



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 37

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SEPTEMBER 2012



BILL MCCLAREN TO RECEIVE FAS CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

From Bob Lopp



Learning the steps of conservation is a work of a lifetime. For Bill McClaren, it began back on the farm in South Dakota. Watching his father practice conservation of the land by crop rotation, cleaning brush from adjoining forest lands and building ponds for water storage and wildlife habitat set a habit of looking at the whole ecosystem.

Bill McClaren's first career was in education, beginning in 1955 with six years as a math instructor at Flathead High School, followed by six years as a counselor at Flathead. He was a leading voice in the founding of Flathead Valley Community College and was dean of students and a counselor there from 1967 – 81.

In the early 1960's Bill and Lois moved to a vacant 2-acre parcel on the outskirts of Kalispell. Because of their interest in wildlife, primarily birds and insects, they planted over half of the parcel with trees and bushes, with a section of native grasses and the addition of a native plant garden and a bat house. Two ponds were added for a reliable water source. Having met all the qualifications, a certificate of "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" was granted by the National Wildlife Federation. After 43 years, they moved to a smaller lot where Bill still maintains a native plant garden.

Bill is best known for his hybridization and promotion of Dahlias. This was in response to a challenge that the Flathead Valley climate was not hospitable to Dahlia cultivation because the growing season

was just too short. "At that time we had a big potato seedling market. If we could grow potatoes, we ought to be able to grow Dahlias," was Bill's response. All Bill's Dahlia tubers are wrapped and stored in newspaper. Extra newspapers, cardboard and plastic are taken to recycling and glass is taken to Target.

When they had two acres, Bill added his garden and yard debris to one of three large compost bins, but now with less space, he chops all vegetable and flower stalks by hand and leaves them on the garden. No-till has been the norm. Bill has planted Dutch clover to add nitrogen to the soil so fertilizing is not necessary. He adds mulch around plants to conserve water.

Bill taught organic gardening classes for FVCC for several years. As part of his retirement, Bill McClaren nurtures the Community Arboretum at Flathead Valley Community College. The 7-acre arboretum began as a memorial to the vision of Ray Garner, a founding college faculty member.

In 1995 the Native Plant Society and FVCC Foundation pitched in with ideas, labor and money to create the native plant centerpiece. Eventually Bill took over chaperoning the garden and encouraging volunteers. "With the sun glancing off the peaks of Glacier National Park in the distance, the arboretum and native plant garden acquires the essence of sacred ground. This is our heritage to preserve."

SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, September 10, 2012: Flathead Audubon General Meeting. 7 PM at The Summit. Christina Eisenberg presents a program on wolves, birds, and natural processes. See page 3 for full details.

Monday, September 4, 2012: FAS Board of Directors Meeting. 6 PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN. All welcome.

Saturday, September 8, 2012: Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash. 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Lone Pine State Park.

Saturday, September 22, 2012: Owen Sowerwine/Prudential Jane Lopp Volunteer Work Day. 9 AM, Montessori School, 349 Willow Glen Drive

BIRD OF THE MONTH

By Ben Young

EASTERN KINGBIRD

I'm often asked by my students to name my favorite birds. I can sell them on the kingfishers, hummingbirds, trogons, and owls without much persuasion, but when I mention the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), many are puzzled. How could such a common and seemingly ordinary bird be among my favorites? Consider the following four cool kingbird characteristics:

Easily identified and found.

Among the more conspicuous birds you may encounter in open habitats of the Flathead Valley is the Eastern Kingbird. A mid-summer drive to Smith Valley, Lower Valley, or other locales with similar open habitat will likely afford you the chance to see a handful of these birds. From a distance, look for a distinctly gray and white bird that is slightly smaller than a robin (length 8.5 in. vs. 10 in.), paying close attention to power lines, fences, or prominent perches on trees. The black head and slate gray back crisply contrast the white underparts, and the white terminal band at the tip of the tail is obvious.

