

## Patti Mason

### Flathead Audubon's New Conservation Educator!

The FAS board of directors is proud to announce the new contractor for our conservation education programs is Patti Mason.

Patti has a M.S. in geology and brings with her a thirty-year history of resource conservation work, with fourteen of those years as a resource and science educator. In that work she did outreach, including website management, school grants, native plant programs, natural habitat restoration, and lots of networking with groups like CORE.

Patti has worked extensively with pre-K through adults in conservation education and community service, including partnering with our two previous FAS Conservation Educators in the "Get Out" program that partnered little kids and high school mentors in a bird and nature education program. She did the same with creating new bird habitat at local school grounds, and her other projects are *far* too numerous to mention.

She brings the attitude of a student to her

work with Flathead Audubon:

"I have been learning about nature all my life. It became a formal endeavor in college with a degree in resource management with a natural science emphasis. But I think the most important thing I learned in college was how to learn. As an educator I realized that enthusiasm is contagious, and fosters curiosity. Curiosity is the precursor to wonder."



Patty Mason warming a stunned Golden-crowned Kinglet

"My teaching style is to create opportunities for people to discover the wonders of nature for themselves. Building on the successes of the past, I want to reach new audiences and find new ways to reach them. I want to inspire people to expand their horizons, do something to be proud of, and have fun doing it."

Welcome, Patti! We are honored and excited to be working with you to

change the world!

By Denny Olson, Education Committee Chair

### SIGN UP TO BE AN ARCHAIR ACTIVIST

The 2015 Montana Legislature will convene this January in Helena. As we have since 1981, Montana Audubon will be lobbying on the front line at the Capitol in our efforts to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. During the last (2013) Legislative session Montana Audubon testified on 78 bills, opposing 55 and supporting 23.

Among the ways you can help is to sign up for our action alert network, *Armchair Activist*, at [www.mtaudubon.org](http://www.mtaudubon.org), so you can contact your legislators! When local input is needed, Montana Audubon will contact interested members by email, explain the issue and why action is needed, and then ask members to contact their legislators. 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!

#### DECEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

**Monday, December 8, 2014. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting,** Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. Dan Casey presents "CHRISTMAS BIRDS COUNTS IN THE VALLEY AND AROUND THE STATE."

**Monday, December 1, 2014. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting,** 295 3rd Ave EN. All welcome.  
**December 14-January 4. Christmas Bird Counts.** See page 5 for exact dates and contacts.

# BIRD OF THE MONTH

by Dennis Olson

## Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

In the early autumn I lunched above timberline in Glacier National Park with a small group of hikers, overlooking the vast prairie lands to the west. The wind was howling through a saddle and we were sheltered in the upper reaches of a cliff dropping thousands of feet to the valley floor.

A flock of about 20 Gray-crowned rosy finches flew in against the wind, silvery under-wings flashing, following a sweeping curve. Suddenly they turned on a dime, as they say, and dropped down to our right. When they landed, most of them simply disappeared into the rocks, but the ones we could see sat straight upright and froze, with their crowns ruffled.

A flash of motion to our left revealed the reason for their instant change of plans. A prairie falcon lased into the flock, and a few panicked and scattered. They all disappeared over the saddle behind us, and the hidden finches rose as a smaller group and flew over to us, a bit curious about the new, colorful visitors, I suspect. Just day in the life of arguably the toughest bird in North America.

The Gray-crowned variety we have here has a medium gray cap and temples, mostly brown body with a rose-colored wash on the wing primaries and the back half of their body – top and bottom. The males have a black forehead and neck and, like a lot of birds, their colors get brighter in the breeding season. Coastal (called “Hepburn’s” mostly breeding in the Cascades) subspecies have a gray cheek as well, and frequently join our local rosy finches in winter flocks.

They have quite long wings for a finch, and that likely helps them in the fierce alpine winds and in evasive maneuvering from predators, as we witnessed.

Two other species (or subspecies – still in debate) of rosy finches, the Brown-capped (breeding mostly in the Colorado Rockies tundra) and the Black rosy finch (breeding from Southwestern Montana to the Utah Uintas) flock together with the Gray-crowned in winter, but the Brown-capped rarely make it this far north. Sometimes the flocks number in the thousands, and they are very

nomadic, in wide-open areas, venturing out onto the western prairies from the Dakotas to New Mexico. There is a rosy finch website ([www.rosyfinch.com](http://www.rosyfinch.com)) and an observatory at Sandia Crest, just outside of Albuquerque for a growing rosy finch subculture. Who’d-a-thought?



