



# the Silent Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 33

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MAY 2009



## GOING NATIVE IS THE RIGHT THING!



At Flathead Audubon we love birds! But just take a look at our mission statement. It says, "Our mission is to conserve (not only) BIRDS, (but also) WILDLIFE HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY." That is, to conserve birds, we must conserve their habitat and the diversity of the ecosystem in which they live. Birds, plants and animals endemic to the northern Rocky Mountain ecosystem have evolved together and established a web of mutually beneficial relationships. Native plants provide food, shelter and survival for all species.

This is why Flathead Audubon is very pleased to present our Conservation Achievement Recognition to local entrepreneurs who grow and market exclusively native plants. Here are the ways native plants promoted by these growers are benefitting wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity:

- ♦ Seed collected locally produces plants that are best adapted to the particular climate and soil conditions of Flathead County and the Crown of the Continent region.
- ♦ The trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and sedges grown from locally-collected seed preserve the genetics unique to our area's native plants and prevent dilution of the wild population from outside seed sources.
- ♦ Native wildlife and insect pollinators have evolved with and use native plants.
- ♦ Native plant species thrive with less water, less maintenance and no fertilizer, and are frost resistant.
- ♦ Native plant landscapes are beautiful.



The Flathead's first native plant nursery was started by **Laurie Gorham (Hammill)**. Laurie is self-taught and learned much from others and even more from trial and error. When her husband flipped a tab on a coke can and won \$10,000, they used those winnings as capital to establish the **Nursery for Native Plants** on Trumble Creek Road in 2000. The large cold frame that she purchased to extend the growing season one month on either end is still there. Laurie propagated local wildflowers and grew hundreds of seedling shrubs and trees. She sold her stock at her nursery, assisted landowners with landscaping and gave lectures to promote gardening with natives. Eventually, she was able to eke out a living. When Laurie moved in 2006, Greg Gunderson took over the cold frame. Laurie cannot be here to accept this honor because she moved to California to be near her aging parents, but we are indebted to her for literally sowing the seeds for promotion of native plant gardens in the Flathead. From this initial nursery dedicated exclusively to natives, others have sprouted. We now have three local businesses that grow and market native plants exclusively.

**Terry Divoky** began **Windflower Native Plant Nursery** before retiring as teacher-librarian last year from the Columbia Falls School District. Her interest in native plant gardening started many years ago with the Montana Native Plant Society, of which she is a past president. She is greatly indebted to **Maria Mantas** who created **Stillwater Native Plant Nursery** in 2001 and took Terry ...

*(Native Plants, Continued on page 4...)*

### MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday, May 11, 2009: Flathead Audubon Annual Business Meeting & Potluck.** 5:30 PM Bethlehem Lutheran Church Community Room. Full details on page 3. **Bring Your Own Utensils!**

**Monday, May 4, 2009: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting.** 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome.

**Saturday, May 9, 2009: Family Forestry Expo.** See page 3 for full details!

**2009 SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS—Full List on Pages 6, 7 and 8!**

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

Article and Photos By John Ashley

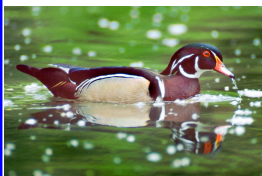
## Beak-to-beak: Woodies vs. Harleys

There are only two serious contenders for the most dazzling duck in western Montana. The male Wood Duck and male Harlequin Duck are easily our most decked-out waterfowl. But other than looking outrageously handsome, there are surprisingly few similarities between these two Montana natives.

Trying to describe the feathers on these fellows is like trying to describe a box of crayons. A male Woody wears iridescent emerald head feathers, a white polka-dotted mahogany breast, and smooth almond flanks. The male Harley sports a midnight-blue body, chestnut flanks, and white patches that vary in shape from round to crescent. The females and young of both species are mottled brown, and the female Woody wears a striped, white eye patch while the Harley hen has a round, white cheek patch.

Think of these two smallish ducks as Montana's "common cosmopolitan" and "rare recluse." While Woodies are pretty common in summer, Harleys are twice as rare as grizzly bears. Woodies spread out across most riparian habitats, but they prefer the slow waters of beaver ponds, creeks and oxbows. Harleys are just the opposite. They spend the nesting season on just a handful of fast-flowing Montana streams, though they'll occasionally show up on lakes and rivers during migration.

Some Woodies stick it out and stay in western Montana year-round. But starting in early April, most of them migrate north from southern California and Mexico. Harleys, on the other hand, migrate east-west, and begin arriving in Montana by late April from the Pacific coastlines of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.



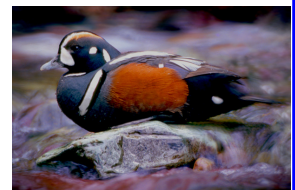
Woodies nest almost exclusively in tree cavities, with a strong preference for naturally occurring holes. They do no excavating, but will occasionally use old Pileated Woodpecker

cavities. They're also quick to move into correctly sized and placed man-made nest boxes. Nest trees might be located half a mile or more from the nearest body of water. Not so with Harleys, who are almost exclusively ground nesters; most Harley nests are well-hidden within just a few feet of the water's edge. They are incredibly secretive while nesting. In Montana, you can count the number of reported nests on one hand -- and still have a couple of fingers left over.

Female Woodies often nest as yearlings, but most female Harleys won't attempt to nest until they are 4-5 years old. While some of the Woody hens return to nest in the same wetland where they were

born, almost every Harley female returns to her natal stream for nesting. Woodies lay twice as many eggs (10-15) as Harleys (5-7); some Woodies even manage to raise two broods in a summer. Harleys attempt only one nest per year. Once the females start incubating eggs, the males of both species leave and do not help raise the young. Apart from their mates, the adult males of both species will molt their colorful breeding feathers and wear a more female-like plumage for the rest of summer. Male Harleys migrate back to the coast in early summer, before the eggs even hatch.

The eggs of both species hatch after 28-30 days of incubation, usually in late June and July. Both species are precocial, so mom will guard her chicks but she won't feed them. All of the downy chicks start out eating aquatic insects, but after about two weeks, young Woodies change to the mostly vegetarian diets of their parents. Harleys stick to a carnivorous menu.