Behavior and voice clues may also aid in identification. Eastern Kingbirds exhibit typical flycatcher foraging behavior on their breeding grounds. As sit-and-wait predators, the birds sally out from their perch to seize insects mid-air, often returning to the same perch. Its sharp, electric, and often buzzy trills, which lack the pure and melodic qualities of other songbirds are attributed to its simple syrinx. Interestingly, Eastern Kingbirds are among a group of birds—the suboscines—that are thought to have the innate ability at birth to sing their song, requiring no learning period.

Let's face it—some of the most challenging birds in North America to identify to species are tyrant flycatchers (Family Tyrannidae). Particularly if you are unfamiliar with calls, birds of the *Empidonax* and *Myiarchus* genera have the potential to drive you crazy with their apparently minute plumage variations. How nice it is, then, when after spending an hour in the field attempting to determine whether you were observing a non-vocalizing Willow or Alder Flycatcher, you can drive down the road and with absolute certainty identify an Eastern Kingbird on a wire at 55 miles per hour!



njwildlifetrails.org

One gutsy bird.

Eastern Kingbirds are notorious for their aggression toward potential predators. Such attacks include mobbing (solo or tandem) perched or flying crows and hawks, which the Eastern Kingbird attacks from above and behind. In fact, the scientific name of the kingbird reflects its tyrannical behavior (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). My first recollections of Eastern Kingbirds include witnessing a Red-tailed Hawk getting mobbed by a pair of kingbirds in eastern Oregon. The kingbirds relentlessly chased and

nipped at the hawk, and for several brief periods even rode on the back of the hawk, all the while pecking the intruder's head. Runners and bikers beware!

The ultimate nest protector!

A significant threat to populations of songbird species throughout North America is the phenomenon of brood parasitism, during which brood-parasites (like cuckoos and cowbirds) lay eggs in the nests of other species, frequently resulting in the loss of eggs originating from the host. The Eastern Kingbird is one of a dozen species known to eject Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs from its nest. Take that, cowbirds! Such nest defense is critical for the success of a species with low productivity (single brood of 3-4 eggs). It is thought that the 3-5 week period of post-fledging parental care may constrain pairs from multiple broods. While breeding pairs appear to show high fidelity to their breeding territory and partner (monogamous), extrapair copulations by males are not uncommon.

A bird like me.

Perhaps the greatest connection I have with Eastern Kingbirds is that I see a little of me in them. I figure I match up with them pretty well in the categories of territoriality and home defense against intruders. Site and partner fidelity, as well as small clutch size are spot on for me, too. My wife could even make a case for

me qualifying as a suboscine (lousy, non-musical voice)—if only I had a syrinx. Even the sharply contrasting dark/light appearance fits my look, thanks to my farmer's tan. As if that weren't enough, we are even compatible with our migratory pathways, diets,

Eastern Kingbird, continued on next page ...





September Program



FROM WOLVES TO BIRDS: TROPHIC CASCADES IN THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

Dr. Cristina Eisenberg will discuss wolf ecology at our September program. Current science provides many examples of how re-wilding landscapes by restoring apex predators, such as wolves, creates healthier and more resilient ecosystems. Cristina will present examples from her work with wolves in the Crown of the Continent, as well as the work of others in ecosystems worldwide, that demonstrate powerful and essential ecological relationships called trophic cascades. She will discuss the ecological effects of fundamental processes, such as wolf predation and wildfire, on the entire food web, including songbirds. She will also read from her book, *The Wolf's Tooth*.

Cristina has a PhD in Forestry and Wildlife from Oregon State University. Her trophic cascades scientific research focuses on the ecological effects of wolves and fire in Rocky Mountain ecosystems. Since 2006, she has conducted research in Waterton Lakes



National Park and Glacier National Park. Her book, *The Wolf's Tooth: Trophic Cascades and Biodiversity*, was published by Island Press in April 2010. She is currently working on her second book, *The Carnivore Way: A Transboundary Conservation Vision for a Changing World*. An Aldo Leopold scholar, Cristina is actively engaged in ecological restoration that supports ecosystem-scale carnivore conservation and implementation of fire on private and public lands. When she is not

at Oregon State University, she lives in a log cabin with her family in a remote part of northwest Montana.

