



the Silent Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 35

NUMBER 5

JANUARY 2011

“WHEN NO MAN’S LIFE OR PROPERTY IS SAFE...”



The 2011 Montana Legislature convenes January 2 in Helena. Many important issues impacting wildlife, wildlife habitat, and our environment are at stake. Montana Audubon has made the following bills their priority for the 2011 Montana Legislature:

◆ **Protection of Montana’s Streams and Rivers** ~

Pressures to develop lands along our state’s rivers and streams are increasing. Legislation will be introduced that ensures that new buildings are a safe distance from the banks of Montana’s rivers in order to protect people and property—and the rivers’ outstanding economic, biological and recreational values, to encourage local governments to protect our streams and rivers from the impacts from new buildings.

◆ **Wind Farms and Wildlife** ~ Alternative energy sources like wind power are becoming increasingly essential to meeting our country’s energy demands. A few large-scale wind farms have already been built in Montana, and many new projects are slated for construction across the state. This development must be managed responsibly, because poorly-sited wind farms can cause significant damage to birds, wildlife, and habitat. Wildlife-friendly Best Management Practices need to be established for new wind projects.

◆ **Defending Current Environmental Laws** ~ There are rumors of legislation that will attack our fundamental laws, from repealing the Montana Environmental

Policy Act (which requires review of environmental impacts before development of new mines, large subdivisions, oil and gas wells, timber sales, etc.), to allowing gravel pits to be located anywhere, to prohibiting purchase of any new public land. As the threat of global warming looms ever larger, it is important to work toward energy efficiency standards, increased use of renewable energy, decreased use of coal and petroleum products, and more.



As the legislature faces tough problems concerning wildlife and the environment, it is important to have as many conservationists as possible calling their Representatives and/or Senators to encourage them to vote responsibly about critical issues. Local Audubon Chapter members can help by making their voices heard on these and other crucial issues. When local

input is needed, Montana Audubon will contact interested members by phone or email, explain the issue and why action is needed, and then ask members to contact their legislators.

Please consider assisting us with this effort by signing up for our action alert program, Armchair Activist, at your local Audubon Chapter meeting or at www.mtaudubon.org. Alerts will be sent out only a handful of times during the session, but they provide a powerful way to lobby legislators on crucial bills and issues. We will try to limit use of the action alert program to just the most critical times!

JANUARY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, January 10, 2011: Flathead Audubon General Meeting. 7 PM, Conference Room 3, The Summit. Montana Audubon’s Janet Ellis will discuss details of the legislative session. See page 3.

Monday, January 3, 2011: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome.

Winter Field Trips! Get out and Spot our Winter Birds! Full Details on Page 3!



BIRD OF THE MONTH

By Mary Nelesen

The Snow Shoe Bird, the White-tailed Ptarmigan



For the past five summers, I have searched in vain for a glimpse of a White-tailed Ptarmigan. This past summer, I was fortunate and saw a flock of them just by chance. My first experience in seeing this elusive bird was while walking along the Highline Trail at Logan Pass in Glacier National Park. Two friends and I decided to stop and eat our lunch just below Haystack Butte. As we approached a large flat rock to sit on, we noticed four small speckled-brown birds nearby. Sure enough, there were 3 young and an adult White-tailed Ptarmigan. We sat for nearly an hour just watching them and during all that time, they did not appear disturbed by our presence. They were feeding on plants/flowers and although several hikers walked by in close proximity to where they were feeding, the Ptarmigan did not retreat or fly away.

The white-tailed ptarmigan is the only ptarmigan species found south of Canada. It is the smallest member of the grouse family in North America, averaging about a foot in length and weighing less than a pound. Unlike North America's other two ptarmigan species, the white-tailed ptarmigan has a white tail year-round, thus its scientific name. The white-tailed ptarmigan is a mottled gray brown in the summer with a white tail, underside, and wings. In the fall, both sexes turn reddish-brown before white feathers begin to replace the darker ones. By early winter, males and females are all white except for a black bill and eyes. The white-tailed ptarmigan lives year-round in the alpine tundra, above the tree line, in rocky areas and meadows/snowfields. It is the only bird in the alpine zone to remain there during winter, instead of migrating. It has feathers around its nostrils so the air that it breathes in is warm before it reaches its body. The white feathers help camouflage it and its feathered legs and feet act as *snow shoes*.