Juveniles of both species are able to fly at 6-8 weeks. Their first set of real feathers -- for young males and females alike -- will look a lot like their mother's plumage. Young Woodies will eventually wander away from mom while learning to fly. They'll disperse widely before turning south for migration between mid-September and early November. Here in Montana, most young Harleys will get left behind on the natal streams when their moms migrate back to the coast in August or September. A month or two later, the young Harleys somehow know to migrate west to a place they've never been before. They will end up on the same rocky coastlines with the adults, but they won't reunite with their parents or siblings.

Woodies are monogamous during a breeding season but can change mates from year to year. Once paired, Harleys mate for life. Harley pairs reunite on the coast to spend the winter; in the spring they arrive in western Montana together.

Spring is the best time to look for both of Montana's handsome duck species. The more common Woodies can be spotted in many local waterways, including Spring Creek, Ashley Creek and McWeneger Slough, but the easiest place to see them is Woodland Park in downtown Kalispell. About the only way to see the rare Harleys in spring is to drive as far as you can up Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park, park your car and hike or ride a bike even farther. Keep a keen eye on the swirling waters of McDonald Creek, and prepare to be dazzled.



Dave Menke, USFWS

## May 2009 Program

## Montana Audubon's Important Bird Area Project



On Monday, May 11, we once again welcome Steve Hoffman, Executive Director of Montana Audubon, to Flathead Audubon. Steve will tell us about Montana Audubon's Important Bird Area Project.

The Important Bird Area (IBA) Project was started in Europe in the mid-1980s by BirdLife International. This program establishes priorities for bird habitat conservation worldwide. Thus far, 2,000 IBAs have been identified in the US, with 37 designated so far in Montana (including Owen Sowerwine Natural Area and Safe Harbor Marsh). These 37 sites encompass more than 10 million acres of public and private lands!

Come learn about the status of the IBA program in Montana, the potential for new IBAs in the Flathead, which birds in Montana are of greatest conservation concern, and what Montana Audubon and the chapters are doing to advance this critical bird conservation initiative, emphasizing the outstanding IBA conservation work currently being done by our

own Flathead chapter, Five Valleys Audubon, in Missoula, and others.

Steve has 28 years of professional experience in wildlife conservation and nonprofit administration. He earned a Master's degree in Wildlife Ecology from Utah State University (1979). After 10 years with the US Bureau of Land Management & US Fish & Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program as a Wildlife Biologist in the American Southwest, Steve founded HawkWatch International (HWI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raptor research and conservation. After 12 years as executive Director of HWI, Steve became the State Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Pennsylvania. In 2004 Steve moved to Bozeman to serve as the Executive Director of Predator Conservation Alliance. Steve was hired by Montana Audubon in December 2006.

Also at this final meeting of the year, Flathead Audubon will present the Conservation Achievement Recognition to our local growers of native plants.

## MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON MEETING



Bring Your Own Utensils



lipstickcrayons.com

**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2009**Location:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Basement**Address:** 603 South Main Street, Kalispell

**Directions:** Enter large parking lot behind the church from Sixth Street East or First Avenue East  
Drop off your recyclables with Roger at the FVCC Truck at the edge of the parking lot

**Times:** Doors Open 5:00 PM, Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM, Meeting Begins 6:30 PM

**Silent Auction Request:** Scour your closets, bookshelves, and CD racks for nature-related items to bring to Flathead Audubon's Silent Auction. This fun display and hot bidding are an important fund raiser for our chapter activities. We depend on members to generously donate items for the auction. Traditional favorites have been bird books, CDs, art work, guided field trips, raft trips, or dinners, spring bedding plants, homemade cookies, and outdoor gear. Use your imagination! Bring your loot to the May Potluck meeting. And remember to bring your wallet, so you can haul off someone else's former prized possessions!

## T-I-M-B-E-R ... and birds!

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Family Forestry Expo is coming soon to Stoltze Trumble Creek Experimental Forest. This free annual event is sponsored by many local forest industry and recreation groups and has exhibits on forest management, wildlife, fisheries and recreational interests from around the Flathead Valley.

About 1200 local 5<sup>th</sup> graders will tour the field exhibits and nearby lumber mills through the week of May 4 – 8. The general public may attend on May 9



Nancy Zapotocki Photo

from 9 AM - 4 PM, and May 10 from 11 AM - 3 PM. The weekend highlight is the logger sports and equipment demonstrations; there are other great exhibits, including one from Flathead Audubon. Many people visit our station to learn more about birds of the Flathead and share stories of their own birding adventures. This is a

wonderful opportunity for Audubon members to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. We would love for you to help, so please contact Nancy Zapotocki at [naz@centurytel.net](mailto:naz@centurytel.net) to get on board.



# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

## MIKE'S SWAN SONG



The subjective experience of acceleration of the passage of time is an old cliché, but one whose validity is unmistakable as we age. In my case, it seems like the last two years that I have been FAS president have passed in just minutes. This is not what I expected when I became President. I was looking forward to a long, demanding two years. As a confirmed hedonist, the task looked a bit unappealing. It turned out to be a fulfilling experience which was over in no time.

FAS is an extraordinary organization with an exceptional board. Board meetings are characterized by open communication without hidden agendas or ego battles. I've been involved with a number of boards in my career and most are a bit dysfunctional. This one is the best I've ever seen and that is what made my job relatively easy.

The most important new accomplishment of the last two years was engaging a half time educational consultant, which allowed our education program to reach new levels. We reached over 4000 people last year, which is roughly what the Audubon Educational center in Billings reached with a budget of over 7 times ours, and in an area with a much larger population than the Flathead Valley.

The biggest problem now facing FAS is paying for this expansion. Half the program expense is currently being paid by a generous contribution from The Sustainability Fund. This is what makes the program even vaguely possible. Last year we raised about \$6500 in grants and donations (thanks to the donors!). For the program to be sustainable, we are hoping for more donations and grants from many more donors this next year. Any ideas?

(Soon-to-be Ex-) President Mike Fanning

(*Native Plants, continued...*) as her partner in 2002. Maria left the nursery in 2003 to work with the Nature Conservancy. Terry renamed the nursery and relocated it to her West Glacier home. She propagates the plants she grows and sells, from seed or cuttings collected ethically from the wild. An educator concerned for the preservation of our native flora, Terry has developed and taught numerous wildflower and native plant workshops, classes and programs to children and adults. Windflower native plants are sold at the greenhouse and nursery, at Whitefish and Missoula farmer's markets, and via Terry's beautiful website. The website explains the importance of ethically-collected native plants, describes how to garden with them, and how to purchase from the inventory of nearly 80 forbs, shrubs, grasses and sedges.