Please join us to learn more about this timely and fascinating topic at 7 PM on Monday, September 10 at The Summit, 205 Sunnyview Lane in Kalispell. Also at the meeting, Flathead Audubon's first 2012-13 Conservation Achievement Recognition will be presented to Bill McClaren (see page 1).



Snowy Owl south of Polson,
Steve Gniadek, Photographer

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Golden-crowned Sparrows, adult & juvenile; Larry McQueen Photo

Eastern Kingbird, continued from page 2 ...

and social interactions. After breeding in northern latitudes spanning nearly every state and Canadian province, save for the desert southwest, Eastern Kingbirds migrate thousands of miles to their wintering grounds in Amazonia. Over the last ten years, the earliest arrival in Montana has averaged the second week of May, while the latest departures wrap up in late September. Their diurnal migration is somewhat unique among passerines, and their long-distance migration to the South American neotropics is exceeded by perhaps only the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher among the tyrannids. The structural adaptation of having longer wings relative to other flycatchers allows for more efficient sustained flight during their lengthy migrations.

While on their wintering grounds, Eastern Kingbirds exhibit a seasonal shift in their diet. Mainly insectivorous on their breeding grounds, kingbirds are frugivores on their wintering grounds. Call me nuts, but is there anything better than fruit or meat?

Social interactions also vary throughout the year, as kingbirds all but abandon territorial defense while they overwinter. Flocking of Eastern Kingbirds is common during migration, as well as on their wintering grounds. Hundreds of Eastern Kingbirds may gather in coastline roosts during migration when inclement weather prevents overwater crossings. I like a bird that appreciates the company of others, but knows when it's time to seek solitude and get away; that is resourceful in adjusting its diet to utilize what the environment provides; that lives an endless summer by trekking back and forth from the tropics. Such is the life when you're king of the birds.

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Murphy, Michael T. 1996. Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from The Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/253>.

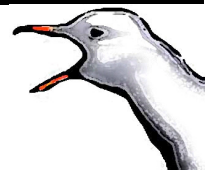
Sealy, S. G. and R. C. Bazin. 1995. Low frequency of observed cowbird parasitism on eastern kingbirds: host rejection, effective nest defense, or parasite avoidance? *Behavioral Ecology* (1995) 6(2): 140-145 doi:10.1093/beheco/6.2.140.

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CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

From
From Paula Smith, FAS Presidenta



CONGRATULATIONS, FLATHEAD AUDUBON!

(To the tune of "You Did It" from *My Fair Lady* and with apologies to Lerner and Loewe.)



Flathead Audubon, you did it! You did it! You did it!
You said that you would do it. And indeed you did.
As sturdy as Gibraltar, not a second did you falter.
And now we must admit it, that succeed you did.
You should get awards. In fact, some of you even did.

Bird Festival, you did it! You did it! You did it!
You said that you would do it. And indeed you did.
Bird Festival, you did it! You did it! You did it!
There's no doubt about it. So many birders did it.
Yes, indeed you did it—and the credit all belongs to you!

CONGRATULATIONS! And the credits go to:



Field Trip Leaders

Leslie Kehoe
Kathy Ross
Gael Bissell
Ashley Mason
Josh Covill
Denny Olson
Steve Gniadek
Bruce Tannehill
Gail Cleveland
Chris Hammond
Lynn Kelly
Brent Mitchell
Karen Nichols
Bob Lee
Pete Smith
Bob Lopp
Dan Casey
Ben Young
Pat Jamieson
Jim Rogers
Lou Bruno
John Hughes
Amy Cilimburg
Christie Ferruzzi

Speakers/ Presenters

Dale Lauman
Denny Olson
Marina Skumanich
Peter Sherrington
Brian Sullivan
Dan Casey
Kate Stone
Heather Ristow
Lisa Bate
Janene Lichtenberg
Bob Martinka
Bruce Tannehill



