



Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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MAY 2011



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF OUR MIGRATORY BIRDS



May 14, 2011, is the day set aside this year to recognize and focus our attention on the incredible journeys birds make between summer and winter homes. Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable and remarkable wildlife that share our world. Many of us know migratory birds as symbolic harbingers of spring and melodious songsters of the woods. Migratory birds are also an important economic resource, controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars.

Unfortunately, research has shown that many migratory bird species are in decline, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes. Thus, IMBD, in addition to being a day to foster appreciation, is a call to action.

Learn more about IMBD at these websites: <http://www.birds.fws.gov/imbd> or <http://www.BirdDay.org>.

Join the celebration May 14. There are a number of field trips planned around the area, but if you cannot make one of these just keep your "eyes to the sky" and your ears to the wind. Every day is a good day to appreciate the beauty, marvels, magic and voices of our feathered friends.

By Kathy Ross



Whitefish Family Bird Class and Bird Walk

CLASS: May 12, 6:30 – 8 PM at Whitefish Community Center, 121 2nd St.

Learn to use binoculars and recognize common birds in our town.

Ages 4 – adult ~ Fun for kids!

BIRD WALK: May 14, 8:30 – 10 AM

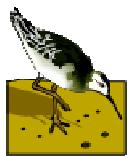
We will stroll along the ball fields pond and the Whitefish River to see and hear redwing blackbirds, grebes, ducks, robins, song sparrows and other songbirds, and maybe a red-tailed hawk or a flying dinosaur.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the pond between the Springs retirement home and the ball fields (by the hospital).

More info: Ansley Ford (class) 857-6788 -or- Bruce Tannehill (walk) 862-4548



Jeannie Marcure Photo



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. James Dent

MAY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, May 9, 2011: Flathead Audubon General Meeting and Potluck. [Whitefish Community Center](#). Doors open at 5 PM, dinner at 6 PM. For full details and directions, see page 3.

Monday, May 2, 2011: Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM at 295 Third Ave. E.N. All are welcome.

Summer Field Trips! See pages 7—8!

Monday-Saturday, May 2-7, 2011: Flathead Forestry Expo. See page 6 for details!

Friday-Sunday, June 3-5, 2011: Wings over the Big Sky. Montana Audubon Bird Festival, Glasgow, MT

BIRD OF THE MONTH

By Gail Cleveland

The Tennessee Warbler: Spruce Budworm Specialist



Among the breeding wood warblers in Western Montana, the Tennessee Warbler has been the most elusive and difficult to see each summer. For 25 years, my husband Bruce and I have taken an annual May bike ride from the Trego area down Wolf Creek to the

Fisher River and on to the Kootenai River. Each year we searched for this small, indistinctly marked warbler with a fine, sharp bill and a short tail with a distinctive three-part song. Finally, in 2010 we hit gold!

The Tennessee Warbler likes mixed woodlands, as long as there is a bushy and mossy under-story. Our first and only glimpse of one in Montana before 2010 was in McGee Meadows in Glacier National Park. Along our yearly bike route are boggy areas and streams with prime habitat. They nest on or near the ground, often in sphagnum moss or hummocks in bogs.

Visually, Tennessee Warblers can be mistaken for Orange-crowned Warblers. The head is gray and the back is olive. The breast is whitish to yellowish. There is a pale white line above the eye and an indistinct grayish eye line. Orange-crowned warblers have yellow undertail coverts; Tennessee Warblers have white undertail coverts. This is the distinguishing feature to look for.

The songs of these two warblers are, thankfully, quite distinct. The Orange-crowned has a rapid trill that seems to lose energy toward the end, dropping in volume and pitch. The Tennessee is very vocal, having a loud, staccato three-part song.

After this first sighting of the season, we saw this vocal warbler singing near the tops of aspen trees in Glacier National Park, near a boat landing on the Flathead River, at Tally Lake campground, up Graves Creek near Eureka and on the Columbia Mountain trail. Were our eyes and ears just not tuned in to the Tennessee? Had they been here other years, and we just didn't notice them? According to the Montana Field Guide developed by the Montana Natural Heri-

tage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, sightings of Tennessee Warblers, both breeding and transient, were the highest in 2010 since observations began in 1980. Further research resulted in a viable answer to the increase in sightings. It all depends on the availability of the right food.

The Tennessee Warbler is a "spruce budworm specialist," according to several sources. Their numbers vary from year to year based on budworm outbreaks. There is little doubt that western Montana is the middle of such an outbreak.

The western spruce budworm, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, is the most widely distributed and destructive forest defoliator in western North America. Their choice host in western Montana appears to be Douglas fir trees. Occasionally, they also attack spruce and subalpine fir.



Dead new foliage, webs on new foliage, and thinning needles are hallmarks of the spruce budworm. Outbreaks can last three to five years. Young trees may die; older trees become stressed and susceptible to beetles. Glacier National Park around St. Mary's Lake is an especially hard hit area where it is easy to see damage done by this pest.

In late April or May the larvae, which hibernate in the bark or under lichen, migrate to the foliage, where they mine old needles or feed on host tree flow-



ers. In a week or two, they enter developing buds, the habitat that gives them their name. As the new needles lengthen, the rapidly growing larvae continue to feed. They feed inside webbed foliage, where they are somewhat protected from predators. One such enemy is the Tennessee Warbler who feasts on the budworm and relies on them to raise their young.

How many Tennessee Warblers will be here in 2011 is difficult to know, but this plain, very vocal warbler is a "good" predator that we hope to see often again this summer.

IN FOND MEMORY

Audubon member and friend, Valley Ellingsen passed away on April 12 at her home at Wel-Life Assisted Living in Kalispell. For the last several years, Valley attended Flathead Audubon meetings with her friend Loren Kreck, faithfully bringing her recycling, and spreading her cheery smile throughout the room. She lived a full and adventurous life, and we feel fortunate to have shared part of it with her.