This spring, the owners of Windflower and For-  
**estoration** are introducing the **Center for Native Plants**, a native plant cooperative with a wholesale/retail outlet on Trumble Creek Road, the site first used by Laurie Hammill. Local landscapers and home gardeners will be able to purchase over 100 different species of robust, hardy, locally-grown native plants, locally-made yard art, birdhouses, bee homes and bat boxes. The Center also offers consultation and project implementation, plant salvage and contract growing.

**Forestation** is a Whitefish forest management company focusing on opportunities for ecological restoration. Owners **Greg Gunderson, Andrew Beltz and David Nofstinger** combine careful design with science-based forestry and low impact tools to enhance recreational opportunities, forest health, and wildlife habitat. Forestation specializes in planting western larch, ponderosa pine, western white pine, western red cedar and quaking aspen. Other ser-

vices include salvaging and transplanting of native shrubs, low-impact logging, insect and weed management and monitoring, erosion control and wildlife habitat improvement. Forestation works closely with Windflower and our third nursery to be honored, Sleepingtree, to provide material for projects. A very successful example of the collaboration between For-  
**estoration** and Sleeping Tree is a project in which thousands of native willows, trees and shrubs were propagated, grown and planted along 300 feet of eroding Flathead River bank last fall.

**Sleepingtree Native Plants**, a local nursery dedicated to the production of high quality native plant material for ecological restoration and watershed management projects, is located in Kila. Owner **Jeff Evans** began propagating plants as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica. While working as a horticulturist for the University of California-Berkeley, he began propagating plants native to the western United States. He worked with Joyce Lapp at Glacier National Park where he developed protocols for the propagation of over 200 species of plants native to the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest. These protocols may be found online at [nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu](http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu). Jeff founded **Sleepingtree Native Plants** in 2003; the nursery is named for the krummholtz trees at timberline near Two Medicine in Glacier National Park.

Just as the relationship between native plants and birds, these honorees cultivate mutually beneficial relationships with each other. We are grateful for their dedicated and cooperative conservation efforts. For more information, visit:

- ♦ <http://www.windflowernativeplants.com>
- ♦ <http://www.forestation.org>
- ♦ <http://www.sleepingtree.com>







## READ, WATCH, LEARN, DO!



We can learn a lot from monitoring raptors like eagles and peregrines. These birds are at the top of the food chain. So, they serve as biosentinels. They can alert us to problems in their ecosystems. Of course, the average person doesn't know too much about biosentinels and ecosystems. We can let scientists focus on these things. But, I think we can all agree on one thing. These powerful birds certainly are impressive. They're also scary enough that we don't want to get too close.

Fortunately, you can watch them from afar on [briloon.org](http://briloon.org). It has a number of Webcams set up to watch raptors. Several of the cameras are trained on bald eagles in Maine. You can also see a pair of peregrine falcons. Now is the perfect time to watch the birds. After all, their mating season has just begun. It won't be too long before you'll see baby raptors on the Webcams! Of course, there's more than Webcams at the site. You can also learn more about the birds and their threats. Or, watch pre-recorded videos.



From **komando.com**

## NATURALIST, TRACKER, AUTHOR Speaks at FVCC

The FVCC Multicultural Affairs Program, in partnership with Bigfork's Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center, is bringing internationally acclaimed naturalist, tracker, and author, Jon Young, to the Arts and Technology lecture hall, room 139 on Thursday May 7th, for a free talk at 7pm. Jon is the founder of Seattle's Wilderness Awareness School and co-author of Coyotes Guide to Connecting with Nature - for kids of all ages and their mentors. Jon will be speaking on the concept of

"Cultural Mentoring," shedding light on how we can work together as a community to create a positive learning culture with rich outdoor experiences for our children. Such



experiences will lay the foundation for their healthy development and launch them into a future where they will be knowledgeable of their own gifts and talents, naturally engaged in learning and their community, and will walk in deep reverence for the earth and its greater communities.

Book signing at 6:30pm, talk from 7pm-9pm, limited child care provided. Call 837-7279 to reserve care for your child(ren). Donations welcomed. Ravenwood is a WAS affiliate school and utilizes the unique program and mentoring design model created by Jon and his Wilderness Awareness School associates. Visit [www.ravenwoodolc.org](http://www.ravenwoodolc.org) for more information.



This is a link to a webcam on an eagle's nest near the Libby Dam. <http://www.libbymt.com/webcam/libbydameaglecam.htm>

And a link to the Endangered Species Bulletin: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/bulletin.html>



## Got Nest Boxes?!

*Monitoring helps the Cornell Lab of Ornithology study climate change and nesting birds*



Anyone with one or more nest boxes can help scientists learn more about bird families and how they might be affected by climate change. Just register the nest box with Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [NestWatch](http://www.RegisterYourNestbox.org) program [www.RegisterYourNestbox.org](http://www.RegisterYourNestbox.org). It doesn't cost anything but yields valuable information needed to better understand breeding birds and how their natural rhythms may be changing.

Studies have shown that some birds are laying eggs sooner than in the past--as much as nine days earlier in the case of Tree Swallows. That could spell trouble if the eggs hatch before a steady supply of insects is available for feeding the young. NestWatch participants visit nests once or twice per week and report what they see. The project collects this information for all species of nesting birds in North America.

All materials and instructions are available on the [NestWatch](http://www.NestWatch) web site, including directions on how to monitor nest boxes without disturbing the birds. Anyone interested in putting up nest boxes for the first time will find information on how to provide the best and safest boxes for bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, and other cavity-nesting birds. NestWatch participants also monitor the nests of backyard birds that don't use nest boxes, such as phoebes, robins, and goldfinches.

The hugely popular [NestCams](http://www.NestCams) are back in action—anyone can get a live peek into nests and nest boxes across the country. Live cameras are focused on Eastern Bluebirds, Barred Owls, Wood Ducks, Barn Owls and more. Keep watching and see what hatches! ([www.nestcam.org](http://www.nestcam.org))

NestWatch is a free nest-monitoring project developed by the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.CornellLabofOrnithology) in collaboration with the [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](http://www.SmithsonianMigratoryBirdCenter), and funded by the [National Science Foundation](http://www.NationalScienceFoundation).