A Species of Special Concern in Montana, the white-tailed ptarmigan are well adapted to the cold but are intolerant of high temperatures. The stunning white phase may ultimately be the White-tailed Ptarmigan's demise with current warming projections. The signal to change plumage is triggered by photoperiod (the period of daily illumination a plant or animal receives), not temperature. The ptarmigan, like the pika, are stressed by warm temperatures above 70 degrees and may take snow baths to cool themselves down.

According to researcher Dr. David Benson, Associate Professor of Biology at Marian University, who has conducted a 13-year study examining White-tailed Ptarmigan changes in distribution, habitat and numbers in Glacier National Park, the White-tailed Ptarmigan are not well adapted to hot summer temperatures. His study found Ptarmigan flocks are presently smaller and less numerous than described in '96 and '97. "White-tailed Ptarmigan in Glacier National Park appear to be changing distribution, changing habitat, and perhaps on a local scale, declining." The following graph supports his research.

	1959	1997	2009
Total Flocking Individuals	55	18	10 (unmarked est.)
Largest Flock	17	10	4
Average Flock	5.0	5.1	3.0
"Big day" on Logan Pass	4 flocks, 33 birds	2 flocks, 12 birds	3 flocks, 7 birds

Table 1: Flocking individuals and flock sizes from 1959 (Choate 1963a), 1997 (Benson 1999), and 2009. 1959 and 1997 individuals were individually marked. "Big day" indicates the number of flocks and total birds seen on one day of searching the Logan Pass study area. As you can see by the chart, I was indeed fortunate to come across one of the few remaining White-tailed Ptarmigan flocks at Logan Pass last summer.

As a footnote, Dr. Benson recently told me he found 6 territorial males in the Logan Pass area this past summer (2010) in June, which is about the same as what he was finding back in the early 90's. In other words, while late summer numbers are declining, there is less evidence that breeding numbers are going down on Logan Pass.

REFERENCES:

Montana Outdoors Magazine, 2003-2006
 Benson: Ptarmigan 2009, unpublished draft
 Benson, David and Matthew Cummins, School of Mathematics and Sciences, Marian University, Indianapolis, IN, USA. "Move, Adapt or Die, a 13-year comparison examining White-tailed Ptarmigan changes in distribution, habitat and number"

The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, John K. Terres



**January 2011 Program
Audubon at the Montana Legislature**

To begin our 2011 series of programs, Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon's veteran lobbyist, will discuss wildlife and wildlife habitat legislation being considered for the 2011 Montana Legislature. Montana Audubon's priority legislation affects:

- ◆ Protection of Montana's Streams and Rivers
- ◆ Wind Farms and Wildlife
- ◆ Defending Current Environmental Laws
- ◆ Climate Change



Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon's Program Director, has lobbied for Montana Audubon since 1983, and was hired to staff its office on a year-round basis when it opened in 1989. Her work focuses on protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat through public policy, with an emphasis on land use planning, stream setbacks, wind energy, and more. She has received several awards for her work, including the Conservationist of the Year Award from Montana Audubon, the Montana Wildlife Federation, and the Montana Environmental Information Center; and Special Achievement Awards from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



This promises to be an interesting and timely presentation. Come learn about Montana Audubon's priority issues, how wildlife may fare at the Montana Legislature, what lobbying entails, and how you can get involved! Join us on Monday, January 10, at 7 PM in the Conference Room of The Summit in Kalispell.



