

Val Parsons Receives Flathead Audubon's Conservation Achievement Recognition

Val Parsons has worked tirelessly for 17 years on the Rails to Trails of N.W. Montana (Great Northern Historical Trail) system. This is a citizens' organization committed to converting abandoned railroad beds to nonmotorized, year-round recreational trails. Great Northern Historical Trail extends 22 miles between the lakeside town of Somers and the mountain valley community of Kila.

Val has been a driving force in getting tasks accomplished. She took on many leadership roles, including 4 years as president, grant writing, meetings, phone calls, e-mails, letters, working with people locally and in other parts of the state, birdhouses and benches, tree planting and watering, mowing, signage, etc. Val has been very dedicated to making these trails a tremendous addition to our community.

After moving to West Glacier, Val had a new mission. Terry Divoky, her neighbor and friend shares this information. "Val's idea was working towards building a 6.8 mile bicycle/pedestrian path from Coram to West Glacier. I realized that over 12,000 cars drive this stretch of highway on a summer day. The vast majority are headed to Glacier National Park. But Val didn't know this. 'Low carbon footprint, sustainable communities, reduced traffic, save energy,' she'd spout. 'It could be the glue that ties our com-

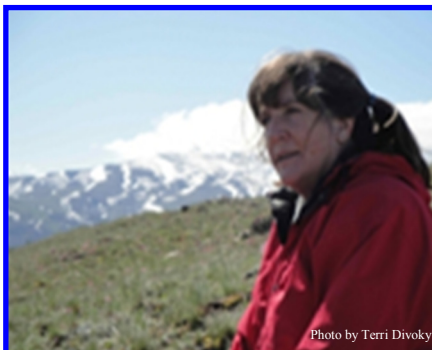


Photo by Terri Divoky

munities together.' Her new eyes were seeing a fresh vision, a dream of what could be safe and healthy for the kids, families, communities and surrounding environment of the Canyon. This idea of hers would draw visitors out of their cars and onto their bikes or into their walking shoes, allowing them a chance to investigate this scenic corridor under their own slower pace."

Under Val's guidance, the Gateway to Glacier Trail project began to take shape in the summer of 2010. A group of 6-10 volunteers from West Glacier, Coram, Hungry Horse, Martin City, Columbia Falls and Kalispell began to meet monthly, electing officers and a board. The group agreed on the goal to build a separated and paved trail stretching from Badrock Canyon across the South Fork of the Flathead River to West Glacier. Val's vision is now becoming a reality.



Photo by Jacob Bell

Positive changes, big and small, really are possible when someone shares their clear-eyed vision and is willing to put in the time, hard work and energy it takes to accomplish that dream. This new way of seeing things can be a powerful element for change in a community and ultimately the world.

By Mary Jo Gardner

FEBRUARY FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, February 9, 2015. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. See page 3.

Monday, February 2, 2015. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, 295 3rd Ave EN. All welcome.

Saturday & Sunday, January 10 thru March 22, 2015. Explore Glacier National Park on Snowshoes. See page 6.

Sunday, February 15, 2015. 9 AM-12 PM. The Great Backyard Bird Count in Bigfork, Swan River, and Surrounding Area. See page 6.

Saturday & Sunday, March 28-29, 2015. Freezeout Lake Snow Goose Viewing. Get your motel reservations soon! See page 6.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Blue Jays in Montana—A Wake Up Call

By Kathy Ross

The piercing call of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) fills the crisp winter morning landscape, startling every creature around. If you were not awake before, you will be now.

I grew up in the Midwest, and Blue Jays were a constant part of life. After many years of living in the western states with Steller's Jays and Gray Jays, I was shocked one morning, while working on the east shore of Flathead Lake, by a familiar call. There it was, a distinctive noisy voice from the past. Not the most pleasant call, mind you, but it did take me right back to my Missouri childhood. Blue Jays in Montana, really! That was 25 years ago, and Blue Jays have become a regular in northwestern Montana, especially in urban environments. Just as other members of the Corvid family, they seem to feel comfortably at home here, visiting feeders, eating our pets' food, and cleaning up any food items we humans leave behind.