Pre-festival Workshops

Bob Lee
Dan Casey
Sheryl Hester
Dennis Hester
Marilyn Wood
Amy Cilimburg
Denny Olson
Dan Fagre

Montana Audubon

Steve Hoffman
Dan Sullivan
Janet Ellis
Amy Cilimburg
Heather Ristow
Darcie Vallant
Norane Friestadt
Larissa Berry
Jack Kirkley

Volunteers

Kay Mitchell
Linda Winnie
Jane Lopp
John Hughes
Dean Robbins
Debbie Moon
Tracy Schiess
John Ashley
Kathy Myerowitz
Carol Free
Ashley Mason
Jan Wassink
Reed Kuennen
Marylane Pannell
Mary Nelesen
Tom Nelesen
Barbara Boorman

Bob Lopp
Trish Peebles
Paul Rossi
Becky Williams
Karen Coleman
Kalon Baughan
Dennis Hester
Sheryl Hester
Mike Fanning
Jill Fanning
Chris Hammond
Brent Mitchell
Peggy Casey
Lois Drobish
Betty Powell
BJ Worth
Paula Smith
Linda de Kort

Exhibitors

Glacier National Park Fund
Glacier Institute
Flathead Conservation District
Flathead National Forest
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe
Montana Bird Conservation Partnership
Foys to Blacktail Trails
Montana Loon Society
Raptors of the Rockies
Hawk-Owl Systems
Brett Thuma Gallery

Raffle/Live Auction Donors

Brett Thuma
Laughing Horse Lodge
Marc Vessar
Abbott Valley Homestead
Montana Ace Hardware
Hooper's Garden Center
Snappy Sport Senter
Rocky Mountain Outfitter
Plant Land



THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM

FLATHEAD AUDUBON LEADERS SWEEP FESTIVAL AWARDS!

In addition to the teamwork of producing the 2012 Montana Bird Festival, several Flathead Audubon members were honored with special awards at the Festival banquet. These folks were nominated by their peers for their work on behalf of birds and conservation.



Bob Lopp receives Montana Audubon's **Lifetime Achievement Award** from MA Executive Director Steve Hoffman



Linda Winnie receives Montana Audubon's **Conservationist of the Year Award** from MA Program Director Janet Ellis



Ashley Mason received Montana Audubon's **Educator of the Year Award** for her work on the FAS Education Program

Also, John Parker of Sacajawea Audubon received the Citizen Scientist of the Year Award. Full details of all award presentations may be seen at <http://www.mtaudubon.org/about/awards.html#citsci>.

Congratulations to Heather Ristow, Education Director for the Audubon Education Center, on receiving the Educator of the Year award from the Montana Environmental Education Association at their annual meeting. Heather began working with Montana Audubon in Billings in August of 2008. She previously taught natural history and outdoor education during a yearlong graduate residency in environmental education at the Teton Science Schools in Wyoming. Prior to that, she spent several seasons studying the ecology of forest carnivores and birds in Yellowstone National Park, the Beartooth Mountains, and Lochsa River Valley. Heather has a B.A. in Biology with a concentration in environmental studies from Carleton College, teaching certification for grades 5 – 12 biology and a M.S. in Education from MSU/Billings.

From Linda Winnie, Co-Chair of the Bird Festival Dessert Auction Committee:

Thank you to all who contributed time and talent for the Dessert Auction at the June Bird Festival banquet. Thirty-one beautiful and scrumptious desserts were displayed and bid on. That is a lot of desserts! The auction netted over \$2500; Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon split the proceeds.

Special thanks to local bakeries that donated desserts: Ceres Bakery (Kalispell), Belton Chalet (West Glacier), Simply Sweet Baking Company (Kalispell), and Perkins (Kalispell). When you patronize these local businesses, please thank them for their help with the Bird Festival dessert auction.