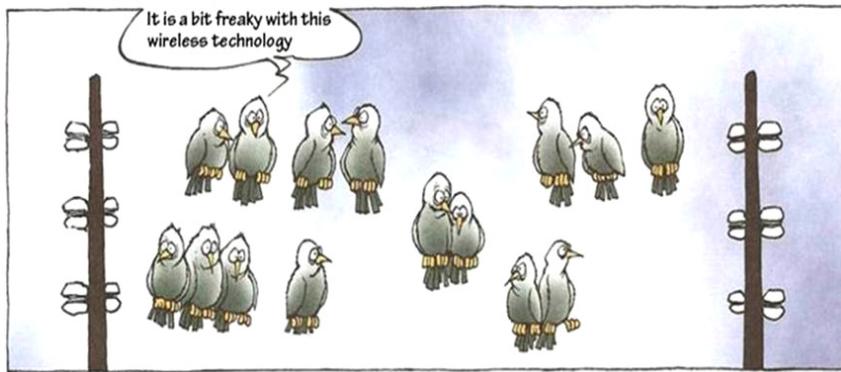
Owen D., Eureka Middle School



Trenten Tempel
Eureka Middle School



Adel, Eureka Middle School



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Nakoda Vandelberg, Eureka Middle School



Ilina Ionescu, Eureka Middle School



Storm Steele, Eureka Middle School

WINTER FIELD TRIPS!

Saturday, January 9, 2011: Family Snowshoe Walk, Blacktail Mountain X-C Ski Trails. 10:00AM to Noon. Hosted by Flathead Audubon and Flathead National Forest. Limited number of children's and adult snowshoes available for loan. Come have fun in the snow! Learn about snowshoeing, identify wildlife tracks and sign, and look for winter birds. Meet at the upper trailhead parking area. For more information or to reserve snowshoes, call the Swan Lake Ranger District at 837-7500. This is one of many Winter Trails Day activities; to access others on January 8, go to www.flatheadcore.org



Saturday, January 15, 2011: A winter morning of **Cross Country Skiing in Glacier National Park**, weather permitting. This mid-winter trip has several possibilities: along the old Flathead Ranger Station Road to the Quarter Circle Bridge, along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, around the Apgar area, or possibly along the shores of Lake McDonald. Good possibility of seeing Dippers, waterfowl, eagles, and lots of tracks of different critters to identify. (Remember, there is a fee to enter the Park.) Meet at the trailhead near the concession barn on the Apgar Lookout Road at 8:00 AM. Call Steve Gniadek at 892-7406 to sign up.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT TRIVIA

Last year, counts took place in all 50 states in the U.S., all Canadian provinces, plus several Central and South American countries, Guam, Mariana Islands, Bermuda, Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Colombia, encompassing some of the most important bird habitat in the hemisphere, now has more CBC circles than any country outside the US and Canada. In Columbia the CBC "is becoming the most important monitoring system for biodiversity in the country."





BOARD MEMBER CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

From Melissa Sladek, FAS Board Member



WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Looking out my office window, I can see the snow sparkling in the sunlight. It draws me away from my work and soon I find myself with my face pressed against the glass, gazing at the wintry world outside.

I am lucky. My office window is located in Glacier National Park and every day I am amazed by the place I call home. All days are beautiful, but some days are more special. Today on my way to work I slowed to a dead stop on the highway and watched 15 elk awkwardly run across the road, a surreal experience in the dawn of day when things seem to drift between dreams and reality.

It's moments like these that make me stop my busy life and contemplate. How are the elk doing this winter? Are they finding enough low-elevation habitat to survive? How many get hit by vehicles as they cross busy highways? Moments like these also make me wonder if the work I do (and the work of so many in this valley) really does make a difference...if the efforts of dedicated hard-working professionals, volunteers and concerned citizens can shape and mold our future and the future of our planet. And who will take on this job when I am gone?

One of the reasons I worked in the education field for so long is that I truly believe children are our future. To create a sustainable planet, children need to understand how the natural world works. But more importantly, they have to get out in it...feel the water, play in the woods, discover animal signs, and watch

the clouds float by. By enjoying and understanding the natural world, they start to realize its value. They start to care about it and, consequently, care for it.

Caring for our future is exactly what Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) does so well. From maintaining the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area to educating thousands of children about birds and their habitat, Audubon staff and volunteers pour their knowledge, hearts and time into creating an educated citizenry who someday may take over fighting for natural areas, wildlife habitat, ecosystem diversity, and of course, protecting birds.

Although many of Audubon's members give hours of their time to establishing and maintaining education and conservation programs, not all of what we do can be done for free. Much of it takes money... a lot of money. During this season for giving, please think about the future of our valley. Think of the multitude of children who are educated each year by FAS's Education Coordinator. Take a moment to visit a special birding spot or protected area. Reflect on how you want this world to look when you leave it and who will continue in your footsteps.

