, through an educated citizenry and cooperative partnership of individuals, schools, diverse citizen groups, and agencies. We have expanded our efforts to the watershed level, leading an effort through the Flathead Community of Resource Educators Watershed Education Committee, in partnership with the Sustainability Fund, to develop a coordinated Watershed Education plan.

The following programs and participant numbers are for the Conservation Education Program from April 2007 to June 2008:

Community Outreach and Family Programs

2,852 participants. Flathead County Libraries Story Hour, English as a Second Language Family Program, Week of the Young Child, Raptor Day: In Memory of Rod Ash, Forestry Expo, Earth Day, Owen Sowerwine signage, news articles.

School-related Programs and Educational

Trunks 1,477 participants. Presentations to elementary and middle school students on birds, wildlife and habitat, after-school enrichment program, loaning of Flathead Audubon Education Trunks for use in schools and the community, school-wide program for the Great Backyard Bird Count. *We acknowledge our successful partnership with the Northwest Education Cooperative for helping get our educational resources out to the schools. Thanks Eliza and Julie!*

Teachers/Educator Workshops

52 participants. Project WET and Webfoot Workshop, Flathead Education Trunk Workshop, Northwest Montana Reading Council Back-to-School Conference.

Senior Programs

57 participants. Programs to Buffalo Hills Terrace and Good Sam Club.

Program Planning, Networking and Facilitation of Partnerships

Flathead Audubon Education Committee, Community of Resource Educators and (Conservation Ed Report, continued on page 5)



HOTSPOTS - NEW AND IMPROVED!

Flathead Audubon's ever-popular ***Birding Hotspots in the Flathead Basin and Neighboring Areas*** has been updated and reprinted. This was the first updating since the original printing. Some area descriptions had minor changes; the species list has been rearranged and a few species added and deleted. The new Hotspots brochures will be available at the general meetings, on most field trips, from an FAS officer or from the FAS website - www.flatheadaudubon.org - and the Montana Audubon website - www.mtaudubon.org.

The following people contributed to the new Hotspots: Susan Lenard - design and layout, Carolyn Beecher - map construction and map graphics; John Winnie, Jr. - photograph of Harlequin Duck on McDonald Creek, GNP; Dan Casey - compiling the checklist and list of hotspots; Dan Casey and Bruce Tannehill - writing the location descriptions. The following provided funding assistance: Montana Audubon; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region One; Flathead National Forest; Glacier National Park; Kalispell Chamber of Commerce; and Thomas Printing.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY IS A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.

- ◆ OUR MISSION IS TO CONSERVE BIRDS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY.
- ◆ WE PROMOTE AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.
- ◆ WE WORK WITH DIVERSE GROUPS AND AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE SOUND DECISIONS ON NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.
- ◆ WHILE FOCUSING OUR EFFORTS IN NORTHWEST MONTANA, WE BELIEVE IN THE PROTECTION OF THE EARTH AND ALL OF ITS INHABITANTS.





JOIN OUR LOCAL CHAPTER!!



Five years ago, we announced a new category of membership, a membership in Flathead Audubon Society. 215 families are current members of FAS. Historically, to join Audubon, you would join the National organization. You would then automatically become a Flathead Audubon Society chapter member, and receive the Flathead Audubon newsletter as well as National's *Audubon* magazine. National Audubon supported our chapter by sharing the membership dues with us.

This is no longer the case. National Audubon has been reducing its financial support to the local chapters and is encouraging them to become self-supporting. We currently receive from National less than \$4 from the membership dues of each member, and this will soon drop to 0. \$4 is less than half the cost of printing and postage for the newsletter for each member. So we (along with many other chapters nationwide) have instituted a Chapter Membership. For \$15, you can join Flathead Audubon, receive the newsletter, be part of the action here, and support and enjoy all of our local programs, including monthly meetings, field trips,

management of Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, school and adult education programs.

You can still join National Audubon, of course. Your membership fee will support National's many excellent nationwide education and conservation programs **but you will not be supporting the local chapter.** With a National membership you receive both the *Audubon* magazine and the Flathead Audubon monthly newsletter. The National Audubon fee is \$20 for first-time members (\$15 for Seniors and Students), and \$35 to renew your membership.

We strongly suggest that you join Flathead Audubon and then choose either to join National Audubon or not. Without local members, the chapter will have to reduce its programs in the future.

Over the years, Flathead Audubon has been well-supported by valley residents through donations and activities such as our annual seed and tote bag sales. We hope this support will continue in the future and be supplemented by a large group of local chapter members.

Use the form below to join now!



Our memberships now all renew in October. All memberships except those made after April 2008 must be renewed now. Without renewal, October will be the last month you receive *The Pileated Post*. We really need support this year because we have doubled our budget for education activities. Thank You for renewing promptly!

Please include your e-mail address so we can contact you when special events come up, especially during the summer.



Flathead Audubon Society Membership Form

I would like to join the Flathead Audubon Society.