## SPRING-SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!



*Includes events sponsored by Flathead Audubon (FAS), Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS), Glacier Institute (GI), National Bison Range (NBR), Glacier National Park (GNP), Flathead National Forest (FNF), Montana Loon Society (MLS) and the Montana Common Loon Working Group (MCLWG). Sponsorship is indicated after the name of the trip. Check Flathead Audubon's web-site, [www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org) throughout the summer for field trip additions, cancellations, or changes.*



### **TUESDAYS in MAY AND JUNE: NATIVE PLANTS OF THE WILD MILE (MNPS)**

Join Anne Morley of the Montana Native Plant Society for two hours of plant identification along Bigfork's Wild Mile Nature Trail. This trail is level, easy walking, appropriate for all ages. Bring hand lens if possible. Meet at 10:00AM at Showthyme in downtown Bigfork. For information call 886-2242.

**WEDNESDAYS in MAY AND JUNE: BIRDS OF THE WILD MILE (FAS)** Join Neal Brown of Flathead Audubon for two hours of birding along Bigfork's Wild Mile Nature Trail. This trail is level and appropriate for all ages. Bring binoculars if possible. Meet at 9:00AM at the east trail head of the Wild Mile Nature Trail (From Bigfork, travel east on Mt Hwy 209 to the Kearney Rapids Bridge. (Limited parking is available on the north shore of Swan River. Carpooling is encouraged. To carpool, meet at 8:30 AM at Showthyme in downtown Bigfork.) For information call 837-5018.



Jeanne Marcure Photo

### **SATURDAY, MAY 9: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE (NBR)**

The main event is the opening of the splendid Red Sheep Mountain Drive for the summer season-weather and road conditions permitting. This is a wonderful drive through the range which travels through a variety of habitats and is a great place to see a broad range of birds. Come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with walks, trivia contests, and free posters. For more information and other events, call The National Bison Range at 406-644-2211.



### **MID-MAY: SPRING LOONS IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK (GNP)**

Here is a chance to volunteer in one of Montana's most beautiful places. Volunteers with some birding experience or previous trailing are needed to look for and count Loons of Glacier National Park. Call 888-7986 to sign up. Exact date is still to be determined, depending on spring conditions.



### **FRIDAY OR SATURDAY, MAY 15 OR 16: SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY (MLS & MCLWG)**



The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help count loons on the lakes throughout northwest Montana on these days. For more information and the specific day, contact one of the following: north of Kalispell, contact Amy Jacobs at 758-3544; for areas west of Kalispell, contact Gael Bissell at 751-4580; for southern Flathead lake and Mission Valley, call Janene Lichtenberg at 883-2888; for the Troy area, call Glen Gill at 295-4693; for the Swan Valley, call Jane Ingebretson at 837-7539; for Eureka area, call Christie Ferruzzi at 882-4451; for Glacier National Park, call Lisa Bate at 888-7801.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 16 AND 17: GLACIER INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND (GI)** Help The Glacier Institute get ready for its 26<sup>th</sup> year of educational opportunities. Volunteers are needed for cleaning, painting, light carpentry, and outdoor work at both the Field Camp in the Park, and Big Creek Outdoor Educational Center. Call Glacier Institute at 755-1211.



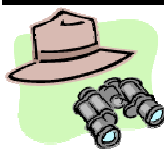
### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20: GARDEN PLANTING NIGHT AT DISCOVERY SQUARE (MNPS)**

Starts at 5:30PM, or come whenever you can make it. Help plant the montane forest garden at Discovery Square. Volunteers are needed! Contact Terry Divoky for details, 387-5527 or [tddovoky@centurytel.net](mailto:tddovoky@centurytel.net)



"Earth laughs in flowers."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

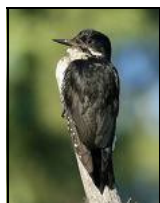




## SPRING-SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN EVENING STROLL (MNPS)

Join Glacier National Park Ecologist Tara Carolin and botanist Rachel Potter on a 2 hour walk up the Columbia Mountain trail. Enjoy spring and early summer blooms along the forested trail that also offers lovely rock outcrops in the sunshine. Although the trail can be a little steep in places, the pace will be slow and we will be going only a few miles at most. Meet at 5:30PM at the Park and Ride lot at the junction of Hwys 2 and 206 in Columbia Heights. Bring a sack supper if you like. Call Rachel at 892-2446 for more information.

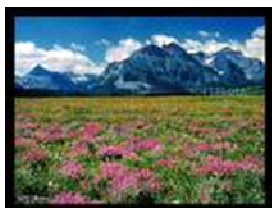


fish&game.idaho.gov

### SATURDAY, MAY 30: BIRDING IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK (FAS)

This trip will focus on identifying neotropical migrants by sight and ear. We will walk along McDonald Creek listening and looking for birds and stop at the Fish Creek campground to search for Harlequin Ducks and scan the cottonwoods for vireos and warblers. We may head up the Inside North Fork Road or drive up the Camas Road, stopping along the way in search of Black-Backed Woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatchers and Northern Hawk Owls. This trip is limited to 20 participants; please sign up with Steve Gniadek at 892-7406. We will be meeting at the Alberta Visitor Center in West Glacier at 6:00AM and returning at noon. Please note: a Glacier National Park entrance fee or park pass is required.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4: NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR (MNPS)** Join native plant gardener Bill McClaren for a tour of the FVCC and Central School Museum Native Plant Garden. Meet at FVCC, behind Blake Hall at 7:00PM. If it is raining, meet inside Blake Hall. Contact Bill at 257-2540 or email [mccl@bresnan.net](mailto:mccl@bresnan.net) for details. No RSVP necessary. The tour is wheelchair accessible.



### SUNDAY, JUNE 7: A TOUR OF THE MISSION VALLEY (FAS)

Join FAS for a day in the Mission Valley and some exceptional spring bird watching. We will visit the National Bison Range driving up and over the Red Sleep Mountain Drive to look for a myriad of warblers, vireos, and sparrows. We may find Rock Wrens, Short Eared Owls or a swift Prairie Falcon. We will also spend some time at the Nine-pipe National Wildlife Refuge scanning the reservoir for waterfowl of all kinds and other denizens of the marshes. We will meet at the Park n' Ride at the intersection of Hwy 93 and 82 near Somers at 6:00AM. For more information and to sign up for this all-day field trip, call Leslie Kehoe in the evenings at 837-4467. Please note: the entrance fee to the National Bison Range is \$4.00 per vehicle.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 12-13: THE WARBLER WEEKEND AT TALLY LAKE (FAS)

Come join FAS and Dan and Susannah Casey at the Tally Lake Campground for an extraordinary weekend of birding and relaxing. The group campsite at the Tally Lake Campground has been reserved for the weekend. Throughout the weekend, we will be focusing on warbler identification, birding by ear and digi-scoping. This is an ideal time of year to find a wide variety of neotropical migrants; most notable is that all of the warbler species which can be found in NW Montana are found here. Plenty of other activities can be enjoyed at Tally Lake as well; you can bring your canoes and kayaks, play volleyball or horseshoes or go hiking on one of the numerous trails found close to the campground. The cost is \$12.00 per camper per night. Please contact Dan or Susannah Casey at 857-3143 to sign up for the trip or for more information.