No bird lives and breeds higher than the rosy finches. They are strictly alpine tundra birds, and they often begin building their nests in the first patches of snow-free ground in the June alpine “spring”. They seem to like cliff crevices near moving water for the nest site, and the females incubate eggs into July.

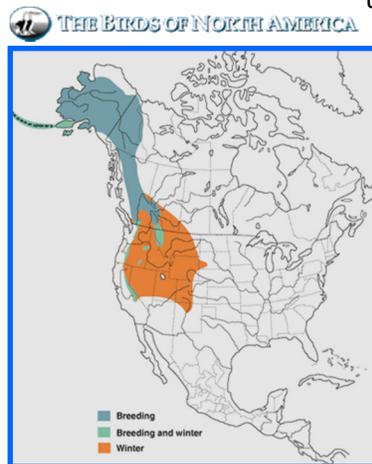
Gray-crowned rosy finches have an odd gender ratio – six males to every female on the Coast Ranges and about four to one here in Northwest

Montana. Researchers suspect that female mortality during the first year is the primary reason, although they have not identified why females are so vulnerable. Under usual conditions, bird males are often brighter and show off more, making them the most vulnerable to predators. Biological principles would suggest that females would be more “valuable” in the scheme of things and that usually holds true, with camouflaged cryptic coloring helping them out. Individual males, under some breeding strategies, can spread their genes around to many females. Not so with rosy finches, for so far unknown reasons.

Of course, the gender ratio causes a chaotic and competitive breeding season, which often commences in late January on wintering grounds. Males puff their plumage to intimidate, and if they land after chasing another male away, they hunch their backs and puff their neck and shoulder feathers, in “I showed you!” body-builder style. This heavy male competition may be responsible for the scattered locations of nest sites among the rosy finches, but the perhaps accidental result is more area to forage for the pair.

When females are around, their plumage is sleeked and they fan their wings, droop and spread them, and sometimes elevate one wing and hop in an off-balanced (Saturday Night Fever?) sort of way.

*Continued on page 3.*



Distribution of the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

# December Program

## Christmas Bird Counts in the Valley and Across the State



Dan Casey will once again entertain us with his Christmas Bird Count photos, data and stories. As Dan moves on to Billings to work on the conservation of prairie birds, he will end his run of 28 years organizing and compiling the Bigfork count, 15 years of the

Kalispell count, and 21 years as the editor for all Montana counts. His talk will combine anecdotes, summaries of trends, some “virtual birding” and a wide variety of photos to help tell the story of early winter birds from our local hotspots to state and continental scales. Hopefully, you will come away from the meeting inspired to participate in this longest-running volunteer survey effort.



## Late Breaking News—Loon Rescue

An intrepid team of experienced emergency rescue personnel has saved an immature Common Loon from being frozen into the ice on Rogers Lake. The effort lasted two days – Monday-Tuesday, November 17-18. On the second day, the team plucked the bird from a small hole of open water in the middle of the otherwise ice-covered lake. The bird was banded and released into Flathead Lake. Bands are: left leg, silver USFWS band above, blue with white dot below; right leg, yellow above yellow. If you spot a loon with these bands, please report when and where to Gael Bissell, [gbissell@mt.gov](mailto:gbissell@mt.gov). Look for more details and pictures in the January *Pileated Post*.

### *Continued from page 2* **Gray-crowned rosy finch**

They eat mostly seeds, but when they are feeding young, the insect proportion of their diets rises dramatically – probably because the nestlings require higher-protein diets. Like some of the Corvids (Gray jay, Clark’s nutcracker), Pine grosbeaks and some other finches, the male and female develop gular, or “buccal” pouches in their lower cheek area to carry loads of food to the nest.

Their breeding sites are remote, and they have very little contact with humans, for the most part. For that reason (to the delight of photographers and birders), they seem to be almost fearless about us, often landing within a few feet of us. Bird banders actually “herd” them into waiting mist-nets.