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Send \$15 (check payable to "Flathead Audubon") along with this form to:

Flathead Audubon Society Membership, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, MT 59937

When you use this form, your personal information will NOT be shared with other organizations.



(Conservation Education Report, continued...)

Watershed Education Committee, Montana Watershed Coordination Council Outreach and Education Subcommittee, Crown of the Continent Environmental Education Consortium, partnership with Northwest Montana Educational Co-Op Office. Coordination with Montana Audubon on education partnering opportunities. Became a Project WET Facilitator to provide workshops and training in water, watersheds and wetlands. (There were also grants applied for and received, to fund specific conservation education projects, which will be detailed in a future article.)

Compiled and submitted by Nancy Zapotocki, FAS Conservation Educator

Bird Family Tree Gets a Re-Write



A five-year project at the Field Museum in Chicago has revolutionized scientific thought on the evolution of birds, with results so surprising that now textbooks will have to be rewritten. The Early Bird Assembling the Tree-of-Life Research Project has researched the evolution of all major living groups of birds and has already examined 32 kilobases of DNA data in 19 places of 169 bird species. A kilobase in molecular biology is a unit of length for DNA fragments representing 1,000 base pairs of DNA.

"With this study, we learned two major things," said Sushma Reddy, the lead author. "First, appearances can be deceiving. Birds that look or act similar are not necessarily related. Second, much of bird classification and conventional wisdom on the evolutionary relationships of birds is wrong. Birds exhibit substantial diversity, and using this 'family tree' we can begin to understand how this diversity originated as well as how bird groups are interrelated. We now have a robust evolutionary tree from which to study the evolution of birds and all their interesting features that have fascinated so many scientists and amateurs for centuries," Reddy said.

Among new discoveries, the team found that birds repeatedly adapted to new environments. For example, flamingos and grebes did not evolve from other water birds, while birds that now live on land such as cuckoos did not evolve from other land birds. Other findings were that daytime hummingbirds evolved from nocturnal nightjars, falcons are not related to hawks and eagles, and fast-flying ocean birds are not related to pelicans and other water birds.

Modern birds likely first emerged around 100 million years ago, well before dinosaurs became extinct, a lot earlier than previously thought. The prevailing theory has been that modern birds originated approximately 66 million years ago, a date that coincides with both the demise of the dinosaurs and the age of the world's [oldest known avian fossil](#), a

duck from Antarctica.

Joseph Brown relies on genetic data. He and colleague David Mindell, both University of Michigan researchers, suggest the true origin of any species happens when genetic lineages split, which may not immediately show up in physical characteristics, and therefore in the fossils. For example, fowl, like chickens, and waterfowl, such as ducks, split approximately 90 million years ago. "However, did ducks and chickens, as we know them, arise at this time?" Brown asked. "The answer is very likely 'no.' For some period of time following genetic splitting, the 'proto-chickens' and 'proto-ducks' were likely extremely similar in morphology and ecology."

The researchers note that while genetic mutations occur at random, over long stretches of time they "tick" at fairly constant rates. In the past, however, calculating these rates proved challenging, since different bird lineages can tick at different rates, so applying a single rate to the entire bird family tree resulted in varying figures. New findings have enabled Brown and his team to conduct one of the most detailed investigations ever into the matter. While the goal was to reconcile the gap between the "rock" and "clock" data, Brown instead came up with the 100 million years ago origination date for birds, which other geneticists had speculated about before.

"Through consideration of these diverse dating methods and focusing on clades [groups] of birds where relationships are known well, we find corroboration for the Cretaceous origin of most lineages of birds," he said.

Brown supports the "rock" evidence that birds descended from two-footed, carnivorous dinosaurs. The ability to fly, in part, may have saved them from extinction when dinosaurs bit the dust. "The warm-bloodedness of birds, accompanied with their ability to disperse and fly from difficult areas may have been partly responsible for their survival," he explained.

Compiled and submitted by Bob Lee



(Raptor Day, continued from page 1...)

a workshop from 12 to 1 PM on "Recording and Analyzing Bird Songs," using the new state-of-the-art audio-visual system at the newly-renovated Lone Pine Visitor Center. From 1:30 to 2:30 Dan Casey of the American Bird Conservancy presents "Flathead Valley Birds of Prey: Identification, Seasons, and a Local Migration Hotspot;" to close the day, from 3:00 to 4 PM, Steve Hoffman from Montana Audubon discusses "Hazards of Migration," along with Lynn Vaught of Wildlife Return who will speak on "Raptor Rehabilitation." Lynn will have live owls, and Ken Wolff of the Grounded Eagle Foundation will bring his magnificent Golden Eagle.

All programs meet at the Lone Pine Visitor Center and are FREE for Montana residents, \$5 park fee for non-residents. Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic lunch or purchase food and drink from a local concession. For more information contact Nancy Zapotocki at naz@centurytel.net or call Amy Grout at Lone Pine Visitor Center at (406) 755-2706.