I am asked about the presence of Blue Jays in Montana more than any other bird. Others seem as shocked as I was 25 years ago to discover that they have become a fairly common bird year-round. Records indicate that Blue Jays may have been occasional visitors in small numbers as far back as the 1970's.

Here are some interesting facts about our handsomely marked blue, gray, white and black feathered Jays. The striking blue color, which is actually brown melanin, is caused by scattering light through modified cells on the surface of the feather barbs. The variable black markings on the face may help Blue Jays recognize each other. Their perky crest goes up when the Jay is squawking or alarmed. When the Jay is with family members or in a peaceful situation, the crest is lowered. Blue Jays, as other Corvids (Crows and Ravens), are known for their intelligence and complex social systems with tight knit family bonds. Often, but not always, they mate for life, with each partner sharing in nest building and feeding the young. In the eastern part of their range, Blue Jays cache acorns, thus aiding in the dispersal of oak seeds. They seem to recognize healthy acorns from those infested with weevils. Blue Jays have been credited with assisting in the rapid northward spread of oak trees following the last glacial period.

Blue Jays are omnivores and very adaptable

when it comes to eating. Research reveals that, in their natural environment, about a quarter of their diet is composed of insects. Most of their diet is made of nuts, seeds and grains. A small percentage of the diet is composed of other invertebrates and small vertebrates – even carrion. Blue Jays store food in caches to eat later. They have been known to eat birds' eggs and nestlings, and have gotten a bad reputation for this behavior. However, research indicates this seems to make up a very small part of their diet.

They have a huge range of vocalizations mimicking hawks and falcons, perhaps to alert their kind to danger, but also for scaring other species from their territory and away from food sources. The latter definitely seems true at my feeders. I have watched this Jay strategy several times, and it works beautifully in their favor.

Blue Jays are one of the few Jays that mi-

grate, and theirs is a sporadic, inconsistent migration. Perhaps they are aware of something we are not. One year they may move south, sometimes in large flocks, while the next year they may never migrate from their home range.

At my feeders over the last 10 years, I have observed Blue Jays much more often in my forested environment than Steller's Jays, which originally were everyday visitors. For a few years, Steller's Jays seemed to share the space comfortably with Blue Jays. This year especially, Blue Jays dominate my landscape, and Steller's Jays have only occasionally strayed into my yard. It will be interesting to watch the numbers in the coming years to see how, or if, the balance changes. Interesting to watch for also will be possible hybrids produced by interbreeding between the two species of Jays. So are Blue Jays filling a niche, or just being good opportunists, or is their expanding range another indicator of a changing climate? We may never know for sure, but Blue Jays are a part of our Northwest Montana world for the present time. Enjoy their beautiful plumage, inquisitive nature, and get used to that piercing wake-up call!

Sources:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology--All About Birds
Avian Web, Beauty of Birds (Photograph)



Paula Craft



February Program

Hiking in the Pyrenees



Enjoy armchair travel to the Pyrenees at our Monday, February 9 meeting. Fred and Lynne Vanhorn of Columbia Falls will show slides and talk about the rugged mountain range in southwest Europe forming a natural border between France and Spain.

Fred and Lynne are former rangers with the National Park Service, having worked in Canyonlands, Yellowstone, Mesa Verde, Crater Lake and Glacier. In semi-retirement, one of their hobbies is to travel to... National Parks! Thus, they took the opportunity to join a group of friends, some also former rangers, to hike in the National Parks of the French and Spanish Pyrenees in September 2014.

Their talk will center on their hikes in these beautiful and high altitude mountains. Fred and Lynne will touch on the geography, geology, ecology, and natural and human history of the Pyrenees. They will also be happy to answer questions about planning for and the logistics of their trip.

Please join us at 7 PM in the United Way Conference Room at the Gateway Community Center on US Highway 2 West in Kalispell. The Conference Room is accessed from the parking lot on the west side of the Center. Also at the meeting, Val Parsons will receive FAS's Conservation Achievement Recognition.