Jeannie Marcure Photo



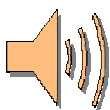
For those of you who would like to attend the FAS campout weekend at Tally Lake June 12-13, but who find camping a challenge, Jill and Mike Fanning have beds for 4 or 5 people just 15 minutes away on the Tally Lake Road. You should still pay the camping fee since you will be using the site during the day. Call 862-8070 to reserve space.

### EVERY TUESDAY, JUNE 16 TO AUGUST 25: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE GLACIER NATIONAL PARK NURSERY (GNP)

Help with seedlings, transplanting, weeding and cleaning, or work on a particular research or experimental project. Bring a sack lunch, your favorite work gloves, and clothes that can tolerate dirt. Just drop in and work an hour or stay the entire day. Meet at the Native Plant Nursery at Glacier National Park. Contact Joyce Lapp at 888-7817 for details.



## SPRING-SUMMER FIELD TRIPS!



### **SATURDAY, JUNE 20: BIRDING AROUND WHITEFISH LAKE (FAS)**

Join Bruce and Gail for an exploration of the best song bird spots around Whitefish Lake. We should hear, and with luck, see many of the songbirds common to the area. Binoculars and a bird book are helpful but not mandatory. We will be back by early afternoon. Bruce will also demonstrate recording of bird songs. Please meet at 7:30AM in the McDonald's parking lot in Whitefish. For more information, call Bruce Tannehill at 862-4548.

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 24: FROG DAY (FNF)** Help find and count amphibians! It's fun and the Forest gains valuable data. We start with a 1-1/2 hour training session on how to identify local amphibians and reptiles, and how to do the surveys. Then we go to local wetlands in teams of 2-5 people, each led by an experienced person. Each team will survey up to 5 wetlands. Bring a lunch, water, something to keep your feet dry and extra socks. Waders, hip boots or irrigation boots are ideal and some are available for loan. We go out rain or shine, so consider raingear and a change of clothes. Interested families, kids and volunteers -- meet at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station, 10 Hungry Horse Drive, 8:30AM. We will finish by 3:30PM.



Anyone 7 years of age and up is welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult and will need a permission slip signed by a parent. Please sign up in advance. Space is limited and we need to know how many people are coming to arrange vehicle and gear logistics. Contact Teresa Wenum, [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us) or 758-5218.



### **SATURDAY, JUNE 27: SPEND A MORNING WITH LOONS (FAS & MLS)**

This tour will take us to lakes where Loons have nested. Possibilities include: Tally, Blanchard, and Little Stillwater Lakes. We may see loon families with chicks. Meet at Fish, Wildlife, and Parks on North Meridian Road in Kalispell at 8:30AM. We will return by noon. Sign up by calling 751-4580.



### **SATURDAY, JULY 18: MONTANA LOON DAY (MLS & MCLWG)**

Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to help count Loons on the lakes throughout northwest Montana. For more information, contact one of the following: north of Kalispell, contact Amy Jacobs at 758-3544; for areas west of Kalispell, contact Gael Bissell at 751-4580; for southern Flathead Lake and Mission Valley, call Janene Lichtenberg at 883-2888; for the Troy area, call Glen Gill at 295-4693; for the Swan Valley, call Jane Ingebretson at 837-7539; for Eureka area, call Christie Ferruzzi at 882-4451; for Glacier National Park, call Lisa Bate at 888-7801.



### **SATURDAY, JULY 25: HIGH COUNTRY BIRDING IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK (FAS)**

Have you ever wanted to see a Boreal Chickadee or maybe a White-tailed Ptarmigan? This may be your chance to see these special birds. This trip involves a moderately strenuous hike to Piegan Pass enjoying the birds and wildflowers on the way. We may also see American Pipits and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches. Meet at the Apgar Visitor Center at 6:00 AM and car pool to the trailhead. A Glacier National Park entrance fee or a Park Pass is required. This trip is limited to 15 participants. To sign up, call Steve Gniadek at 892-7406.

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16: MIGRANT SHORE BIRDS IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY (FAS)**

This is a unique opportunity to see shorebirds as they begin their migration southward from the Arctic. We may see up to 15 species of shorebirds including dowitchers, phalaropes, yellowlegs and sandpipers. This trip will go to various locations around the Valley and depends on where the migrants may be found. We will meet at the Somer's Park and Ride lot (highways 93 and 82) at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Dan Casey, 857-3143.



A hummingbird's egg is only about the size of a jellybean, yet in proportion to body weight, hummingbirds' eggs are the largest of any kind.





## OTHER THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

### AN INVITATION FOR YOU



Montana Audubon & Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Chapter invite you to attend the June 5-7, 2009, annual Bird Festival in Great Falls. The 28 field trips will certainly be a weekend highlight. Five of your exciting choices are hiking through the riparian and grassland areas along the Thain Creek Trail (Highwood Mts.), participating in a bird banding demonstration, seeing a myriad of birds at nearby Giant Springs State Park, driving to Benton Lake and/or Freezout Lake for a good view of the many shorebirds that inhabit or migrate there, or visiting the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area where flycatchers and Western Tanagers are a possibility! A complete list of the trips is online and in the registration brochure.

The festival includes something for everyone, from children and beginning birders to seasoned

twitchers. Montana Audubon Education Director Paul Belanger has organized activities and a field trip for families. The Saturday afternoon speakers are: Bob Martinka (dragonflies), Dan Casey (flycatchers), Sherry Ritter (biomimicry), John Carlson (Montana grassland birds), Kenton Rowe (bird/nature photography), Catherine Wightman (Advances in Bird Conservation in Montana), Janet Ellis (Saving the Birds: Confessions of a Lobbyist), and Amy Cilimburg (Montana IBAs).