Gray-crowned rosy finches are “tough” because of where they live during most of the year. But, despite their durability, they are, like most species, vulnerable to habitat loss. In most cases the habitat loss of other birds is incremental – a housing development or clear-cut at a time, but climate change poses special and worldwide problems for high altitude birds like the rosy finch. Because of the special geometry of mountaintops, a rising tree line, due to a warming climate, shrinks their habitat (1) everywhere, and (2) exponentially. We would do well to monitor the highest and toughest inhabitants very carefully – perhaps in our own best interest.

## Would you like to help with research into bird communications?

My students and I are studying the fascinating ways in which birds communicate with each other about predators. It turns out they have a remarkably sophisticated “distant early warning system” and many different species of birds share information about predators. This shared information spreads surprisingly far and fast, and many different species of birds participate in these important communication networks.

**We are looking for people who would allow us to visit their bird feeders** to conduct some behavioral experiments. We have some robotic raptors (a robotic Northern Pygmy Owl, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Northern Goshawk) that we would show the birds for just a couple of minutes. We use very sensitive microphones to record the alarm calls of the birds. The

experiments don’t take very long, and no birds get hurt. Birds usually return to your feeders within a couple of minutes after the experiments.

We are especially interested in feeders that have Steller’s Jays as well as Chickadees and nut-hatches. If you have Steller’s Jays and chickadees coming to your feeders and would be interested in helping with our research, we would love to hear from you. If you would like more information, please get in touch. You can contact me at

[Erick.greene@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Erick.greene@mso.umt.edu) or [406 243-2179](tel:4062432179).

Erick Greene

Division of Biological Sciences, and Wildlife Biology Program

The University of Montana

## CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

### Highlights from November 2014 Board Meeting:

- ◆ discussed and unanimously approved the contract with new Conservation Educator Patti Mason
- ◆ heard report on 2015 FAS calendar sales (only 145 left) and early plans for 2016 calendar
- ◆ voted to pledge \$5,000 for the Alvord Lake Community Forest Conservation Plan acquisition
- ◆ heard report from Richard Kuhl about the MT State Parks Plan, the need for local public involvement and possible loss of some local area state parks
- ◆ discussed plans for northwest Montana Christmas Bird Counts

### Flathead Audubon Pledges \$5000 for Alvord Lake Community Forest

This November, the FAS board unanimously approved \$5,000 from our Jack White fund to help fund Vital Ground Foundation's purchase of 143 acres of lakefront private timberland on Alvord Lake, a small loon-nesting and beautiful community resource area located just a few miles north of Troy, MT. Vital Ground is a national non-profit



land trust based in Missoula focused on conserving the most critical pieces of North American grizzly bear habitat for bears and other wildlife. To date, they have protected nearly 600,000 acres of crucial wildlife habitat in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, Alaska, and British Columbia.

Acquisition of this private parcel, previously purchased by a generous conservation buyer from a developer, would protect about 1/2 mile of Alvord Lake's important shoreline. The rest of the lakeshore and most of the adjoining lands are either already in Forest Service ownership or protected by the Kootenai Valley's conservation easement. The parcel provides nesting habitat for the pair of common loons as well as

important habitat for elk, deer, bears, fisher, and other game and non-game species.

FAS funds will be used as leverage for other grant applications to help complete this project by the end of 2015. With the outstanding grass roots participation by members of the Troy and Libby communities, Vital Ground has already received a \$400,000 grant from the National

Forest Service's Community Forest program, as well as \$127,000 in other fundraising efforts.

The purpose of the Alvord Lake Community Forest is to preserve and maintain important traditional activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting and bird watching; expand adult and student educational activities that have been a part of the landscape for many years; and restore and steward the natural forest for habitat and forest values. Management of the property will be shared with the local community.

For more information, contact Ryan Lutey at Vital Ground Foundation (<http://www.vitalground.org>) or 406-549-8650 or Gael Bissell (FAS Board Member, 406-261-2255).

### Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival

The time has arrived! ... to begin planning and spreading the word that **Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, *Wings Across the Big Sky***, will be June 5-7, in Helena. This year's festival is **co-hosted by Last Chance Audubon Society**. It will be headquartered at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena.

**Scott Weidensaul** will be the keynote speaker, and two days of field trips are scheduled, with close to **20 field trips each day**. These include trips into Helena Valley grasslands, wetlands, forest and field, with the anticipation of seeing a varied array of species.

The Festival will feature Festival an expanded display area, a fun Friday night festival kickoff event hosted by Last Chance Audubon, featuring our keynote speaker, concurrent Saturday afternoon presentations, and a Saturday evening banquet dinner.

Keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind," about bird migration; "Return to Wild America: A Year-long Search for the Continent's Natural Soul"; and "Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding." His last book, "The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America," was published in 2012, and he is the author of the forthcoming "Peterson Reference Guide to Owls." Weidensaul is a contributing editor for *Audubon Magazine* and writes for a variety of other publications. For more information contact Montana Audubon's Bird Festival Coordinator, Cathie Erickson: [cerickson@mtaudubon.org](mailto:cerickson@mtaudubon.org).

**wings**   
across the big sky

## Field Trips, Reviews and Upcoming

All FAS field trips are free and open to the public and are geared for all ages and levels of field experience. They are led by area biologists, retired professionals, and some of the best birders in the region. 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. For more information, contact Kathy Ross, 837-3738, or Gael Bissell, 261-2255, or the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" is available at the FAS general meetings and on [www.FlatheadAudubon.org](http://www.FlatheadAudubon.org).



## Local Christmas Bird Counts

To participate in a Christmas Bird Count, contact the listed person.

Count	Date	Contact Information
Bigfork	Saturday, Dec 20	Dan Casey, H: <a href="mailto:danielcasey55@gmail.com">danielcasey55@gmail.com</a> , 857-3143, Cell: 270-5941
Ninepine	Sunday, Dec 14	Brian Williams, <a href="mailto:bwilliams@montananaturalist.org">bwilliams@montananaturalist.org</a> , H: 721-1467 W 327-0405
Libby	Sunday, Dec 14	Pete Mickelson, <a href="mailto:alaskawildwings@msn.com">alaskawildwings@msn.com</a> , 907-253-5111
Eureka	Sunday, Dec 14	Lewis & Lynda Young, <a href="mailto:llyoung@interbel.net">llyoung@interbel.net</a> , 889-3492
Glacier National Park	Sunday, Dec 14	Primary Compiler/Contact: Lisa Bate, <a href="mailto:Lisa_Bate@nps.gov">Lisa_Bate@nps.gov</a> , 888-7833 Co-compiler: Jami Belt, <a href="mailto:Jami_Belt@nps.gov">Jami_Belt@nps.gov</a> , 888-7986
Upper Swan	Sunday, Dec 21	Jody Wolff, <a href="mailto:jmw4002@blackfoot.net">jmw4002@blackfoot.net</a> , 754-4002
Troy	Saturday, Jan 3	Donald Jones, <a href="mailto:qr8gray@frontiernet.net">qr8gray@frontiernet.net</a> , 295-4291
Kalispell	Sunday, Jan 4	Pete Fisher, <a href="mailto:fisherpete@yahoo.com">fisherpete@yahoo.com</a> , 250-9624

### ***BIGFORK AND KALISPELL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS***

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual **Bigfork Christmas Bird Count** will be held **Saturday, December 20**. First established in 1974, the Bigfork count circle is centered at the "Little Brown Church" north of Bigfork, and includes >30 miles of the Swan and Flathead Rivers, the north end of Flathead Lake, and habitats varying from croplands of the Lower Valley to the spruce-fir and cedar-hemlock forests in the Swan and Crane Mountain foothills. We became the first count in the state to report 90 species (in 2011), and always find a diverse and surprising mix of birds, with nearly 150 species over the history of the count. This count typically depends on veteran group leaders to scour their usual areas, and we are always looking for additional participants to join in to help us gain a better understanding of our early winter bird populations. We will begin preparation for the count at the December 8 meeting, and will finalize groups before the count day.

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Kalispell count** will be on **Sunday, January 4**. Centered at Reserve and Highway 93, the 15-mile diameter count circle includes Evergreen, much of the Flathead River corridor, including the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, Happy Valley, Herron Park, and the Kuhn's Wildlife Area. This count has proven to be a popular New Year's tradition. The count is "young" enough that we still have much to discover. And yet it is "urban" enough to include the homes, bird feeders, and favorite birding spots of many of our members! Our traditional start to this count is a group breakfast at 7 AM; **this year we will again meet at the Montana Club on Highway 93 south**. It is here that we will finish assigning circle segments and field teams for the day's efforts.