It is up to us to shape our future. FAS will continue to protect the earth and its inhabitants, but to what level depends on you. Consider giving a gift to your local Flathead Audubon chapter today and help us in our efforts to make a difference. Together, we truly can make a better future.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT TRIVIA

Last year's count shattered records. More than 2,100 counts and 60,753 people tallied 2,319 species and 55,951,707 total birds. That's nearly 56 million birds. Citizen Scientists spotted 200 more species than during the previous year's CBC.



SCIENCE

A CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN FEMALES (PART II)

Inspired by *THE PRIVATE LIVES OF BIRDS*, by Bridget Stutchbury

Last month's Science Tidbit recorded a conversation between Ms. Yellow Warbler and Mrs. Yellow Warbler. The older female recommended that the younger should choose a mate by the brightness of the red stripes on the breast of the male. Brighter red indicates a better potential mate. Today we get to hear the conclusion of this titillating discussion. Coming to roost the next night, Mrs. Y Warbler has time to explain why this is true.

"The red color in his feathers comes from compounds called carotenoid pigments. They come from the food that he eats. But the carotenoids are not just used to color his stripes but also to stimulate his immune system. If he is sick, has lots of parasites or is not eating well, he will have few carotenoids left for his stripes. This makes them good indicators of his general health and ability to feed your young. Stay away from the dull guys."

Ms. Y Warbler thanks Mrs. Y Warbler for the valuable information and raises many happy broods with a strong, healthy male that she privately calls "Big Red."

From Bruce Tannehill

TIDBIT



Montana Audubon's *Wings Across the Big Sky* Bird Festival Save June 3–5 for your vacation in Northeast Montana!



It's the event we all look forward to . . . our annual Bird Festival! This year we're traveling to Glasgow. Festival activities begin Friday, June 3, and extend through Sunday, June 5. Consider making a vacation out of it, and here's just one reason why. . .

This year we are adding full-day pre-festival workshops on Friday, June 3. Montana Audubon and Glasgow's Feather Fest Committee are developing two opportunities to explore the conservation of key bird habitats within critical prairie grasslands and sagebrush-dominated lands. Northeastern Montana has the three largest Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Montana; these are outstanding habitats for the conservation of native grassland and shrubland birds like Long-billed Curlew, Greater Sage-Grouse, Mountain Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, and more. We encourage you to join us for these field excursions to learn about opportunities to protect and enhance habitats for many rare and declining birds inhabiting the region.

It's not too early to reserve your campground/RV spot. Glasgow has *Cottonwood RV*, located at the heart of Bird Festival activities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Fort Peck is a short 15-20-minute drive to Glasgow and is an extraordinary historical and summer hotspot. Fort Peck Interpretative Center and Museum, as well as the Fort Peck Dam are two of the biggest attractions to the area. Adjacent to the Center is the *Downstream Campground*—a great family location along the Missouri River next to the Interpretive Trail. Moreover, Family Day, Saturday, June 4, will include a field trip along the Interpretive Trail. If you wish to include cultural/art experiences before or after your birding weekend extravaganza, consider Fort Peck's popular summer theatre and other nearby attractions.

If camping is not your style, we will have information on hotels—the *Cottonwood Inn* will be our primary location, with rooms reserved for festival attendees—in next month's newsletter. For more about the birds of the area, the IBAs worth visiting, and camping/RV information, go to Montana Audubon's home page at www.mtaudubon.org and click on the festival link (look for the Long-billed Curlew).



DEAR GABBY, FAS RECYCLING ADVICE COLUMNIST



Questions: Are you "recycling-shy?" A little reluctant to save newspapers, milk jugs, pop cans? Still think of those recycling items as "garbage?" Concerned that someone will see your recycling and learn something about you? Worried about identity theft? Here are answers from your FAS Advice Columnist:

Answers: Dear Shy, Do you ever drive from Kalispell to Whitefish? Next time you make the trip, look to your left just past the Majestic Arena and Raceway Park. That bare mountain that you see is the largest recycling symbol in Northwest Montana. The goal is to stop that mountain in its tracks. Take a good look and then go home and look at your little stack of newspapers or bag of pop cans. Which heap would you rather live with – your small collection for a couple of weeks until the next Audubon meeting, or the summit-in-the-clouds monstrosity next to the highway? When you bring your recyclables to the FVCC Recycling Trailer, you will quickly realize that everything that goes into that trailer is actually THE OPPOSITE of garbage. It is something you are donating for someone to make over into something different. It is NOT another mindless contribution to the heap of real garbage by the roadside.