Did we mention that ornithologist David Sibley and Montana Senator Jon Tester will be with us Saturday? We hope you will be, too. On-line registration is available at <http://mtaudubon.org/birdwatching/festival.html>. A brochure has also been mailed to members. Nora Gray, UMBA festival volunteer



Mountain Bluebird Trails 35th Anniversary Celebration in Great Falls takes place June 12-14, 2009.

Registration information is at [www.mountainbluebirdtrails.com](http://www.mountainbluebirdtrails.com) or call Bob Niebuhr at 406-453-5143.



## VISIT FARMERS' MARKETS!

Local vendors sell a variety of locally grown perennials and herbs, trees and shrubs, bedding plants, and more, as well as a wide assortment of locally produced items such as flowering baskets, fresh baked goods, packaged pork products, arts and crafts, and patio furniture.

When you buy produce and goods at the Farmers Markets you are supporting local organic farmers and your community's small businesses. Best of all, you are getting quality products, and often unusual and unique products, at a great price.



## THINK GLOBALLY



## EAT LOCALLY

### Kalispell Farmers' Market

Kalispell Center Mall Parking Lot, west end  
April 18 through October  
Saturdays, 9:00 AM—12:30 PM  
Voice Mail (406) 881-4078

For Farmers' Markets in other Montana towns, visit  
[www.aeromt.org/farm\\_markets.php](http://www.aeromt.org/farm_markets.php)

### Whitefish Farmers' Market

Mountain Mall Parking Lot  
Mid-May to mid-September  
Thursdays: 4:00PM to 6:30PM  
Joanna Barnes  
300 Barnes Lane  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
(406) 862-3451

### Downtown Farmers' Market

Central Avenue, Whitefish  
May 31 to mid-September  
Tuesdays 5:00PM-7:30PM  
Nancy Svenningsen  
310 Glenwood Road  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
(406) 862-2043  
[svenn@bresnan.net](mailto:svenn@bresnan.net)

## Out and About with FAS's Conservation Education Display

Look for FAS's Conservation Education Display Booth and associated children's activities, such as Bird Buddy Hats, Nesting Neighbors and Bird Kites, at several community and family events this Spring and Summer. We are participating in Earth Day at FVCC on April 22, Week of the Young Child in Whitefish on April 23, Arbor Day at Depot Park in Kalispell on April 25, The Jon Young presentation at FVCC on May 7, Ducks Unlimited on May 8, Family Forestry Expo in Columbia Falls on May 9 and 10, Hatchery Day at Creston with their pollinator theme on May 28, and the Audubon Family Bird Festival at Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls on June 6. Our display booth now includes a portable table and tent for outdoor use, purchased with funding from a Plum Creek grant!

Nancy Zapotocki, Conservation Educator

# REPORTS!

Sixteen Freezout WMA Field Trip participants were met with a Blizzard and a Blizzard of Birds!



Tracy Schiess Photo



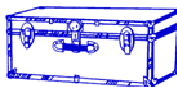
Lewis Young Photo



Lewis Young Photo

## Grant Award for FAS's Traveling Education Trunks

In April, the Conservation Education Program was awarded grant funds from Montana Audubon to purchase needed supplies to maintain and update our Traveling Education Trunks. We have eleven Traveling Education Trunks: Bird ID Costume (2), Common Birds of the Flathead (2), Field Studies (2), The Changing Neighborhood, Hummingbirds, Maggie the Magpie, Cavity Nesters and Wetland and Riparian Studies. In the current contract year, our Conservation Education Program and Traveling Education Trunks have already reached Preschool, Elementary and Middle Schools learning about birds in the Flathead, high school students with our first FAS bird unit developed in collaboration with Glacier High School, Montana Conservation Corp with field studies, adults and children in the community with family programs such as Winter Birds in Your Backyard and participants for an educator workshop on use of the trunks.



We also reached additional students by "adopting" the entire Kalispell Montessori School for

the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) using our Field Studies Trunk, which includes binoculars and field guides. With this amount of use, items wear out and need replacing. Montana Audubon has graciously supported this effort by awarding funds for the maintenance needs for the Traveling Education Trunks. This includes two more National Geographic Field Guides to Birds of North American and one pair of binoculars for our Field Studies Trunk, Sibley's Guide to Bird Life and Behavior for reference, a laminator for educational materials to preserve trunk materials for multiple years of use, as well as storage materials (such as for our birds skins) and art/printing supplies. The grant also includes funds to assist in paying our Conservation Educator to maintain the trunks and to present programs using the trunks. We thank Montana Audubon for this support, as we envision the use of the Traveling Education Trunks to continue and increase in the coming year, as we continue to build on this successful program.

Nancy Zapotocki, Conservation Educator



## MT Audubon Legislative Update



The 2009 Montana legislative session is drawing to a close. There are a few success stories and many tales of narrowly averted disaster to report. One of MT Audubon's priority bills, HB 584, which would have established a stakeholder group to develop siting guidelines for wind development, failed on the Senate Floor with a vote of 25-25. HB 443, which would have clarified the definition of "nongame" wildlife, was amended in the Senate Fish & Game Committee, passed the full Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Unfortunately, the amendments remove all language from the bill except a modernized version of the term "management".

On a more positive note, nearly all attempts by industry to limit citizen's ability to defend Montana's clean and healthful environment through the MEPA and permitting appeals processes have been quashed. A recent and significant victory is the Governor's proposed amendments to HB 483, a bill that attempts to "streamline" the air and water permitting process for industry. Other victories include the tabling of several bad bills on a range of topics. SB 402 attempted to include licenses and permits in the definition of property for purposes of regulatory takings findings, potentially bankrupting the state for the restriction of game farm licenses that resulted from a citizen initiative. SB 435 would have imposed a "no net gain" on state lands, restricting agency efforts to manage, exchange and expand land for habitat and public access. SB 183 would have voided the Wolf Management and Conservation Plan and sent delisting efforts back to square one. For more updates on specific pieces of legislation and a copy of our current alerts, visit our website at [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org). Please call (406) 443-3949 or email [mtmagpie@mtaudubon.org](mailto:mtmagpie@mtaudubon.org) with questions.

## FROM FAS WETLANDS CHAIR, DONNA PRIDMORE



There are a few new publications by the Montana Natural Heritage (MNHP) which might interest you:

**Wetlands of the Flathead Valley: Change and Ecological Functions.** Newlon, Karen R. and Meghan D. Burns. 2009. A report to Montana Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, MT. 38 pp. plus appendices.