Conservation Ed Corner

Winter Trails Day had good weather and a broad range of participants, from high school freshmen to retired folks wanting to get outdoors in the winter. The snow was cold and crunchy and our noisy shoes scared all the birds away, but everyone had a good time being out.

Help! I am looking for good quality pictures of our local birds, particularly winter feeder birds. If you have photos you could share to use for educational purposes, please send them to me at AudubonEducator@gmail.com. I am also looking for someone with a math background to help me transform data from local Christmas Bird Counts into math problems for students. If interested, please contact me. Thanks!

Coming up in February, the Great Backyard Bird Count runs from the 13th-16th. I am working to line up schools to participate, and to get the word out to others as well. Starting February 20th, the six-week FVCC Senior Institute course on Birds of Northwest Montana kicks off with a comparison of two different winter survival strategies: over-wintering and migra-

tion. Other topics include bird evolution and flight, songs, identification, raptors, hummingbirds and a guided field trip. Students can register in person on February 3, or via mail/fax. If they are not on a current mailing list (past attendees), please contact Sue Kelly at 756-3813 to request a brochure.

In April, we will be offering the adult education class "Beauty of Birds" at Flathead High School. Learn about our local birds through a series of workshops and field study. Topics include: General bird anatomy, habitat and behavior, the importance of birds and how to identify birds by sounds, markings, and silhouettes. Class Dates: April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2015. Students need to mail in or drop off a \$10.00 registration fee. Checks need to be made out to School District 5, mailed to Flathead High School, 644 4th Ave West Kalispell, MT 59901, Attn: Debbie. She will send out a confirmation letter with class information on it.

Raptor Day has been rescheduled for September 12. See you there!

Patti Mason, FAS Conservation Educator

It's not too early to begin planning your summer activities. During winter, when birds are sparse, it's easy to dream of long summer days and abundant birds. Where you will find plenty is in the beautiful Helena Valley and surrounding areas. Come join us for **Montana Audubon's Annual Bird Festival, this year co-hosted by Last Chance Audubon Society, June 5 - 7 at the Colonial Inn in Helena.**

As for field trips, we have close to 20 planned for each day! — guided by knowledgeable birders and naturalists familiar with the species and their habitats in the Helena area. Here are a few of the sites of those trips to contemplate as you anticipate the upcoming Bird Festival: Canyon Ferry WMA, Little Prickly Pear Creek, Little Blackfoot and Minnehaha Creeks. Keep watch in early March: Festival Brochures with all field trip information and schedules will be in the mail and the online system for registration will be active.

For more information please contact Montana Audubon Bird Festival Coordinator, Cathie Erickson, cerickson@mtaudubon.org, or call (406) 443-3949.

wings 
across the big sky

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

2014 Bigfork Christmas Bird Count

By Dan Casey

The 41st annual Bigfork Christmas Bird Count was held Saturday, December 20, under cloudy skies and temperatures of 25-39°. Thirty-five volunteer participants counted 19,994 individual birds of 86 species, plus another six species seen count week but not on count day. While we found no species that were new to the count, a very late Osprey reported near Bigfork during count week was a first for the count period, and several species were found that have only rarely been seen on previous counts. These included Pacific Loon, Snowy Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, and Swamp Sparrow. We had record high numbers of another ten species: Ring-necked Duck (302); Bald Eagle (71); American Kestrel (10); Eurasian Collared-Dove (120); Northern Flicker (166); Blue Jay (43); Black-capped Chickadee (708); Chestnut-backed Chickadee (126); European Starling (1115); and American Goldfinch (352). Count week species included Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Barred Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, and White-crowned Sparrow.

2014 Glacier National Park Christmas Bird Count

By Lisa Bate

On December 14, 2014, 28 observers on 10 field routes and one feeder site (West Glacier) recorded 689 birds of 40 species. This count marked the 41st Glacier National Park Christmas Bird Count (CBC) since 1973. Glacier observers were treated to warm temperatures, sunny conditions, and calm winds contributing to a "perfect" winter birding day that produced the second highest number of species recorded; only in 2013 were more recorded with 41 species detected. Three additional species – Merlin, American Robin, and Bohemian Waxwing – were observed during count week (3 days before and 3 days after count day).