Now, Shy, what about the privacy issues? Ahah! Do you have something to hide? Freudian analysis and Personal Therapy will have to wait until we solve the recycling crisis. Fortunately, there is a solution tailor-made for you - - **plain brown wrappers!** Put your recyclables into plain brown grocery bags

and staple the tops shut, or use black plastic trash bags and tie a double knot at the top. Only a child can get those apart and the recycling crews are all adults, so you are safe. No one will ever know what brand of milk you drink!

Identity theft is certainly a major issue, though. Your personal recycling firewall comes in the form of a **BLACK FELT MARKER**. Cross out your name and address, twice for good measure, before you put papers into your recycling bag. Oh, you say, but I always shred all of my papers that have personal information. Great! So bring your shreds (in bags, of course) to the Recycling Trailer. Those people don't have the time to sit around and reassemble your shreds to steal your identity. However, those worthless gulls at the landfill – surely you don't think they just eat garbage all day, do you? Climb up some time and see what's in their nests. How do you think their chicks learn to read?

Well, Shy, you may not like my professional diagnosis, but remember – just because you reject it doesn't mean it ain't so. I believe you are actually not Recycling-Shy, Shy. You are Garbage-Shy, Shy. It is a very common, though unhealthy and habitual, malady. You have conditioned yourself to believe that throwing something in the garbage means the end of your responsibility for it. This is an addictive and self-destructive behavior, but there is a Twelve-Step Program to help you. Step One: Recycle everything you possibly can. Steps Two through Twelve: Refer to Step One. See you at the Trailer on January 10, Shy!

Thanks!

...to those below who have made special donations to Flathead Audubon from November 17 to December 18.

Eagle

Anonymous



Dave Menke, USFWS

Kestrel

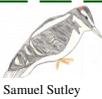
Richmond & Sarah Thomanson
Milt & B.J. Carlson



Trish Miller

Sustaining Membership + Donation

Bill Schustrom
Bill & Carole Jensen
Elizabeth Spettigue



Samuel Sutley

EUREKA SCHOOLKIDS GET BINOCULARS!

Last season, Flathead Audubon's Board of Directors voted to purchase enough pairs of binoculars for each student in Eureka Middle School's Fifth Grade. When the binoculars arrived, Board Member Lewis Young went to the school to show the students how to use the binoculars. Lewis and the class then took a little field trip. Here and scattered throughout the newsletter are some of the thank-you notes and bird drawings from Mrs. Roberts' students.

Dear Audubon,

Thank you for giving us the binoculars. It allowed us to have the time of our lives. Thank you so much! You guys really can inspire lots and lots of kids. And I hope you have a fun career. I loved it when I used the binoculars and I saw a mallard with ducklings. From Tyann



Elena Sutherland

Dear Autubon,

Thank you for the stuff you got us. I had a good time. What does yore society do? Thank you for binoculars. Sincerely, Jacob



Quinn Sutherland

Dear Lewis,

Thankyou for guiding us around the trail it would be nice if you would do that again. I will always remember this trip for a long time.

You bird watcher, Cole Morris
p.s. You know a lot of birds.



Samuel Sutley

Dear Lewis,

Thank you for helping with birds. That Prarie Falcon was really cool. I can't belive I saw it first. Thank you for identifying it for me. I hope you had fun. Thank you very much, Louis. From Travis



Ilinea Ionescu

Dear Audubon Society.