### **West Valley Naturalists December Meeting**

West Valley Naturalists will meet on Thursday, December 11, at 7 PM in the small gym of West Valley School, 2290 Farm to Market Road, Kalispell. "Winter Birds of the West Valley Area" is the topic. Basic Bird identification and citizen science opportunities will be also be covered. West Valley Naturalists Programs are free and open to all. All ages are encouraged to come to this program. For more information, please call Linda de Kort at 755 3704.

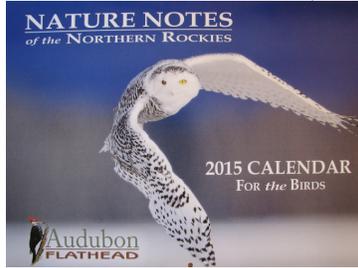
## Flathead Audubon Nature Reference Calendar!

We have a new conservation education effort, AND a fundraising effort, combined. It was produced by volunteer naturalists, to help fund our Conservation Education Program and it turned out to be spectacular!

It's a 2015 wall calendar, but a VERY DIFFERENT calendar than you have seen before. We combined beautiful artwork and photography – which a lot of calendars have – with boatloads of timely and useful information on the daily happenings and rhythms in nature.

For every month, we have a Feature Bird, with “I bet you didn't know!” behavior information and a gorgeous photograph by local artists.

On the actual calendar, the weekdays are filled in with information about what the plants, animals, weather, and astronomical bodies are doing TODAY. (Example: “Flying squirrels roosting together in football-shaped nests – in single-gender groups of up to 20!”



The weekends each have a suggested outdoor exploration (and fun!) activity that you can do with your family or friends – like how to permanently capture beautiful snowflake imprints on glass. And, every penny of the sales proceeds goes to our Conservation Education Program, which serves – for FREE – school children, families, and

under-served groups in Northwest Montana. The Calendar's educational purpose is simple – to get people outdoors and learning – where it has been proven that time outdoors makes children healthier, happier and even smarter!

You can buy the calendars at Snappy's, Rocky Mountain Outfitters, Lone Pine State Park, or pick one up at Jane Lopp and Associates one block north of Smith's Grocery. So, help support us, stock up on your Holiday gifts, and spread the word!

By Denny Olson

During the rest of 2014, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of passage of The Wilderness Act, we will offer quotes honoring our wilderness heritage, like the following:

*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. - Albert Einstein*



### LOOKING FOR BINOCULAR INFO?

Migrants are migrating, days are cooling down, and winter birds are beginning to flock around your feeders and you need your binoculars. Now's the time to make sure your binoculars are giving you the best possible view. For some fast tips on setting up your binoculars (including the mysterious "diopter"), and how to find and focus on birds the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has recently produced a good short video

on the subject. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/LabofOrnithology> and click on “How to get crystal clear focus with your binoculars.”

Maybe you would like a review of the best binoculars on the market or how to buy binoculars on a budget? They have an up-to-date report on that at: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=2674>.

### 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.





# Thank You!

to those below who have made donations to Flathead Audubon through November 9, 2014

## Kestrel

- Dorothy Jorgensen
- Linda DeKort
- Rosemary McKinnon
- J.A. Graham
- Gail Bauman



rspb.org.uk

## Supporting Member + donation

- June Ellen Ash
- Elaine Snyder
- Todd and Elizabeth Hammer
- Dave Moughmer
- Lorinda Baker
- Gael Bissell and Rick Mace
- Franklin and Sun Schroeter
- Jan Wassink
- Leo Libby
- Bill and Judith Bruzek
- Dennis and Sheryl Hester
- B. James and Gail Jokerst
- Barbara Dickison
- Charlie McCarty and Anne Lenz
- G.A. Letourneau
- Susan Smith



granderie.ca

## SPECIAL GIFTS

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



Dave Menke, USFWS

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

The FAS activity which most interests me is:

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

I want my gift to recognize another:

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

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

Please send 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.

## Record Year at the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch

The seventh full season of migration monitoring at the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch was our best to date, with record numbers for several species. An adult Golden Eagle passing on the afternoon of October 19 was our 3,000<sup>th</sup> bird of the season, the first time we have reached this benchmark. By Halloween (our last day of surveys), our dedicated volunteers and paid technicians had conducted 52 surveys totaling just under 339 hours, and tallied 3,326 birds, all records for this site. Our count totals follow; **bold** entries represent new seasonal high counts. If you would like more information about the Hawk Watch, contact Dan Casey at 406-270-5941.