On count day, the Common Redpoll was the most commonly detected species with 220 individuals recorded. The Pine Siskin, another member of the finch family, was the second most abundant species observed (84 individuals). Pine Grosbeaks provided beautiful calls throughout the typically quiet winter forests. Waterfowl numbers seemed conspicuously low with all the unfrozen water. Common Goldeneye (36 individuals) and Common Mergansers (25 individuals) were the most abundant. Mallards, Buffleheads, Canada Geese, and three different grebe species (Red-necked, Horned, and an unusual Pied-billed) all had counts of less than ten. Nine Bald Eagles were detected: eight adults and one immature. A Northern Shrike and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch were detected on the Flathead Ranger Station route and three observers had close-up views of a Northern Pygmy Owl with a recently caught vole. At the local bird feeder, a Song Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch and a Flying Squirrel added to our diversity.

2014 Upper Swan Valley CBC Summary

By Jody Wolff

On December 21, a warm but very blustery day, 12 of us counted birds either at our feeders or out in the field. Our temps were mild, a low of 33° and a high of 45°, with rain in the morning, a lot of wind, and 0 to 3 inches of snow cover in the valley.

Birds were scarce and we only saw 21 species on count day, an all time low, with geese and Evening Grosbeaks added for count week. Once again, ravens were our most common species at 49 birds, and a grand total of 252 birds counted, another all time low. For only the second time in 22 years, no Pileated Woodpeckers were seen; our only new species was a Western Screech Owl. Thanks to all who participated in our Upper Swan Valley CBC and especially to Steve and Sharon for hosting the potluck after having gone without power for most of the day!

16th Annual Kalispell Christmas Bird Count

By Pete Fisher

The 16th annual Kalispell CBC was held Sunday, January 4, 2015. With chickadee-like resolve, 44 intrepid birders braved frigid temperatures and heavy snow to locate and identify 72 species. An additional 3 species were seen during count week. Rarities included the Kalispell CBC's first ever Yellow-headed Blackbird, the second ever Varied Thrush and the third ever Pied-billed Grebe. Record high counts were obtained for Green-winged Teal (12), Prairie Falcon (2), Horned Lark (90) and American Crow (405). American Dipper and Great Horned Owl were surprisingly absent, though both were seen during count week. Thanks to all who participated!

Continued on page 5

*Christmas Bird Count Results, continued from page 4***2014 Troy Christmas Bird Count**

By Donald Jones

Troy's count occurred on January 3 with ideal conditions. We had enough snow (3-5") to make moving around easy enough and also enough snow to make seeing birds in the field and feeders easy. A large portion of our area is not accessible during this time of year (snow – elevation/terrain) but we managed better than any previous year under my belt to cover our area with the help of 29 total participants (roughly 3 times what we normally get). We ended up with 53 total species and 2071 individual birds. Freezing temps made our already limited wetlands barren; the flowing Kootenai River helped immensely. We had ideal weather for Owling between 4-7 AM but not a hoot was heard – a pair of Horned Owls was heard in the evening, though. Highlight species for the count were Varied Thrush, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Towhee, and Northern Shrike. Count records were broken for Northern Pygmy Owl at 8 and Chestnut-backed Chickadee at 100. Only 2 additional species were picked up during count week – Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-wing Blackbird.

2014 Ninepipes Christmas Bird Count

By Brian Williams

We had a good crew of birders in the field on December 21 for the Ninepipes Bird Count. A light drizzle in the morning quickly passed and left us with a partly sunny, but quite windy, day for birding. Despite the wind, we finished the day with 67 species, right in line with our ten-year average. Highlights included a Gyrfalcon, our second record of Swamp Sparrow in the count circle and high counts for Bald Eagle (63), Red-breasted Nuthatch (127), Steller's Jay (20), and Pine Grosbeak (125).