Thank you for giving us the binoculars. If we didn't have them then we wouldn't be able to see them up close to see how pretty they are. We saw 28 different birds here are some of them Western tanager, spotted sandpiper, violet green swallow, tree swallow and 1 flicker. The one we saw the most and I think is the prettiest was the western tanager. I had a blast. From Tori

Dear Lewis,

Thank you for guiding the field trip. I loved it. The lazuli bunting was my favorite bird. I also liked the western tanager. Today we had a test on birds. 45 of them. I only missed two. The spotted sandpiper was cool too! Sincerely, Colby

SPECIAL GIFTS

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

- 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 a notification of this gift to:

Name _____

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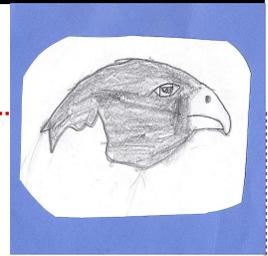


Dave Menke, USFWS

Dear Autubon,

Thank you for donating the binoculars they came in handy. My faforet bird was the Lashilie bunting. It was buitiful. And all the birds I saw had a lot of pretty details to it. And we saw a broken train it was cool Sincerely Storm

KIDZ



Let's Learn More About FALCONRY!

By: Delaney Wirtala

Fourth Grader, West Valley School

When I walked into The Summit room that cold November evening to the Kate Davis lecture, I saw a beautiful bird sitting on a perch with a leather hood covering her eyes and long leather leashes with bells attached to her legs. Wow, I thought, this is going to be really cool. After Kate's lecture, I wanted to know more about falconry, so I started to do some research....

The first thing I found out was that there was an ancient Egyptian religion that worshipped "Horus" as their god. He was a falcon god, a sky god, a war god and the god of protection. He was a good mascot for falconry! Horus had a face of a falcon and the body of a man. The symbol of his eye looks like the fierce peregrine eye and was even on King Tut's tomb!

According to Wikipedia, the first evidence of man hunting with birds was about 700 b.c., from pictures drawn into stone at an old palace. Hunting with birds spread to China, Arabia and then to Europe. Falconry then became the most popular sport in England.

Kate Davis used a peregrine falcon, Sibley, to hunt with, but other birds of prey have been used to hunt with as well. People use hawks, gryfalcons and even eagles for hunting! You need to have a special license to be able to own and keep a hunting bird. The bird wears a leather hood on its head, covering its eyes until it is ready to be released to hunt. A tracking device is attached to her leg. Long leather straps with bells were on her legs to help Kate hold her until she was ready to hunt. Kate had to have a thick leather glove on her arm to protect her from Sibley's sharp talons. Sibley really liked to hunt for peoples' hats, but when she was hungry, she would hunt ducks, grouse, pigeons and pheasant.

Peregrines are especially good for falconry because when they dive or "stoop," they can travel up to 200 mph! They have terrific eyesight and can see little things over a mile away. Their beaks and talons are very sharp; when Sibley ate a pigeon leg in front of the group, she had no trouble tearing it apart! Peregrine falcons almost became extinct due to the pesticide poisoning of DDT. They were saved because biologists rescued some eggs and raised the babies to be released in the wild. DDT was banned in the U.S. in 1974, so that has helped the peregrines come back from near extinction.

The sport of falconry is really interesting with a long history. I'm glad that the peregrine falcons are back and are healthy. They are powerful and beautiful birds and I'm glad that I got to meet one!

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Kids Korner is coordinated by our Conservation Educator, Nancy Zapotocki. If you have a topic of natural history interest and a budding student author, send Nancy an email at naz@centurytel.net. Include the topic, school, grade, student and teacher name. Your idea could be the next article. A teacher may even give extra credit ☺ "Kids sharing nature with kids!"

FLATHEAD AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

THE 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.



JANUARY 2011



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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: pileatedpost@flatheadaudubon.org**

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FlockMaster - John Kyle: jkyle@fastmail.us

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2010-2011	Kay Mitchell	(kbmitch@centurytel.net)	756-8130

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Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
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Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Natural Area	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
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Nominations	Linda deKort	755-3704			
Program	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181			
Quality of Life	Linda DeKort	755-3704			

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Executive Director: Steve Hoffman

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Board President: Dan Sullivan

443-4229



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership

Individual or Family

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Supporting Membership \$35
(Extra \$15 funds local projects such as grants, scholarships, meetings, and Christmas Bird Count)

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