BEGINNING DRAGONFLY WATCHING IN MONTANA

By Bob Martinka



Bob Martinka is an avid birder and wildlife photographer. On one of his birding trips in 2008, he encountered a shallow mountain lake that was teeming with dragonflies. Stopping to watch them, he began taking close-up pictures, and almost immediately became "hooked" on the pursuit and enjoyment of these ancient insects.

Learning how to pursue and identify these fascinating, helicopter-like speedsters will be the focus of his presentation at our annual meeting and potluck on May 9.

Dragonflies, which predate dinosaurs, are among the oldest living groups of insects, having first appeared over 250 million years ago. In Montana, about 58 species of dragonflies have been identified, along with perhaps 28 species of closely-related damselflies. They begin their life cycle as aquatic insects and are found in almost any place where there is a permanent or semi-permanent water source.

Dragonfly watching has become a spinoff activity for birders in other parts of the country, but is mostly in its infancy with only a few good field guides presently available. In Montana, interest in and the pursuit of these flying dynamos could be thought of as in the "egg stage" with only a handful of individuals actively pursuing them.

Bob retired in 1997 after nearly 30 years with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He began his career with FWP as a field biologist and closed it as Deputy Director. He has served on the Montana Audubon Board of Directors for the past six years. He was born and raised in Pennsylvania and then migrated west to obtain degrees in Wildlife Biology and Ecology from Colorado State University and Purdue University and a PhD from Montana State University in 1970. He and his wife Kathy have resided in Helena for over 17 years.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting, potluck and silent auction on Monday, May 9 at the Whitefish Community Center.

MAY POTLUCK!

FLATHEAD AUDUBON'S MAY MEETING AND POTLUCK - SEE YOU THERE!



Date: May 9, 2011

Location: Whitefish Community Center (members are encouraged to carpool!)

Time: Doors Open at 5:00 PM, Potluck Dinner at 6:00 PM

Highlights of the Evening:

- ◆ Election of 2011-12 Officers and Board Members (see page 10)
- ◆ Silent Auction (details below)
- ◆ Great Program by Bob Martinka (article above)
- ◆ Outrageously Good Food (please bring your own plates, cups and tableware and a dish to share)
- ◆ A Good Time for Everyone (see friends, celebrate spring, laugh lots, vote, learn about dragonflies)



To Find the Whitefish Community Center: Drive to Whitefish on Highway 93. Follow 93 when it turns left at the stoplight by the red brick school. Stay on 93 through downtown until the road dips down to cross the river. The Community Center is on the left just before the bridge - white building with red trim. (Or put "121 Second Street" into your GPS!)

Member/Ace Gardener Rod McIver plans to bring "low growing native and feral plants" to sell. He won't be bringing trees this year and some of the plants are not native -- but nice in the garden.

May Silent Auction: one of Flathead Audubon's greatest fun and fundraisers of the year. You can participate in 3 ways – buy, sell, or buy-and-sell! Bring along anything you'd like to donate. Some of our most successful items from past silent auctions have been bird books, birdhouses or feeders, houseplants or bedding plants, nature books, pottery, jewelry, art work, photography, and baked goods. Bring whatever you can to donate to the auction. And bring your wallet with a few dollars to pick up a new "treasure!"

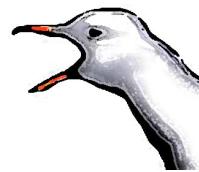


Just in time for your summer outings and field trips, the newest edition of our FAS Brochure, "BIRDING HOTSPOTS OF THE FLATHEAD" will be available at the May Potluck and can also be downloaded from our website www.FlatheadAudubon.org at no charge.





BOARD MEMBER CHIRPS & SQUAWKS



From
FAS President, Bob Lee
SWAN SONG

As May approaches, I was thinking about my last couple of years as President of Flathead Audubon. These years have been tough, but overall we've done pretty well. The biggest challenge was the economic downturn. But FAS membership and participation has stayed up. Hopefully that is because of the high quality programs that we have been able to continue to offer. We have had excellent presentations at our general meetings. We have had excellent field trips. FAS is still managing the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area under a new agreement with Montana Audubon and DNRC. Our members are doing a great job monitoring the area as well as turning out in droves for a fall workday. The brightest spot is our education program. This includes Beauty of Birds and the Whitefish Bird Class, in addition to the wonderful programs by our Conservation Educator. Unfortunately, we lost a good Conservation Educator; fortunately, we gained another just as fine in Ashley Mason. These programs have touched many kids throughout the Valley through in-class presentations and field trips, and the general public through programs like Family Forestry Expo. We have been fortunate to get some grants and donations to help support this education mission.

None of this could have been possible without the exceptional Board of Directors for Flathead Audubon. There will be a few changes on the Board and the Executive Committee but the good work will continue. Of course, there will continue to be challenges; the biggest will be continued funding of the education program. With the sustained support of our FAS members, I know we can rise to this challenge as well. So, the future looks rosy.

I am pleased to have been able to serve as President of such a fine organization. Thank you – and good birding.



Remember Your Flathead Audubon Society



Picturesof.net

Remember the Flathead Audubon Society with a bequest in your will.

You are a member of the Flathead Audubon Society and, in addition to enjoying *The Pileated Post*, the presentations at the monthly meetings, bird outings and activities, your membership supports the good work that FAS does, including its conservation education program and maintaining the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

You can leave a legacy in your name and insure that these programs continue by including Flathead Audubon Society in your will. You can include a bequest in the body of your will, or if you already have a will, it is as simple as adding your bequest as a codicil at the end of your will, without the necessity of redoing the entire document. And, if you wish, you can specify which FAS program your legacy bequest will support.