**Geographically Isolated Wetlands and Intermittent/Ephemeral Streams in Montana: Extent, Distribution, and Function.** Vance, Linda K. 2009. Report to Montana Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, Montana 33 pp.

**Assessing Wetland Condition with GIS: A Landscape Integrity Model for Montana.** Vance, Linda K. 2009. A report to Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, MT. 23 pp. plus appendices.

To download the publications, please visit the MNHP website at: <http://nris.state.mt.us/new/whatsnew.asp>

I have reviewed the first document and summarized it below. The authors compared historic National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetland mapping from 1981 for the Flathead Valley with updated wetland mapping based on 2005 color-infrared aerial photography and then added hydrogeomorphic (HGM) modifiers to link wetland type and wetland function. The enhancement of NWI digital data with HGM modifiers provides a means of estimating change in both wetland area and wetland function over time. These estimates could be valuable for areas experiencing rapid land use changes that impact wetland area, distribution and function.

HGM attributes were combined with the NWI classification attributes to yield a combination ranked on a performance scale of 1 thru 3 (high, moderate and low, respectively). Ten wetland functions were defined: water storage; streamflow maintenance; groundwater recharge; nutrient cycling; sediment retention; shoreline stabilization; native plant community maintenance; terrestrial habitat; aquatic habitat; and conservation of wetland biodiversity.

Comparison of wetland functional performance capacities throughout Flathead Valley showed a 38.4% loss in hydrologic functions including water storage; streamflow maintenance; and groundwater recharge. Biogeochemical functions incorporating nutrient cycling; sediment retention; and shoreline stabilization showed a slight increase. The functions associated with terrestrial and aquatic habitat; native plant community maintenance; and conservation of wetland biodiversity showed an overall decline of 15.4%.

The changes in wetland functional capacity were due to both natural and anthropogenic changes in wetland type and area, as well as changes in mapping conventions between historic and updated mapping. This analysis should be considered a preliminary assessment of changes in Flathead Valley wetlands and wetland functional capacity and the data can provide a very effective conservation tool to identify areas with the potential to perform wetland function most effectively, thereby allowing natural resource managers and other stakeholders to focus or prioritize conservation and restoration efforts.



## SAVE THE DATES!

**Saturday, September 26:** Owen Sowerwine Work Day/Prudential Global Volunteer Day



### 3<sup>RD</sup> ROD ASH RAPTOR DAY 2009

Flathead Audubon will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rod Ash Raptor Day on **September 12, 2009**, at Lone Pine State Park Visitor's Center. The day will include bird walks, seminars and special exhibits, including Ken Wolff and his eagles. This will be a special experience for families, with activities and exhibits directed for children as well as adults. Plan now to be there!

"If you were born lucky, even  
your rooster will lay eggs."  
Russian proverb

It would take 83 newborn  
broad-tailed hummingbirds  
to weigh 1 ounce.

The secret to a green  
thumb is a brown knee.

Honeybees are able to  
identify sweet, sour,  
salty or bitter flavors.

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



Time to take in your bird feeders. The bears are out and about. Scrub feeders with hot soapy water and air dry them in the sun. And brush your pets. The birds love that soft fur for their nests! **HAPPY SUMMER** to all, from your newsletter editors, Linda and Kay!





## FAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO MEMBERS

The Nominations Committee proudly presents a slate of officers and board members for this year's election, which will occur at the May Potluck General Meeting. In addition to the elected positions listed below, we are pleased to announce that the chairs of two committees have been voluntarily filled.

**Donna Pridmore** is heading up the Wetlands Committee and **Kathy Ross** will chair the Refuges Committee. We are grateful that these important committees are now once again off and running. Thanks!

**Bob Lee**, our Vice President for the past two years, has accepted the nomination for President for the next two years. Bob teaches an Emergency Medical Technician qualifying class at FVCC and has returned to his position at the Fish and Wildlife Service; he is coordinating and conducting stream inventories on former Plum Creek holdings. He has served on the FAS Board since 2003 and has been active on the Education Committee, Newsletter Editor and is a former coordinator of the Beauty of Birds class. Bob has led many field trips and has always been one to jump in when a task needed help. We now hope to help him as president by jumping in when he is in need of help. Thank you, Bob, for accepting the responsibility of holding the reins of our wild Flathead Audubon board.

**Paula Smith** is another member of our board with wide and deep experience. She has served on the board for 4 years and during that time has made exceptional contributions. Paula's very effective publicity procedures, which she developed and executes, contribute to attendance at our general meetings and field trips. She also stepped up to the plate when a chair for the website was needed; the continued usefulness and friendliness of the FAS website is attributed to her leadership and vigilance. Paula has accepted our nomination as Vice President. Our only concern is finding someone to step in and fill her shoes in her present roles as she takes on new responsibilities.

We are pleased to announce that **Lewis Young** has agreed to nomination for another 3 year board term as a Flathead Audubon Director. Lewis has served on the Audubon board for 6 years and is the strong chairman of our active Conservation Committee. If the truth be told, Lewis is THE Conservation Committee. He keeps our membership abreast of local and national conservation issues and writes letters and submits comments on our behalf. Lewis also organizes and is the compiler for the Eureka Bird Count. Thanks, Lewis, for making the trek from up north to serve Flathead Audubon so effectively.

**Steve Gniadek** has accepted a nomination for a three year board position. Steve, as the "Bird Man of Glacier National Park," has led many Flathead Audubon forays into the Park and also has been a co-coordinator of the Christmas Bird Count in Glacier Na-

tional Park. Steve became interested in birds and natural history as a youth roaming the fields and forests of central Illinois while dreaming of wilder environs. Between degrees in wildlife biology from the U of Michigan (1970) and the U of Montana (1987), Steve served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a conservation program in Colombia and worked in a variety of wildlife positions in Yellowstone NP, Texas, Virginia and eastern Montana. Since graduating from the U of Montana, Steve has worked as a wildlife biologist in Glacier NP. Steve has told us each year that we have called to ask if he would accept a nomination to serve on the FAS Board, that he would do that when he retired. Steve retired this past January and he is a man of his word! Thanks, Steve.