Dave Menke, USFWS



❄️ What is Project FeederWatch?

Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada, FeederWatch helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

❄️ Who can participate?

Anyone with an interest in birds! FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

❄️ What will I do?

Count birds that appear in your count site because of something you have provided (plantings, food, or water). For each species, report only the highest number of individuals *in view at one time*. By following this procedure, you will avoid counting the same bird more than once. Report your bird counts to scientists at the Lab of Ornithology either over a web site or on paper Data Forms.

❄️ Does it cost money?

There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members, CAN\$35 for Canadian participants), which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

❄️ What will I get?

Participants receive a Research Kit, which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and data forms—everything you need to start counting your birds. Your kit will arrive about 3 weeks after you sign up. You provide the feeder(s) and seed.

❄️ Where do I count the birds?

You designate an area that you can consistently observe throughout your count days. Participants are advised to choose obvious boundaries, such as the border of a yard or the area within a courtyard.

❄️ When does the season start?

The survey is conducted each winter starting on the second Saturday of November and running for 21 weeks, through early April. You may join at any time of year. The last day to sign up for any given season is Feb. 28. On Mar. 1 we begin taking sign-ups for the following season.

❄️ How much time does it take?

It's up to you! Select your own bird-count days—two consecutive days once every two weeks (or every week if you enter data online and you choose to count that often). Count during all or part of those days.

❄️ Why should I participate?

FeederWatch results are regularly published in scientific journals and are shared with ornithologists and bird lovers nationwide. As a FeederWatcher, you will learn more about winter birds and how their populations are faring. You will also contribute to the science and conservation of North American feeder birds.

FOR MORE INFO: To learn more and to see FeederWatch data in action, go to <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/pfw>. For a brochure or to sign up, call 800/843-2473 (BIRD).



(Owen Sowerwine Work Day, continued...) Prudential's Jane Lopp & Associates are again supporting Flathead Audubon's work at OSNA by nominating us for a \$1000 grant!

Come to the Flathead Audubon General Meeting on September 8, for more information on what to bring and other details. I promise to request at least one frost, just before the Work Day, to eliminate mosquitoes! After last year's boat-riding and bushwhacking, this will be a "kinder, gentler," Owen Sowerwine Work Day. And rumor has it that there will even be some tasty refreshments to reward your efforts!

Brent Mitchell, Co-Chair, OSNA Committee



SEPTEMBER 2008



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The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with Montana Audubon and the National Audubon Society. Flathead Audubon meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meetings start at 7:00PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet 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 Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070. To receive this newsletter electronically, email your request to: lindawin@centurytel.net. **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: piledatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org**

Website: www.flatheadaudubon.org
FlockMaster - John Kyle: jkyle@fastmail.us
Conservation Educator - Nancy Zapotocki: naz@centurytel.net

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Mike Fanning	(shrldu@centurytel.net)	862-8070
Vice-President	Bob Lee	(rml3@centurytel.net)	257-0363
Secretary	Gail Sullivan	932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	239 Deer Trail, Whitefish 59937	862-4548
Past-President	Bob Lopp	52 West View Drive, Kalispell 59901	257-6886

DIRECTORS

2006-2009	Lewis Young	50 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2007-2010	Ansley Ford	(aew333@yahoo.com)	857-6788
2007-2010	Marcy Mahr	(marcymahr@centurytel.net)	752-6837
2007-2010	Mary Nelesen	(mnelesen@centurytel.net)	755-7678
2007-2010	Rod McIver	975 Rose Crossing, Kalispell 59901	756-9445
2008-2011	Melissa Sladek	(masladek@hotmail.com)	
2008-2011	Richard Kuhl	867 North Main, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-5793
2008-2011	Bill Schustrom	(schustrom@centurytel.net)	257-2359



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birdseed Sales	Bob Lee	257-0363	Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181
	Mary Nelesen	755-7678	Refuge	Leslie Kehoe	837-4467
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Projects		
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
Education	Ansley Ford	857-6788	Website	Paula Smith	837-0181
	Sonja Hartmann	387-4150	Wetlands/	Neal Brown	837-5018
Field Trips	Leslie Kehoe	837-4467	Waterfowl		
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
	Lisa Discoe	837-1456			
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Brent Mitchell	756-8130			
Natural Area	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
	Kay Mitchell	756-8130			
Nominations	Linda deKort	755-3704			
Program	Leo Keane	862-5807			
	Rob Ford	857-6788			



MONTANA AUDUBON
P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
443-3949
www.mtaudubon.org
Executive Director: Steve Hoffman
shoffman@mtaudubon.org
Board President: Larry McEvoy
mcschmid@mcn.net

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Support local programs
and receive the Pileated Post.

Flathead Audubon Membership \$15
(Individual or Family)

Name _____

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State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ - _____

Email _____

How do you wish to receive the Pileated Post?
Paper copy/U.S. mail Electronic copy/email

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