Snow Goose Field Trip Report, 2011



unitedgooseobjects.com

Seven carloads of Flathead Auduboners left Kalispell the morning of March 26, headed for Freezeout Lake and the annual gathering of Snow Geese. Our hopes were high, as the news over the preceding week was that the birds were arriving by the 10's of thousands. Driving south along the Rocky Mountain Front, we enjoyed several close looks at both Bald and Golden Eagles along the roadside. We arrived at Freezeout in mid-afternoon and quickly realized that our timing was right...pond 5 was completely white with resting geese. Once again, the last weekend in March had produced the highest counts of Snow Geese for the season. As the afternoon progressed, we were joined by other birders and watched group after group of newly arriving geese drop out of the sky to join the masses. We positioned ourselves north of the largest concentration, hoping they would pass overhead when they left to feed in the surrounding barley fields. And did we ever guess correctly! At 5 PM the skies filled as 200,000 geese took off nearly as one and streamed over our awe-struck group. Squadrons of Northern Pintails, low-flying swans, and displaying Northern Harriers added to the evening show. Sunday morning would reveal far fewer geese, but we were able to spend some time at a field where 5,000 or more were actively feeding, allowing closer study of the few Ross's Geese and "Blue" Geese in the flock. A few dozen Trumpeter Swans were a highlight of our tour of the ponds at Freezeout before we reluctantly turned for home, having enjoyed a wonderful rite of spring.

Dan Casey, Freezeout Trip Leader



...to those below who have made special donations to Flathead Audubon from April 18, 2010 through April 18, 2011

EAGLE

Anonymous
Soroptimists of Whitefish



SNOWY OWL

Milt and BJ Carlson



MERLIN

Robert & Elizabeth Bowman
In Memory of Loren Kreck



Martin Cohen

Jill & Mike Fanning
Bob & Paula Smith

KESTREL

Virginia Axenfield
Leslie Kehoe
Bob Lee



Anne Lent & Charlie McCarty
Mary Neleson

Nancy Svennungsen
Bruce Tannehill

Richmond & Sarah Thomason
Anonymous

In Memory of Loren Kreck
John & Linda Winnie

In Honor of Nancy Zapotocki

SUSTAINING MEMBER + DONATION

Joe and Lana Batts
Barbara Boorman
Dan & Susannah Casey



Mary Granger

Dennis Hester

Bill & Carole Jensen

Richard Kuhl

Vonda Mcgarvey

Rod McIver

Kay & Brent Mitchell

Dean Robbins

Marge Rothfuss

Bill Schustrom

Donna Taylor & Randy Schwickert

Elizabeth Spettigue

Mary Wallace

B.J. Worth

Wayne & Rosemarie Worthington

MY OWN VISION

June Ash
In Memory of Ferne Cohen



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 _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

* * *

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

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.

This is your last *Pileated Post* until early September. On your outdoor jaunts this summer, take your camera along and snap a few photos of your favorite birds. At any time during the summer, feel free to send them to lindawin@centurytel.net to fill our September E-page. Your newsletter co-editors wish every one of you a birdiful summer!

Linda Winnie & Kay Mitchell



JUST A REMINDER! COME LEARN ABOUT OUR FORESTS!



The Family Forestry Expo is a one-day weekend event for families and a five-day event for 5th graders that gives hands-on exposure to the role forests play in our everyday lives. Expo participants explore how the different parts of a forest are connected to make up a dynamic living system, how people and all parts of the environment are dependent on one another and how each affects the other. The outdoor event takes place at the Trumbull Creek Educational Forest on Stoltze Lumber Co. land, north of Kalispell. On Saturday, there is a free "loggers lunch," demonstrations, exhibits and forest walk with various educational stations.

This year, the Family Forestry Expo is scheduled for May 2 through 7 and recognizes the Interna-

tional Year of Forests with the theme "Celebrating Forests for People." For more information about the Expo, please contact Teresa Wenum at twenum@fs.fed.us.

Flathead Audubon will have a booth and activities at the Expo. We are looking for volunteers to help with the booth, so if you would enjoy being outdoors on a spring day talking to people about the forests and ecosystems, please contact Ashley Mason, FAS Conservation Educator, at AudubonAshley@gmail.net.

Whether as a volunteer, participant or just want to see what it is all about, all are encouraged to come on out on Saturday, May 7!

Teresa Wenum and Ashley Mason

Local Farmers Markets are Opening!



Be sure to visit your local Farmers Market this summer. When you buy produce and goods at the Farmers Markets, you are doing good things for the environment by buying locally and supporting organic farmers and you are helping your community by supporting local small businesses. Best of all, you are getting quality products, and often unusual and unique products, at a great price.

Bigfork Farmers Market Cooperative: Saturdays, 9 AM to 1 PM, June 18-October 15, and Wednesdays, 4 to 7 PM, June 15-August 31, both at Bigfork High School parking lot, 600 Commerce St.

Kalispell Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9 AM to 12:30 PM, April 16-October 15, west end of Kalispell Center Mall parking lot, Center Street and Fifth Ave. West.

Whitefish Downtown Farmers Market: Tuesdays, 5 to 7:30 PM, May 31-September 27, at Central & Rail-way near the train depot.

Whitefish Farmers Market: Thursdays, 4 to 6:30 PM, May-September, Pin & Cue parking lot, US 93 S.

SAVE THESE DATES!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011: RAPTOR DAY IN MEMORY OF ROD ASH. Lone Pine State Park. Watch the newspapers in early September for times and activities!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011: OWEN SOWERWINE WORK DAY. 9 AM, Kalispell Montessori School. Full details will be announced at the FAS September 12 General Meeting.



Vaux's Happening: A Swift Night Out



Make plans now for one of the least active but most fascinating Flathead Audubon field trips of the year, to sit in a parking lot watching a chimney. Every year after the nesting season, Vaux's Swifts gather at communal roosts each night before their long trip south. This species, a close relative of the aptly-named Chimney Swift, nests and roosts in broken-topped snags in a variety of habitats (e.g. the cottonwoods of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area), and is also a relatively common nester in the chimneys of downtown Kalispell.

Last September, Susannah and Dan Casey discovered that the Montana Building in downtown Kalispell, in addition to being the home of the American Bird Conservancy office, hosts a large roost of Vaux's Swifts. In fact, on the evening of September 12, they counted no fewer than 250 of the birds flying in to the roost. Over the next few nights, other folks enjoyed the show as the swirling birds circled, and circled, eventually funneling in over the space of just a few minutes.