**Dennis Hester** is another recent retiree whom we have convinced to serve on the Flathead Audubon Board for a three year term. Dennis has been a member of National Audubon since 1972 and is one of the charter members of Flathead Audubon. Dennis recently retired as deputy Flathead County Attorney. In that role he dealt with, among other issues, land use, public roads, easements, public parks and represented the Flathead Conservation District. He also represented Glacier National Park and the Flathead & Kootenai National Forests in criminal prosecutions. Dennis grew up in Chicago and is proud to be a Cubs fan (who is still waiting!). He attended undergraduate and law school in Minnesota and has lived in the Flathead Valley since 1974. He and his wife Sheryl live west of Kalispell. They enjoy bicycling, X-C skiing, flat-water kayaking and camping, all the while keeping an eye out for our flying feathered friends. Dennis was determined to bike at least 2000 miles this past summer, and he did. Another man of his word!

**Ben Young** is a teacher at Glacier High School, where he teaches biology and anatomy. Prior to coming to the Flathead in the summer of 2007, Ben taught and coached in Salem, OR, while leading local birding excursions for community groups/schools and running a banding station in association with George Fox University. He also spent time in Costa Rica conducting research on hummingbirds. Ben, wife Chau, and baby Sy live in Kalispell. He has accepted a nomination for a one year position on the FAS Board. We look forward to learning from his fresh ideas.

A hearty thanks to those who have accepted nominations to serve on the Flathead Audubon Board:

- ◆ **Steve Gniadek**: Board Director 2009-2012
- ◆ **Dennis Hester**: Board Director 2009-2012
- ◆ **Bob Lee**: President 2009-2011
- ◆ **Paula Smith**: Vice President 2009-2011
- ◆ **Ben Young**: Board Director 2009-2010
- ◆ **Lewis Young**: Board Director 2009-2012

Elections will be held during the Annual Meeting, May 11. From Linda de Kort, Chair



## SPECIAL GIFTS

Each month, we recognize those members who have made special donations to FAS. This list includes all "name your bird" special gifts received through April 18.

### Donations made March 18—April 18, 2009

#### Merlin

Jill and Mike Fanning



#### My Own Vision

In memory of David and Rachel Jewett,  
by Leonard Jewett



### Many Thanks to All Who Have Made Special Gifts to Flathead Audubon This Year!

*Gwen Bartch*

*Dave Biggar*

*Charles and Mary Bleck*

*Ruth Davis*

*Roy S. Dimond*

*Jill and Mike Fanning*

*William & Carole Jensen*

*Leonard Jewett*

*Nancy Klehm*

*Anne Lent & Charles McCarty*

*Bob Lopp/Prudential Match*

*Shelly and Robert Love*

*Rosemary Mattick*

*Rod McIver*

*Mary Nelesen*

*Claude Paul*

*Paula Smith*

*Soroptomist Club of Whitefish*

*Gail & Brian Sullivan*

*Charles Sutfin*

*Nancy Svenningsen*

*Bruce Tannehill and Gail Cleveland*

*Richard & Sarah Thomason*

*Mary Wallace*

*Dr. Charles J. Williams*

## SPECIAL GIFTS

I wish to help make Flathead Audubon's vision a reality. Here is my contribution to the continued success of our chapter.



Dave Menke, USFWS

- ☐ Eagle Donation, \$1000
- ☐ Osprey Donation, \$500
- ☐ Snowy Owl Donation, \$250
- ☐ Merlin Donation, \$100
- ☐ Kestrel Donation, \$50
- ☐ My Own Vision, amount of my choice

\*\*\*\*\*

The FAS activity which most interests me is:

- ☐ Education Programs
- ☐ Owen Sowerwine Natural Area
- ☐ Scholarships and Grants
- ☐ Field Trips and Outdoor Events

\*\*\*\*\*

☐ I want my gift to recognize another:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notification of this gift to:

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Please do **not** acknowledge my gift in the Pileated Post

\*\*\*\*\*

Please make checks payable to:

Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9173

Kalispell, MT 59904

**Your gift is tax deductible.**

### OWEN SOWERWINE REMINDER

From Brent Mitchell and Linda Winnie

Co-Chairs of the Owen Sowerwine Committee

Even though Flathead Audubon doesn't meet over the summer, we still need your help! Please remember to take an OSNA Volunteer Monitoring Checklist with you when you visit Owen Sowerwine this summer. Use the checklist to tell us what parts of Owen Sowerwine you visited, and what you saw and heard while you were there. The information provided by our Volunteer Monitors helps us do a better job of managing Owen Sowerwine.

The checklist and map can be printed from [flatheadaudubon.org](http://flatheadaudubon.org), go to Conservation, Owen Sowerwine, right side of the page, or contact Brent for copies: [bkmitch@centurytel.net](mailto:bkmitch@centurytel.net) or 756-8130.

Thanks to all who signed up to cover one of our Volunteer Monitoring Periods this year. You will get a reminder call just before your Monitoring Period starts. Your help is greatly appreciated.



P.O. Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904-9173

MAY 2009



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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](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net). **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month.** Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: [pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org](mailto:pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org)

Website: [www.flatheadaudubon.org](http://www.flatheadaudubon.org)

FlockMaster - John Kyle: [jkyle@fastmail.us](mailto:jkyle@fastmail.us)

Conservation Educator - Nancy Zapotocki: [naz@centurytel.net](mailto:naz@centurytel.net)

## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

### OFFICERS

President	Mike Fanning	(shrdlu@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	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2007-2010	Ansley Ford	(aew333@yahoo.com)	857-6788
2007-2010	Mary Nelesen	(mnelesen@centurytel.net)	755-7678
2007-2010	Rod McIver	975 Rose Crossing, Kalispell 59901	756-9445
2008-2011	Paula Smith	(paulabobsmith@centurytel.net)	837-0181
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
2008-2009	Linda Winnie	(lindawin@centurytel.net)	755-1406
2008-2009	Jill Fanning	(shrdlu@centurytel.net)	862-8070
2008-2009	Brent Mitchell	(bkmitch@centurytel.net)	756-8130
2008-2009	Kay Mitchell	(kbmitch@centurytel.net)	756-8130
2008-2009	Linda DeKort	(dekort@montanasky.com)	755-3704
2008-2009	Leo Keane	514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birdseed Sales	Bob Lee	257-0363	Refuge Projects	Kathy Ross	
	Mary Nelesen	755-7678		(mtkat@montanaport.net)	
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Website	Paula Smith	837-0181
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Wetlands	Donna Pridmore	
Education	Ansley Ford	857-6788		(rrichard006@centurytel.net)	
Field Trips	Bill Schustrom	257-2359			
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	Ansley Ford	857-6788			
Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181			
Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070			



## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Whitefish, MT 59937