Thanks also to all of the individuals who either made or purchased desserts for the auction and delivered them the afternoon of the banquet: Caryl Bennett, Gael Bissell, Gail Cleveland, Jill Fanning, Diann Fredette, Pam Haglund, Joaqueria Heinrich, Sheryl Hester, John Hughes, Bob Lopp, Inez Love, Jeannie Marcure, Ashley Mason, Kathy Myerowitz, Debbie Moon, Trish Peebles, Tracy Schiess, Sheila Shapiro, Paula Smith, Nancy Sven-



The cake that won the highest bid and much praise, donated by Ceres Bakery

nungsen, Marylane Pannell and Richard Kuhl, Dar Wassink, and Chau Young. Your help with this project is greatly appreciated.

And a big thank you to the support team for this project: Dessert Committee Co-chair Gail Cleveland, who arranged for many of the donations, delivered the donations to the banquet, worked at the dessert drop-off table, and helped organize and lay out the dessert display; Mary Nelesen and Barb Boorman, who arranged donations from local bakeries, and Tom Nelesen and Barb Boorman, who delivered those desserts; and the volunteers who staffed the dessert drop-off table and helped set up the display: John Ashley, Gail Cleveland, Lois Drobish, Diann Fredette, and Dennis Hester. Thanks also to the courteous and hard-working staff of the Hilton for their assistance, and to Larissa Berry of Montana Audubon for guidance and encouragement.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON OUTDOORS



NEW FIELD TRIP SEASON BEGINS

Opportunities to enjoy and learn about our world of birds

From Kathy Ross, Field Trip Co-Chair



The 2011-'12 Flathead Audubon field trip season was a great success and the Field Trip committee would like to thank all those who lead trips for FAS last season, especially during winter months and spring migration, as well as those who participated to make it so successful. The Snowy Owls were the best ambassadors for all our feathered friends! They sparked the interest of well over 60 hearty souls who ventured out in freezing temperatures to see them and many of our other winter avian residents. The enthusiasm carried into the spring, as larger numbers turned out for field trips offered around the valley.

After seeing the species lists from the 2012 MAS Bird Festival in June, it is obvious what an incredible valley we live in for birding. There are so many species to see and so many birding hotspots that we know about, as well as new ones just waiting to be discovered. With all of those magnificent birds still flying through our memory, we invite both readers and leaders to participate in the new field trip season. If you would like to be a leader and/or have ideas for new or special places to watch birds we would love to hear from you.

If you like to bird on your own, there is a wonderful new Flathead Valley Birding Guide available. With the birding guide as an anchor, we would love to find leaders/sponsors for each of the trails in the brochure and encourage at least one field trip a month along one of the trails mentioned. Kathy Ross will again be leading trips to the Swan Lake and Refuge during the winter months and spring migration, and with good fortune, the leaders of our wonderful trips to Tally Lake, Glacier Park, and Ninepipes will help us continue to offer those treks.

The fall migration is also not to be missed, as large numbers of raptors migrate through the valley. If you cannot make it up to the HawkWatch site in Jewel Basin, a field trip will be offered in October to view the Golden Eagle migration from a location you can drive to near Bad Rock Canyon. Other raptors can be seen from this site, too, residents and migrants alike. Watch for details on this field trip in the October *Pileated Post*.

To offer information for new birding hotspots or to volunteer to lead a field trip, please contact Kathy Ross 837-3837 or Gael Bissell 751-4580.



Help Wanted

September 22 – Owen Sowerwine Work Day



This year's annual OSNA Work Day will be Saturday, September 22 from 9 AM to noon. We will meet at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive for a short orientation at 9:00 sharp. We will be tackling several different types of projects: maintenance on our new Accessible Trail, including tamping if weather permits, weed pulling, fence repair, mounting new kiosk displays, tread digging, brushing and bridge relocation. If enough people show up, a small group could check out the island portion of OSNA.

Work Day is a terrific opportunity to spend a Saturday morning outdoors with a great bunch of people and to help out with Flathead Audubon's management of OSNA. Refreshments at the close of the work session are always delicious.