So this year we decided to make a field trip for the occasion, timed to coincide with a national "Swift Night Out" survey of Vaux's and Chimney Swifts. Our data will also be submitted to "Vaux's Happening", an Audubon inventory of roost sites in the Pacific Northwest. Meet in the parking lot behind the Montana Building, on the southwest corner of First Avenue East and Second Street East, at **7:00 PM, Saturday, September 10**. Bring lawn chairs. Contact Dan Casey at 756-2681 for details.



SPRING & SUMMER FIELD TRIPS



SUNDAYS, MAY 1, 8 AND 15: BIRDING THE BIGFORK NATURE TRAIL. Join Neal Brown for a morning of birding, with emphasis on nesting waterfowl. 8 AM—10 AM. Park at East entrance of the trail (Swan River Road) and follow signs to the Bigfork Bird Club Bird Blind—approximately 400 meters. Spotting scope provided. Bring binoculars, water, snacks; arrive and leave as you please.

SATURDAY, MAY 7: CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY with a field trip to Swan Lake area and Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Meet at Swan Lake Picnic Area. Bring binoculars, warm clothes if needed, and snack or lunch. Boots are appropriate if it is muddy. We may see and hear American Bitterns, Sandhill Cranes, and Bald Eagles, returning warblers, sparrows, swallows, and occasional flocks of snow geese and swans. Contact Kathy Ross at 837-3837 to sign up and for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 14: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The main event is the opening of the splendid Red Sheep Mountain Drive for the summer, weather and road conditions permitting. This wonderful drive through the range travels through a variety of habitats, a great place to see a broad range of birds. Expect many activities for all ages. For information and events, call the National Bison Range at 406-644-2211.

SATURDAY, MAY 14: SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY. Montana Loon Society and Montana Common Loon Working Group need volunteers to observe and count loons on lakes in northwest Montana on or near this date. For survey forms and information, contact: for areas west of Kalispell, Chris Hammond at 751-4582; for north of Kalispell, Laura Holmquist at 758-3501; for south Flathead Lake and Mission Valley, Janene Lichtenberg at 883-2888; for the Troy area, Glen Gill at 295-4693; for the Swan Valley, Jane Ingebretson at 837-7539; and for the Eureka area, Christie Ferruzzi at 882-4451.

SATURDAY, MAY 14: SPRING LOONS IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Here is a chance to volunteer in one of Montana's most beautiful places. Volunteers with some bird experience or previous training are needed to look for and count loons in Glacier National Park. Call Jamie Belt at 888-7986 to sign up.



SATURDAY, MAY 21: A TOUR OF THE LAZY CREEK AREA ABOVE THE HEAD OF WHITEFISH LAKE. This three-hour field trip of a not-often-visited area provides a great opportunity to observe Warblers, American Redstarts, Northern Water Thrush, Black-Headed Grosbeak, and other birds. Meet at McDonalds in Whitefish 8:00 AM with an 11:00 AM return. For questions or to sign up, call Bruce Tannehill at 862-4548.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25: EVENING WHITEFISH TRAIL FIELD TRIP. Hunt for spring wildflowers and explore possibilities for an educational interpretive display. Meet at the trailhead at 6:00PM. Follow Hwy 93 1.2 miles west of Whitefish. Turn right onto Lion Mountain Loop Road; follow it 1.2 miles to the trailhead on your right. Contact Jen Hintz at 862-7028 or jhinz2004@yahoo.com. Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society.



SATURDAY, MAY 28: BIRDING IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. This trip will focus on identifying neotropical migrants by sight and ear. We will walk along McDonald Creek listening and looking, stop at Fish Creek Campground to search for Harlequin Ducks, and scan cottonwoods for vireos and warblers. We may drive up the inside North Fork Road or along Camas Road, in search of Black-Backed Woodpeckers, Olive-sided Flycatchers and Northern Hawk Owls. Trip is limited to 20 participants. Sign up with Steve Gniadek at 892-7406. Meet at the Alberta Visitor Center in West Glacier at 8:00AM and return by noon. Note: a Glacier National Park entrance fee or park pass is required.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 7:00PM: KALISPELL NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR. Join native plant gardener Bill McLaren for a tour of the FVCC and Central School Museum Native Plant Gardens. Meet at FVCC, behind Blake Hall. If it is raining, meet inside Blake Hall. Contact Bill at 257-2540 or email mccl@bresnan.net for details. No RSVP necessary. The tour is wheelchair accessible.



TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 6:00PM: COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP. Join Glacier National Park Biologist Tara Carolin on a 2-hour evening walk up the Columbia Mountain Trail east of Columbia Falls. Enjoy spring and early summer blooms along the forested trail that 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 the Columbia Mountain trailhead. Bring water and a sack supper if you like. Contact Tara (755-9412 or taraywc@yahoo.com) for more information.

More Field Trips on Next Page ...



SPRING & SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 10-12: FLATHEAD AUDUBON WARBLER WEEKEND AT TALLY LAKE.

Join Dan and Susannah Casey at the Tally Lake Campground for an extraordinary weekend of birding and relaxing. The group campground has been reserved for us for the weekend. We will focus on warbler identification, birding by ear and digi-scoping. This is an ideal time of year to find a wide variety of neotropicals; most notable is that all warbler species which can be found in NW Montana are found here. Plenty of other activities can be enjoyed at Tally Lake as well; bring canoes and kayaks, play volleyball or horseshoes, or go hiking on one of the numerous trails found close to the campground. There also will be a special Saturday afternoon speaker at 2:30 PM, Chris Rufatto of the Whitefish Lake Institute, whose topics will include the geology of the Tally Lake area, as well as a look at the aquatics of the lake itself. This could be the best Warbler weekend ever! The cost is \$15 per night for campers or \$5 day use fee. (Golden Age permits not accepted) We will accept donations to cover other FAS costs. Please contact Jill Fanning at 862-8070 to sign up for the weekend or for more information.