2014 Eureka Christmas Bird Count

By Lewis Young

The 22nd annual Eureka Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday, December 14 in mild weather. Twenty-nine people went to the field and 20 people counted at their feeders. A record 72 species were tallied, beating the old record of 66 that we had in 2006 and 2012. The total number of individual birds was 3375, which is the 5th highest. There were record high counts for 13 species (Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked pheasant, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Killdeer, Blue Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, House Finch, Red Crossbill).

Five new species were found—Cooper's Hawk, Mew Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, and Herring Gull. In previous years, gulls could not be identified to species. Bohemian Waxwings (869) were the most numerous species observed and other most common birds included Wild Turkey (300), Common Raven (237), and House Finch (236). Only 1 or 2 individuals were seen for 17 species such as Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Northern Harrier, and Northern Pygmy-owl.



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WEST VALLEY NATURALISTS FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The Buzz About Bees is the program topic for the February 12 meeting. Steve Alejandro, a West Valley resident and a long-time bee enthusiast, will give an overview of bees, beekeeping, and honey. He will describe the natural history of both wild and domestic bees (anatomy, life cycle, role in the food chain) to familiarize people with the bee and to dispel unfortunate myths. Also to be covered is bee health importance to all, introduction of foreign diseases and parasites, col-

ony collapse disorder, essential parts of a beehive, using an actual beehive, and how the beekeeper and bees work together to produce a honey crop. He will conclude with a discussion about honey and what we should know before buying.

The meeting will be in the science lab at West Valley School (2290 Farm to Market Road) at 7 PM. Free and open to all ages. For more information, contact Linda de Kort (755-3704).



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Legislative Alerts from the Montana Audubon Lobbying Team

The 2015 Montana Legislative session has begun, and Montana Audubon has emailed its first legislative Action Alert. Three bills that will promote clean energy in Montana are already in the legislative hopper, and the Alert is about what you can do to urge adoption of these bills.

If you didn't get this Alert, it's because you haven't yet signed up to become a Montana Audubon Armchair Activist. It's not too late – there will be plenty more Alerts coming as the session progresses. You can sign up by going to www.mtaudubon.org/issues/act/index.html.

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. All drivers must have their own vehicle insurance. 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.



EXPLORE GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ON SNOWSHOES. Saturdays & Sundays, January 10 thru March 22, 2015. Enjoy a two-hour ranger-led snowshoe walk and take an intimate look at the park in winter. Search for signs of wildlife, discover the plants and animals of the park, and enjoy the solitude of winter during this unique experience. Not recommended for children under age 6. Meet at Apgar Visitor Center. Trips leave at 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM. Participants may use their own snowshoes or rent snowshoes for a nominal fee at the Visitor Center. Snowshoe rentals are also available elsewhere in the Flathead Valley. If you have questions regarding this offering, please call 406-888-7800.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IN BIGFORK, SWAN RIVER AND SURROUNDING AREA. Sunday, February 15, 2015. 9 AM-12 PM. The world is now our backyard. We will be learning about our winter song birds and counting at feeders, but will also explore other local areas for winter avian residents, possibly Swans and Pygmy Owls. This is an excellent outing for families with children as well as birders of all ages. Dress warmly and bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes. Meet at 9 AM at the east end of Swan River School main parking area. Contact Kathy Ross at mtkat@montanaport.net or 837-3837 to sign up. It helps us to know how many are participating. Thanks.

FREEZEOUT LAKE. March 28-29, 2015. It's time to start making plans for the annual FAS trip to Freezeout Lake in search of the wily White Geese. As usual, the trip will take place over the last weekend in March – that's 28-29 March. Bob Lee will be leading the trip this year, now that Dan Casey has moved to Billings. More details to follow in later *Pileated Posts*, but the pressing order of business are your accommodations. There are 4 motels in Choteau: Stage Stop (406-466-5900), Bella Vista (406-466-5711), Gunther (406-466-5444) and Big Sky (406-466-5318). This is a popular weekend for birders from all over the state and elsewhere, so it would be prudent to get a reservation early. Be sure to mention that you are affiliated with Flathead Audubon. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Lee at 270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net.