Bring heavy work gloves, wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather – we will work rain or shine. Fencing tools, digging tools, hand clippers and brush loppers will be useful – please bring them if you can. Tools will be available for those who can't bring their own.

As in previous years, Jane Lopp & Associates have offered to submit an application for Flathead Audubon for a \$1000 Prudential Global Volunteer Day grant in recognition of our efforts on this work day. We need over 30 participants on September 22 in order to qualify for this grant. Please plan on coming to help and bring a friend.

Richard Kuhl, OSNA Committee Co-Chair



PROJECT FEEDER WATCH STARTS SOON



A winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America, Project FeederWatch begins the second Saturday of November and ends the first Friday of April. This is a continent-wide count, done by ordinary citizens, and a great way to enjoy winter birds, while helping scientists monitor bird numbers and trends. Next month's *Pileated Post* will provide more details. If you would like to start preparing to join the count, go to www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON OUTDOORS

Accessible Trail Opens at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area



The new 750-foot ADA Accessible Trail at the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (OSNA) was officially opened on June 15, 2012.

The opening ceremony took place in front of the new wheelchair accessible gate at the Treasure Lane entrance. Linda Winnie, Co-Chair of the FAS

Owen Sowerwine Committee, welcomed the attendees and thanked the many businesses and individuals who have helped with the trail. Paula Smith, FAS President, cut the ribbon on the gate. Attendees then made their way to the new accessible viewing area at the other end of the trail. First to enter through the new gate was Jane Lopp, who, with her husband Bob, have been longtime supporters of Flathead Audubon and the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

About 30 FAS Board members, OS Committee members and their families attended the opening ceremony. Special guests at the ceremony were Norane Freistadt of Montana Audubon; Flathead County Commissioner Pam Holmquist; Darren Pfeifle, Montana Made Trails, and his son Grayson; Greg Poncin, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and Mike Radel, Roundup-for-Safety Coordinator, Flathead Electric Coop.

The Owen Sowerwine Committee has been working on plans and logistics for the trail project since last summer. FAS volunteers cleared and brushed the trail bed and viewing area during the 2011 OSNA Workday. Darren Pfeifle of Montana Made Trails in Columbia Falls constructed the trail and viewing area in May. Volunteer construction helpers were headed up by Richard Kuhl, Co-Chair of the OS Committee, who worked with Darren almost daily; other construction helpers were Brent Mitchell, Kay Mitchell, Chuck Williams, Susannah Casey, Rod McIver III, and Neal

Brown. The wheelchair accessible gate was designed by OS Committee member Lewis Young, and constructed and installed by Lewis and Brent Mitchell. Thank you to all who assisted with the design and construction of the new trail and gate.

A huge thank you also goes to the local businesses that helped finance the trail. Flathead Electric Coop awarded FAS a Roundup-for-Safety grant to partially fund trail construction. LHC Inc. donated all the gravel used for the trail project. Sliters Lumber and Building Supply donated the lumber for the wheelchair accessible gate and the accessible viewing area. Midway Rental gave FAS a discount on the rental of trail building equipment. Murdoch's Farm and Ranch Supply gave a discount on the tubular gate and wheel that is part of the wheelchair accessible gate. Please thank these businesses for their help when you visit them. Additional funding was provided by Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon.

Flathead Audubon has leased and managed the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area for 15 years -- the last 11 in cooperation with Montana Audubon. OSNA is open to the public for low-impact recreation. In past years, Flathead Audubon has brushed open some game trails and put in foot bridges to ease visitors' way, installed an informational kiosk, and currently provides a brochure with trail map and bird list. Owen Sowerwine is frequently used by local folks for walking and bird watching, and by local teachers for nature education. The new accessible trail, gate, and viewing area expand the range of people who will be able to visit Owen Sowerwine and enjoy its natural features.

Linda Winnie
OSNA Co-Chair



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.