Jeannie Marcure



smithsonianmag.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 18: A WANDER THROUGH LOST TRAIL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

Lost Trail is located in beautiful Pleasant Valley and is a great place to see grassland and riparian birds at close range. The road through the refuge wanders through wet meadows where Wilson's Snipe, Brewer's Blackbirds and Vesper Sparrows sit on fence posts next to the road. Warblers and flycatchers sing from thickets beside the road.

Dahl Lake, a large shallow lake has breeding populations of Black Terns, Ruddy Ducks, Red-necked, Pied-billed, Horned and Eared Grebes and Sandhill Cranes. We may see Golden and Bald Eagles soaring on the wind, as both species breed here. Meet at Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Kalispell at 6:00AM for a day of exciting birding. Please contact Jon Hughes at 260-2506 to sign up or for more information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26: A TOUR OF THE MISSION VALLEY. Join FAS for some exceptional early summer bird watching. We will visit the National Bison Range, driving up and over Red Sheep Mountain Drive to look for a myriad of warblers, vireos, and sparrows. We may find rock Wrens, Short Eared Owls or Swift Prairie Falcon. We will also spend time at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Park n' Ride at the intersection of Highways 93 and 82 near Somers at 6:00AM. For information and to sign up for this all-day field trip, call Leslie Kehoe evenings at 837-4467. Note: the entrance fee to the National Bison Range is \$4.00 per vehicle.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29: ANNUAL FROG DAY, 8:30AM TO 3:30PM ON THE TALLY LAKE DISTRICT.

Calling all "citizen scientists"—families, kids, and volunteers! Help find and count amphibians. It is fun and the Forest Service gains valuable data. The day starts at the Tally Lake District Office at 650 Wolf Pack Way with an orientation on how to identify local amphibians and reptiles, and how to do the surveys. Volunteers work in teams of 2-5 with a crew leader. Anyone 7 years or older is invited to join us for the day! Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. After the training, volunteers head to wetlands in the Tally Lake area. Bring lunch, water to drink, boots to keep your feet dry and extra socks. Waders, hip boots or irrigation boots work well and some are available for loan. We will go rain or shine, so bring rain gear and a change of clothes. RSVP to Teresa Wenum, 406-758-5218, so we can arrange vehicle and gear logistics. Space is limited.



TUESDAYS, JUNE 21—AUGUST 30: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE GLACIER NATIONAL PARK NURSERY.

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

SATURDAY, JULY 16: MONTANA LOON DAY. Montana Common Loon Working Group needs volunteers on this day to look for and count loons on northwest Montana lakes. A day spent watching the loon can add valuable data to the ongoing study of these wonderful birds. To volunteer and for more information, see the contacts for each area under the May 14 Loon Census Day listing.



moneytrek.com



For all Field Trips, dress for the weather, bring binoculars or spotting scope if you have them, wear sturdy footwear, and drive and pull off the road safely. Check www.FlatheadAudubon.org throughout the summer months, for additional offerings and trip changes.

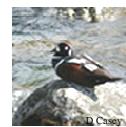
GLACIER INSTITUTE SUMMER 2011 BIRD COURSES

Glacier's Harlequins, May 7, 2011

Ages: 12 and up are welcome with an adult

Instructor(s): John Ashley, B.A.

The Pacific harlequin is the only duck in the world that divides its time between the torrential, cold mountain streams of Glacier National Park and the heavy surf of coastal waters. Harlequins return each year to the same stream where they hatched in order to mate. We will visit McDonald Creek where an impressive number of these secretive birds return each spring.



Glacier's Birds of Prey: West Side, June 16, 2011

Ages: 18+

Instructor(s): David Shea, M.S.

This course investigates the biology and conservation of hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons along with all 29 species of birds of prey found in Glacier National Park. We will visit lower McDonald Creek, former world-renowned bald eagle congregation site, to look at feeding and roosting sites, along with an evening outing to look and listen for night hunters.

Glacier's Birds of Prey: East Side, June 17, 2011

Ages: 18+

Instructor(s): David Shea, M.S.

This course investigates the biology and conservation of hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons along with all twenty-nine species of birds of prey found in Glacier National Park. Traveling to the Park's east side and around the lesser traveled roads (200 miles round trip), we will stop to look at nesting and migrating raptors such as eagles, Swainson's hawks and prairie falcons.



The "Uncommon" Loon, June 18-19, 2011

Ages: 18+

Instructor(s): Denny Olson, M.S., a.k.a. "Critterman"

Glacier's many high country lakes provide the perfect nesting habitat for loons and a beautiful setting for observing their behaviors and listening to the wild and romantic songs of these stunning birds. The class will visit a loon-inhabited lake in the North Fork to observe nesting behaviors, chick rearing, plumage and flight. You'll come away with a first-hand appreciation of the amazing life cycle of this fish-eating, deep diving, and ancient bird.



For details about enrolling in any of these courses, call Glacier Institute at 755-1211 or visit

www.glacierinstitute.org.

It's never too late ... to switch to electronic delivery of *The Pileated Post*, that is! You can request to receive the Post by email at any time of the year, any time of the day or night, by simply sending an email to lindawin@centurytel.net. You will receive the Post in an email (no rerouting to a website), and your email address stays safe with us. We don't sell or share it with anyone else. Your Post comes in full color and with the added bonus of "For E-Your Eyes Only," a special add-on page full of bird photos from other FAS members. Don't wait – Switch Now!



FLATHEAD FISHING FANS!



In last month's *Pileated Post*, we printed an article from Lewis Young, Conservation Chair, about the importance of switching to non-lead fishing tackle, because of numerous documented lead poisoning deaths of loons who eat lead tackle that drops into the water. Besides the two local stores we listed with that article, here are some additional local places to shop for non-lead fishing tackle.

WalMart: Eagle Claw leaded weights in 19 different packages – small split shot to 1-oz egg sinkers.

Target: Rapala rigging kits, rod and reel combo with some tackle – non-leaded jig heads and tin split shot and sinkers.

Shopko: Zebco combo spincast fishing kits, jigs and sinkers made from bismuth or tin.