Turkey Vulture: 2

Osprey: 6

**Bald Eagle: 57**

**Northern Harrier: 70**

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1,536

**Cooper's Hawk: 504**

**Northern Goshawk: 61**

Accipiter, species: 69

Broad-winged Hawk: 13

**Red-tailed Hawk: 320**

Rough-legged Hawk: 31

Buteo, species: 22

Golden Eagle: 481

American Kestrel: 73

Merlin: 26

Peregrine Falcon: 11

Prairie Falcon: 10

Falcon, species: 14

Raptor, species: 20

**Total: 3,326**



DECEMBER 2014



Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
Permit No. 115  
Kalispell, MT  
59904-9173

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

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 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meet the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM at 295 3rd Ave. EN, in Kalispell. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

**THE PILEATED POST** is published September through May and is sent to members of Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. For membership information or address change, please call Mike Fanning at 862-8070. **To receive this newsletter electronically, email your request to: [lindawin@centurytel.net](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net). Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; email submissions to: [lindawin@centurytel.net](mailto:lindawin@centurytel.net)**

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

Conservation Educator - Ashley Mason: [AudubonEducator@gmail.com](mailto:AudubonEducator@gmail.com)

**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY**

**OFFICERS**

President	Bob Lopp	<a href="mailto:boblopp@bresnan.net">boblopp@bresnan.net</a>	752-7026
Vice-President	Kay Mitchell	<a href="mailto:kbmitch@centurytel.net">kbmitch@centurytel.net</a>	756-8130
Secretary	Marylane Pannell	<a href="mailto:kuhlpan@cyberport.net">kuhlpan@cyberport.net</a>	257-5793
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	<a href="mailto:tanneland239@gmail.com">tanneland239@gmail.com</a>	862-4548
Past-President	Paula Smith	<a href="mailto:paulabobsmith@centurytel.net">paulabobsmith@centurytel.net</a>	837-0181

**DIRECTORS**

2014-2017	Jim Rychwalski	<a href="mailto:james_rychwalski@yahoo.com">james_rychwalski@yahoo.com</a>	755-3229
2014-2017	Gael Bissell	<a href="mailto:gbissell535@gmail.com">gbissell535@gmail.com</a>	755-8709
2014-2017	Denny Olson	<a href="mailto:docwild.mt@gmail.com">docwild.mt@gmail.com</a>	249-3987
2014-2017	Richard Kuhl	<a href="mailto:kuhlpan@cyberport.net">kuhlpan@cyberport.net</a>	257-5793
2013-2016	Jan Wassink	<a href="mailto:janwassink51@gmail.com">janwassink51@gmail.com</a>	249-6590
2012-2015	Steve Gniadek	<a href="mailto:gravjavbro@yahoo.com">gravjavbro@yahoo.com</a>	892-7406
2012-2015	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2014-2015	Kathy Ross	<a href="mailto:mtkat@montanaport.com">mtkat@montanaport.com</a>	837-3837
2014-2015	Jill Fanning	<a href="mailto:shrdlu@centurytel.net">shrdlu@centurytel.net</a>	862-8070
2014-2015	Mike Fanning	<a href="mailto:shrdlu@centurytel.net">shrdlu@centurytel.net</a>	862-8070
2014-2015	Bob Lee	<a href="mailto:rml3@centurytel.net">rml3@centurytel.net</a>	837-4467

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey	857-3143	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Website	Paula Smith	837-0181
	Steve Gniadek	892-7406	Wetlands	John Hughes	261-2506
Education	Denny Olson	249-3987			
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	837-3837			
	Gael Bissell	755-8709			
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
Donations	Mary Nelesen	755-7678			
Hospitality	Lois Drobish	756-7405			
Membership	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
Owen Sowerwine	Rick Mace	755-8709			
Natural Area	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
	Kay Mitchell	756-8130			
	John Hughes	261-2506			
	Lewis Young	889-3492			
Nominations	Bob Lee	837-4467			
Program	Richard Kuhl	257-5793			
Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181			
Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070			



adfg.alaska.gov

**MONTANA AUDUBON**  
P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624  
443-3949  
[www.MTAudubon.org](http://www.MTAudubon.org)  
Executive Director: Steve Hoffman  
[shoffman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:shoffman@mtaudubon.org)  
Board President: Fred Weisbecker  
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 Conservation Education and Owen Sowerwine Natural Area)

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