Business Sponsors of FAS Conservation Education Program

Tyler Bebee, Senior Financial Consultant

TBebee@dadco.com

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IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Nine years ago we announced a new category of membership, a membership in Flathead Audubon Society. Our membership fee covers basic expenses of the chapter: newsletter, monthly meetings, field trips, etc. The finance committee has established a basic membership fee of \$20. This amount will still not cover special programs such as Owen Sowerwine and our education program. To begin to meet these expenses, we also offer a supporting membership at \$35. We encourage all who are able to subscribe to the supporting membership.

You can still join National Audubon, of course. Your membership fee will support National's many excellent nation-wide education and conservation programs,

but your money will not go to your local chapter. With a National membership you receive both the Audubon magazine and the Flathead Audubon monthly newsletter. The National Audubon fee is \$20 for first-time members (\$15 for Seniors and Students), and then \$35 to renew your membership after that. We strongly suggest that you join Flathead Audubon and then choose either to join National Audubon or not. Without local members the chapter may have to reduce its programs in the future.

Over the years, Flathead Audubon has been well supported by valley residents through donations and activities such as our annual seed sale and auctions. We hope this support will continue in the future and be supplemented by a large group of local chapter members. Use the form on the last page to join now!

Mike Fanning, Membership Co-Chair

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.



Dave Menke, USFWS



LONE PINE STATE PARK
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
9:30AM-3:00PM

**Lots of FREE
 Kids' Activities**

6th ANNUAL
RAPTOR DAY
2012

LIVE BIRDS!

SCHEDULE

9:30am **COMMUNITY BIRD WALK**
 with *Ansley Ford* ALL AGES WELCOME

11:00am **FAMILY PROGRAM**
 • A Celebration of Conservationist
Rod Ash
 • Keynote Address presented by
Flathead County Commissioner
Dale Lauman

12:30pm **LUNCH**
 (Food Vendors will be available)

1:30pm **THE BEAUTY OF BIRD SONG**
 presented by *Bruce Tannehill*
 (An alternate Kids' Program will be offered.)

Fun-filled

**FAMILY
 BIRD
 PROGRAM**

presented by

**Glacier Park
 Ranger**

Pat Hagan

EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS

BIRD IDENTIFICATION - MANAGEMENT - HABITAT
10:30am-2:00pm



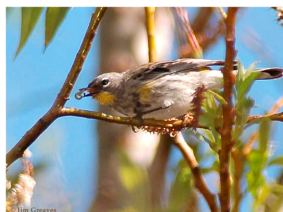
Brought to you by Flathead Audubon Society and Lone Pine State Park. This celebration of Northwest Montana Birds and our community is in memory of Rod Ash, a long-time member of Audubon and community activist. All programs are FREE to Montana Residents. There is a \$5.00 Park Fee for non-residents. Food and drink are available for purchase. Funded in part by Art Ortenberg.





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

SEPTEMBER 2012



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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	Paula Smith	paulabobsmith@centurytel.net	837-0181
Vice-President	Bob Lopp	boblopp@bresnan.net	752-7026
Secretary	VACANT		
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	tanneland@bresnan.net	862-4548
Past-President	Bob Lee	rml3@centurytel.net	837-4467

DIRECTORS

2009-2012	Dennis Hester	kivotee@bresnan.net	755-4964
2009-2012	Steve Gniadek	grayjavbro@yahoo.com	892-7406
2009-2012	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2011-2012	Ben Young	youngb@sd5.k12.mt.us	257-2286
2010-2013	Jan Wassink	janwassink51@gmail.com	249-6590
2011-2014	Richard Kuhl	867 North Main, Kalispell 59901	257-5793
2011-2014	John Hughes	birdwatcher.hughes@gmail.com	261-2506
2011-2014	Gael Bissell	rickandgael@montanaskv.us	755-8709
2011-2014	Denny Olson	docwild@centurytel.net	249-3987

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
	Steve Gniadek	892-7406	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
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	Kay Mitchell	756-8130			
Nominations	Linda deKort	755-3704			
Program	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			

MONTANA AUDUBON

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

www.MTAudubon.org

Executive Director: Steve Hoffman

shoffman@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)

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