K-Mart: Zebco products, South Bend rod/reel combos, Gitzit jigs, Trout Magnet jigs – info on the packages says all weights and jigs less than 1 oz are nontoxic steel or tin. Some of K-Mart's equipment and lures have a warning label "contains lead."

On all fishing lures and weights, one must look for and read the labels carefully. Switch to unleaded – it's the right thing to do, and the cost is usually the same as for the old toxic leaded products.

From Brent Mitchell,
Frequent Fisher, Infrequent Catcher

FULL SLATE OF NOMINEES PROPOSED FOR MAY 9 VOTE

Linda de Kort, Nominations Committee Chair

The Nominations Committee is delighted to present a rich slate of nominees. The election of officers and Board members will take place at the Annual Meeting/Potluck on May 9th.

We are grateful that several Board members and officers have agreed to continue on the Board.

Paula Smith has served as Vice President for the past two years and has accepted the nomination for President for a two year term. Paula has been on the FAS Board since 2005 and her talents and dedication are well known. **Bob Lopp** is another familiar Audubon leader. Bob has served Audubon as FAS Board member and President and has also served on the Montana Audubon Board. Bob has also served in countless UNOFFICIAL capacities. Bob has accepted the nomination for Vice President. **Richard Kuhl** has been on the FAS Board for three years and we hope that he will accept the nomination for another three year term. Richard has been very involved in the Owen Sowerwine project, and the standing-room-only attendance at our general meetings can be attributed to his work as Program Chair. Another returning Board member is **Ben Young**, who has accepted the nomination for a one-year term on the Board. Ben is a devoted and inspirational teacher at Glacier High School; we appreciate his dedication to outdoor education and conservation.

We are also delighted to have three new nominees for FAS Director; each has accepted the nomination for a three-year term. These three nominees may be new to the FAS Board, but they are not new to local conservation and education efforts.

Gael Bissell has been a wildlife biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in Kalispell since 1984. Gael's relationship with Audubon goes back to 1979. While doing her graduate work at the University of Montana, Gael was selected as the Montana Audubon Council's first legislative intern/lobbyist in Helena to work on getting the nongame check-off bill passed. Two years later, she introduced Janet Ellis to Audubon's legislative work in Helena (and the rest is history, as Janet is still there). Some of her most rewarding work has been her last 10-15 years with FWP, where she has helped implement land conser-

vation across northwest Montana while working with many partners, including Flathead Audubon. One of the most locally significant conservation projects that Gael has worked on is the Flathead River to Lake Initiative which focuses on land conservation along the main stem of the Flathead River. These lands provide some of the best habitat and bird diversity in the Flathead. In the last 5 years, the River to Lake Initiative has conserved over 5,000 acres along the Flathead River and its associated wetlands.

John Hughes has been active in FAS as a field trip leader and valued Christmas Bird Count participant for many years. He always said that he would like to become more active in FAS after his retirement from the Kalispell School District. John retired as science teacher and Kalispell Education Association President last year, so we "snagged him"!!

Denny Olson is better known around the valley as Critterman, who has metamorphosed into Doc Wild. He is also a well known author, storytelling instructor, nature educator, and lately, a PR videographer and editor. He has travelled the continent sharing his message of conservation through his many characters: Professor Avian Guano, Doctor Loonacy, Doctor Death, Doc Wild (Unhuggables, Dances with Wolves, The Grizz, The Creepies), The Lost Voyageur and The Mad Herbalist. His books, *Way of the Whitetail*, *Shared Spirits: Native Americans and Wildlife*, *Cougars--Solitary Spirits*, *Wolf: Wisdom Warrior*, and *Special Gifts* have been critically acclaimed. Denny brings his knowledge of conferences, events, birding festivals and storytelling into the education efforts of FAS.

In summary, our slate of Officers and Board members for 2011 is:

- ◆ Paula Smith, President, two year term
- ◆ Bob Lopp, Vice President, two year term
- ◆ Gael Bissell, Board Director, three year term
- ◆ John Hughes, Board Director, three year term
- ◆ Richard Kuhl, Board Director, three year term
- ◆ Denny Olson, Board Director, three year term
- ◆ Ben Young, Board Director, one year term

SUMMER JOBS

Montana Conservation Voters, a statewide conservation organization, is conducting a fundraising and membership canvass in support of clean energy policies in the Missoula and Helena areas during the 2011 summer months. They are seeking individuals with an interest in clean renewable energy, political science and with strong and outgoing communication skills. Work hours are 4 PM to 10 PM, Sunday through Thursday, May 29 through July 27. The pay is \$8.50 per hour, with bonus. To apply, send resume and 3 references to summer-job@mtvoters.org. No phone calls please.



terisblip.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY (FAS) TREASURER'S REPORT ⁽³⁾

Flathead Audubon Society has significantly expanded its program in the last four years. The expansion of our Conservation Education program by funding an Education Coordinator has greatly increased our expenditures. For the calendar years 2007 to 2010, FAS expenditures have increased from \$20,220 per year to \$33,148. Fortunately, the organization's income, excluding investments, has increased during the same years from \$15,120 to \$32,589.

The expenditures of FAS fall into one of three categories: Operations, Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, and Education. The chart below illustrates the changes in the last four years.

EXPENDITURES FOR YEAR	2007	2010
Operating (Newsletter, Office)	\$8,006	\$8,111
Owen Sowerwine	\$1,052 ⁽¹⁾	\$393
Education (Conservation Educator = \$20,000, Raptor Day = \$3,000, \$1,664 other Educ. Exp.)	\$11,162	\$24,664 ⁽²⁾
TOTAL	\$20,220	\$33,148

Our income comes from sales, dues, donations, grants, and National Audubon Society. The chart below does not give all sources of income but does illustrate how hard the Board has been working to obtain other sources of income. Some of these are onetime donations.