WANT TO BE A BIRDING GUIDE?

It is getting to the time of the year when people are planning their vacation trips to Montana. About a dozen folks per year will contact FAS about arranging for a guided bird trip. If you are interested in perhaps being a guide or just for more information,

please let us know ... just follow the "contact us" link on the FAS website (<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org>). We'll put you in contact with the person and you can make your own arrangements.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS – ALREADY!!

Yes, they are coming soon. In May, FAS will elect the President, Vice President and several Director positions. It is not too early to start thinking about who you would like to see guide FAS for the near future. The person sitting next to you at the last meeting is a good choice, and the person sitting in your seat is also a good choice! If you know of someone who would be a good leader, please contact Bob Lee (270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net); the Nominations Committee will talk with them about roles and responsibilities and get them on the ballot. If you would like to be on the Nominations Committee, please contact Bob.

Youth Ornithologist Scholarships Available

Up to four Pasadena Audubon/Western Field Ornithologists Youth Scholarships are being offered to the Western Field Ornithologists conference in Billings, Montana, June 10-14, 2015. The competitive scholarships are available to students in Grades 6 - 12, with applications accepted through February 9. Follow this link to the scholarship opportunity: www.westernfieldornithologists.org.



Thank You!

...to those below who have made donations to Flathead Audubon through January 18, 2015 ...

Snowy Owl

Gail Cleveland & Bruce Tannehill



Merlin

Robert Lopp
D. Brent Mitchell



Supporting Member + donation

John & Kris Bruninga



THANK YOU, JACK JAY

Jack Jay has generously donated his time and expertise, as well as the cost of materials he used, to contribute significantly to weed control at Owen Sowerwine in 2014. Thank you, Jack, from Flathead Audubon and the Owen Sowerwine Committee, for this donation, and for all your past support and help with Owen Sowerwine over the years.

THANK YOU, SOROPTOMISTS

Flathead Audubon is the grateful recipient of a significant donation in 2014 from the Whitefish Soroptomists. Their donation of \$1500 goes a long way to helping support Flathead Audubon's Conservation Education Program in getting our local kids outdoors and learning about nature. Many thanks to this longtime FAS supporter! Please thank them when you can and patronize their Thrift Shop!

Golden-winged Warblers "Heard" TORNADOS Coming

Scientists say tracking data shows that five Golden-winged Warblers "evacuated" their nesting site one to two days before an April 2014 tornado outbreak. Geolocators (small tracking devices) showed the birds left the Appalachians and flew 400 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico. The next day, devastating storms swept across the south and central US. Writing in the journal *Current Biology*, ecologists suggest these birds - and others - may sense such extreme events with their keen low-frequency hearing.



The warblers had completed their seasonal migration just days earlier, settling down to nest after a 3,100 mile journey from Colombia. They escaped just south of the tornadoes' path - and then went straight home again. By May 2, all five were back in their nesting area. Remarkably, the warblers' evacuation commenced while the closest tornado was still hundreds of miles away. Weather conditions in the nesting area were still nothing out of the ordinary. The most likely tip-off was the deep rumble that tornadoes produce, well below what humans can hear. Noise in this "infrasound" range travels hundreds of miles, and may serve as something of an early warning system for animals that can pick it up.

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

* * * *

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FEBRUARY 2015



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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 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.** 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

Conservation Educator - Patti Mason: AudubonEducator@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Bob Lopp	boblopp@bresnan.net	752-7026
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Secretary	Marylane Pannell	kuhlpan@cyberport.net	257-5793
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill	tanneland239@gmail.com	862-4548
Past-President	Paula Smith	paulabobsmith@centurytel.net	837-0181

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2014-2015	Jill Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net	862-8070
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2014-2015	Bob Lee	rml3@centurytel.net	837-4467

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christmas Bird Count	Vacant	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			
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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 ☐
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Wherever needed ☐

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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