INCOME FOR THE YEAR	2007	2010
Local Dues	\$2,310	\$5,514
Local Membership donations	\$895	\$1,425
Amount taken from FAS Education Income Fund	0	\$1,160 ⁽⁴⁾
Other Income	\$3,159	\$3,735
Sustainability Fund	\$5,000	\$10,000
Prudential Foundation	\$1,000	\$1,000
Whitefish Community Foundation		\$1,500
Art Ortenberg	\$1,500	\$5,000
Tom and Teresa Quinn Fund		\$1,000
Anonymous		\$1,000
National Audubon	\$1,255	\$1,255
TOTALS	\$15,120	\$32,589

It is the goal of the Board of Directors of FAS to continue to fund the education program at the \$20,000+ level for years to come. We have been very fortunate to receive generous donations. However, large portions of these donations are "startup" funds that we will lose in the near future. **The only way that our educational program can continue is with the help of new sponsors and with strong support from our membership.**

To fund our programs, we have instituted three funds dedicated to generating income to support FAS's projects for the long term. The capital monies for these funds were bequests left to Flathead Audubon by FAS members.

FUND	AMOUNT IN FUND 12/31/10
EDUCATION INCOME FUND	\$64,820
OWEN SOWERWINE INCOME FUND	\$10,760
CONSERVATION INCOME FUND	\$34,930

(1) In 2007 there was also a onetime fencing expenditure for the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area of \$3,640.

(2) This year there was a onetime \$10,000 fellowship awarded to our Conservation Educator by the National Audubon Society to provide her with training and fund a special project not part of in the regular FAS education program. This amount is not included in FAS income because money simply passed through FAS hands directly to the Conservation Educator and her project.

(3) Income and donations after December 31, 2010 will be shown in next year's report.

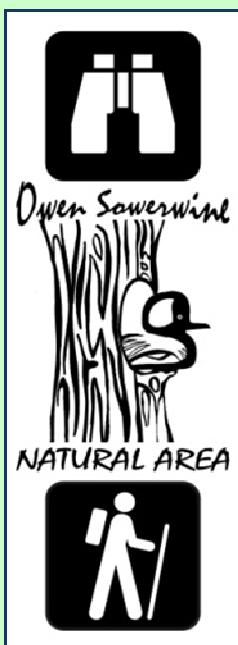
(4) FAS established a long term investment fund set aside for producing income for our education program.

Only male flickers have "mustaches," which are black in the East and red in the West.

Volunteers Needed for OWEN SOWERWINE

From Richard Kuhl 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!



We are looking for volunteers to ***help with summer maintenance projects*** at the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (OSNA). Potential projects include trail maintenance, fence repair, weed control, monitoring and exploration of the island unit. Work will be scheduled throughout the summer as needed. The goal is to create a list of volunteers who can be contacted for specific tasks. Most tasks will require less than five people and will take only two to three hours. This work will be scheduled before and after high water so hip boots are not required.

If you are interested in helping with OSNA summer work projects, please contact Richard (257-5793, kuhlpan@centurytel.net).

v v v v v

And ... just 2 more volunteers are needed to complete this summer's schedule of monitoring visits to OSNA. We still need people to ***cover the following two summer Monitoring Periods:***

July 16-31 August 16-31

Your job would be to make one monitoring visit to OSNA during your chosen period, using the OSNA monitoring check list to report what you found. For more information or to sign up for one of these Monitoring Periods, contact Linda (755-1406, lindawin@centurytel.net).

The **monitoring checklist**, and the map that goes with it, can be printed from the Flathead Audubon website (at flatheadaudubon.org go to Conservation, then Owen Sowerwine, and look along the right side of the page), or contact Linda or Richard to get copies.

Thanks to all who have 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.

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And please remember to take an OSNA Volunteer Monitoring Checklist with you whenever 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 Flathead Audubon do a better job of managing Owen Sowerwine.

BIRD TRIVIA From *The Bird Almanac* By David M. Bird

Greatest weight-carrying capacity: Pallas's Fish Eagle, lifting a 13-pound (5.9-kg) carp

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LONE PINE STATE PARK

Lone Pine State Park is looking for individuals interested in becoming a Friend of Lone Pine. The Friends of Lone Pine is a group of park users, neighbors, and community leaders who are involved in the future of Lone Pine State Park. The group works closely with the Park Manager by exploring opportunities to improve Lone Pine and provides community feedback on park operations and programs.

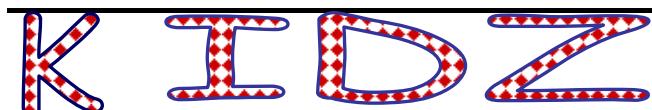
The Friends of Lone Pine will meet two to four times a year to discuss park initiatives and opportunities. Other communications will occur through email. Meetings will be held in the Lone Pine Visitor Center Community Room. There is no membership fee and everyone is welcome to join! This is a great way to be involved in sustaining and caring for this important

community resource, while meeting other people who are interested in the park.

This group needs help taking flight, so we are looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a board member. Board members will have a more active role in the group by running meetings, providing guidance to the group in its early stages, and motivating others to join and become active. Your choices make a difference!

If you are interested in becoming a member or even a board member, then contact Amy Grout, Lone Pine State Park Manager, at 755-2706 ext 3 or by email at agrout@mt.gov. You can also pick up an information packet at the Lone Pine Visitor Center.





D.Carey



my.hsj.org

Let's Learn More About A Messy Situation

Audubon society,

This is Melanie Gassaway, I won one of the two awards that were given at the County Science Fair that was held at West Valley School. Thankyou so much for the opportunity to turn in my summary and to possibly have it published in the Audubon Society newsletter. **Melanie Gassaway**

Birds are a huge factor in the wildlife around us; birds control the insect and rodent population and spread seeds among the forest and improve forest conservation. Thousands of birds are harmed from the effects of an oil spill. The birds' feathers act as an insulation; when coated with oil the feathers loose their heating ability, which causes hypothermia in most birds. My science fair project for this year was to find the most effective way to clean up an oil spill, I tested materials like cheesecloth, gauze, and polypropylene cloth. My hypothesis stated that if I use gauze to clean up the oil then it would show the best results towards cleaning up the volume of the oil.

I reached my conclusion that cheese-cloth would work the best by distributing the oil mixture onto the water. I took the volume of the

oil, then I would place the absorbent material on the dish and let it set for a three minute period, then taking the volume afterward. I was shocked to find the distant results between the materials with cheesecloth cleaning over 99% of the oil, and polypropylene cloth cleaning less than 35%.

Cleanup crews use methods such as in situ burning, which is a solution they use rarely. They burn the oil, which is harmful to the environment. They also very commonly distribute dispersants among the surface to break down the oil. Sometimes the cleanup crew just skims the oil from the water.

I learned an abundant amount of information from this project. I learned about birds and sea animals, while also learning about the oil spills and water pollution. I also learned what materials work best for cleaning up oil spills. These results could be put to great use for scientists' trying to find various materials for cleaning up oil spills. I had so much fun doing this experiment and I am very appreciative for the 'Outstanding Natural Science Project' award I received from Flathead Audubon Society. Thank you so much.

CALLING ALL BIRD LOVERS!

Birds have long held a fascination for humans. After all, who wouldn't love the power of flight? These webcams show eagles' nests in Canada and the US. You can watch these magnificent birds and see their eaglets hatch and fledge. Fire up your computer and look at this site: www.hancockwildlife.org

This is a web site that has a live camera on an eagle nest in Decorah, Iowa. The eggs just hatched.

<http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles>

Here is a link to another eagle cam closer to home - near Libby Dam:

<http://www.libbymt.com/webcam/libbydameaglecam.htm>



dailyqj.com

CRESTON FISH FUN FAIR FOR THIRD GRADERS!

The Creston National Fish Hatchery in association with the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (Flathead C.O.R.E.) is holding its annual Creston Fish Fun Fair to promote National Fishing and Boating Week. Third graders from local schools are invited to visit the hatchery and participate in learning stations which may include:

- ◆ Fish anatomy and identification
- ◆ Fishing equipment and casting
- ◆ Hatchery tours
- ◆ Other interesting exhibits with an aquatic focus



Teachers, contact Evie Bradley at 758-6869 or Sharon Hooley at 758-6868 to reserve space for your class.

The Annual ART CONTEST theme for 2011 is "All About Birds." The contest awards a first place prize for one student from each school; the winner represents their school in the all-school "Duck Race" on Mill Creek after lunch. Students should bring sack lunch, water bottle, mosquito spray and clothing for rainy weather.





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MAY 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: lindawin@centurytel.net

Website: www.FlatheadAudubon.org

FlockMaster - John Kyle: jkyle@fastmail.us

Conservation Educator - Ashley Mason: AudubonAshley@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Bob Lee	(rml3@centurytel.net)	837-4467
Vice-President	Paula Smith	(paulabobsmith@centurytel.net)	837-0181
Secretary	Gail Sullivan	932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	(tanneland@bresnan.net)	862-4548
Past-President	Mike Fanning	(shrdlu@centurytel.net)	862-8070

DIRECTORS

2008-2011	Melissa Sladek	(msladek72@gmail.com)	
2008-2011	Richard Kuhl	867 North Main, Kalispell 59901	257-5793
2008-2011	Bill Schustrom	(schustrom@centurytel.net)	257-2359
2010-2011	Ben Young	(youngb@sdf5.k12.mt.us)	257-2286
2009-2012	Dennis Hester	(kiyotec@bresnan.net)	755-4964
2009-2012	Steve Gniadek	(grayjaybro@yahoo.com)	892-7406
2009-2012	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2010-2013	Ansley Ford	(aew333@yahoo.com)	857-6788
2010-2013	Jan Wassink	(jan@lamaregistry.com)	257-3014
2010-2011	Linda DeKort	(dekort@montanasky.com)	755-3704
2010-2011	Kathy Ross	(mkat@montanaport.net)	837-3837
2010-2011	Linda Winnie	(lindawin@centurytel.net)	755-1406
2010-2011	Kay Mitchell	(kbmitch@centurytel.net)	756-8130

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
	Steve Gniadek	892-7406		(mkat@montanaport.net)	
Education	Ansley Ford	857-6788	Website	Jan Wassink	257-3014
Field Trips	Bill Schustrom	257-2359	Wetlands	Vacant	
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678			
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
Natural Area	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Nominations	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Program	Kay Mitchell	756-8130			
Publicity	Linda deKort	755-3704			
	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
	Paula Smith	837-0181			

MONTANA AUDUBON

P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
443-3949

www.MTAudubon.org

Executive Director: Steve Hoffman
hoffman@mtaudubon.org
Board President: Dan Sullivan
443-4229



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership

Individual or Family

Basic Membership \$20

(Pays for newsletter and operating costs)

Supporting Membership \$35

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

Additional Donation of \$ _____

to Education Fund

Owen Sowerwine Fund

Wherever needed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____ - _____

Email _____

How do you wish to receive the Pileated Post?

Electronic copy/email Paper copy/U.S. mail

Mail this form with your check to:

Flathead Audubon Society Membership
20 Hanson Doyle Lane
Whitefish, MT 59937

FOR E-YOUR EYES ONLY

(SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR READERS OF THE ELECTRONIC POST)

Photographs Submitted by Flathead Audubon Members



Dick and Pam Walker, two of our professional photographer/members, scored this great shot of an Aleutian Goose, a white front and a Snow Goose on the Figure 8 pond off of Clark Road NW of Kalispell.



Photo by Sheryl Hester

Sheryl said: "We were out driving around, doing a little bird watching and drove by this. Had to take a double take and back up to look at it. At first I didn't think it was real. Thought someone put a decoy up there. But it's real."

FOR E-YOUR EYES ONLY

(SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR READERS OF THE ELECTRONIC POST)

Photographs Submitted by Flathead Audubon Members

Another photographer/member, Jeannie Marcure, found this elegant sandhill crane wading in the marshes near Smith Lake.



Photo of a
Talkative
Stellar's Jay
By
Mary Aley