



President's Message

Hi Birdwatching partners! I hope each of you has had a great summer, filled with feathers of every color in the rainbow. Welcome to a brand new season of Flathead Audubon. We plan to bring you a wide variety of activities based around our local Flathead birds.

We have already kicked things off with our citizen science monitoring of raptors near Mount Aeneas in the Jewel Basin. Our intrepid volunteer hikers spend their days spotting, identifying, codifying, sexing, aging, and most of all enjoying hawks, owls, falcons and other birds passing the site during the fall migration. The statistics collected go into national and international databases that help scientists follow bird population trends and spot problems if they occur.

If you're not into a 2-mile hike at O-dark thirty, then you will probably like our new "Birds of Prey Festival," held September 10 at Lone Pine Park. Formerly called Raptor Day, the Festival will include all of our usual kids and family events, and this year, there will be a special afternoon orientation for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer observer at the Hawk Watch site.

There's our monthly general meeting on September 12, complete with treats, a program given by Dan Casey, and some fun surprises by our new Conservation Educator, Denny Olson. It's a great place to meet up with old friends and make new ones. There



are definitely no strangers walking out of our door after an Audubon meeting!

And if you are up for a little early fall work in the woods, be sure to mark your calendar for FAS's annual Owen Sowerwine Work Day, September 24. In just a couple of hours, you can earn your "OSNA Supporter" badge and help us take care of Montana's one and only Natural Area, with golden leaves and bird calls all around you.

Our Flathead Audubon Board of Directors is a dynamic group of hard-working bird lovers like you, all volunteers who help run our chapter just because they believe in what we do. We miss and thank two members, Jim Rychwalski and Jan Wassink, who have had to step back from the Board because of employment conflicts, but we know they are waiting in the wings to rejoin us after retirement. And we have added two new Board members, Barbara Summer and Cory Davis. They are already part of the team and involved in our activities.

So here's your invitation to do a quick, painless makeover of your life. Do something important for yourself and the natural world around you. Show up for an Audubon activity (they are all free of charge), enjoy a program, challenge your bird ID skills, join the chapter, bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you!

Kay Mitchell, President

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

USE THE FORM ON THE LAST PAGE!

Please note that FAS membership fees have changed. An increase of \$5 was approved at the May meeting.

GET THE PILEATED POST BY EMAIL!

Save trees and money. See the note on the last page.

SEPTEMBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, September 12, 2016. 7 PM Flathead Audubon General Meeting, Gateway Community Center, US Hwy 2 West, Kalispell. See page 3.

Monday, September 5, 2016. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, 295 3rd Ave EN. All welcome.

Saturday, September 17, 2016. 8 AM -5PM Jewel Basin Hawk Watch trip. See page 8.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

The Pied-billed Grebe: Part Bird – Part Submarine

By John Hughes

Often described as a floating chicken because of its blocky head and high, short bill, the Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, is my favorite species of waterfowl. It is the first bird I seek out when visiting a wetlands, pond or marsh, and I'm disappointed if I leave without finding and observing one. Pied-bill refers to the two-colored bill during its alternate or breeding plumage, and the Latin genus for grebe means "feet at the buttocks." Very fitting considering their feet are located at the rear of their body. My main objective in finding these guys is to observe them literally sink out of sight without the slightest effort. Squeezing air from between the body and feathers and expelling air from internal air sacs allow grebes to accomplish this change in buoyancy. Hiding birds can stay this way indefinitely with only their eyes and nostrils above water.

The Pied-billed Grebe is widely distributed throughout Montana and is usually easy to find if you know some identifying characteristics. It is a small, stocky grebe 30.5 to 38.1 cm in length and a mass of 253 to 568 g with the male larger and heavier billed than the female. The bill is laterally compressed with a decurved tip. Bill color varies depending on the season. During the breeding season, it is bluish-white with a prominent vertical dark bar on each side, and during the winter is flesh-colored and lacking the black vertical bar. Males and females have the same plumage coloration. Birds in breeding plumage have dark brown upper parts and grayish buff sides of the neck and flanks with a well-defined black throat patch outlined in white. The tail is relatively short with white under-tail coverts. Winter plumage is similar but the sides of the neck and flanks are reddish brown and the throat appears pale.

Pied-billed Grebes prefer wetlands with an even mixture of emergent vegetation and open water deep enough for foraging. They are opportunistic feeders taking a wide variety of food types including crustaceans (particularly crayfish), small fish, amphibians, aquatic insects (larva and adults) and other invertebrates. Foraging is typically done underwater though

insects can be snapped from the air or captured from the surface of the water or emergent vegetation. As with other grebes, the rear positioned legs make them excellent swimmers but poor waders. Pied-billed Grebes do not have webbed feet like a duck but rather

have lobed toes that help propel them through the water. Different toe lengths, like different primary flight feathers, along with adaptations in their legs allow these birds to turn on a dime while pursuing prey under water. Like other grebes, Pied-billed Grebes consume large quantities of their own feathers. They also feed feathers to their young. The feathers form a sieve-like plug that prevents hard, non-digestible

prey parts from passing into the intestines and facilitates the production of pellets that are regurgitated.

These grebes are monogamous during the breeding season. Bonds are formed during migration or soon after arriving on breeding grounds. Males are very aggressive and set up and defend territories. Both sexes participate in building a floating nest attached to emergent vegetation. Nests are constructed of both living and decaying vegetation and mud.

Some evidence suggests warmth from decaying vegetation helps with incubation of the eggs. An average of six eggs are laid in the nest

and are brooded by both parents. Incubation lasts between 23 and 27 days. Upon hatching, the chicks stay close to the nest for the first week and will ride on their parents' backs when venturing farther from the nest. The young have zebra-like striping that helps camouflage them. Both parents tend to the young, which begin to feed on their own in about 28 days. Chicks still beg for food after five weeks but are capable of feeding themselves.

continued on page 4



September Program

Montana Birds and Birders in the 21st Century: There's an App for That!

Presented by Dan Casey

The relationship between birding and conservation has matured in many ways over the past three decades. Priorities have been established, partnerships formed, and opportunities for birders to engage in data collection and conservation action continue to increase. With new monitoring efforts, Montana Online Birders (MOB), and "Birds of Montana", we have access to more information than ever before regarding our birds and their habitats. But perhaps the most significant advance is "eBird", an automated interactive database launched by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon in 2002. Tapping into birders' passion, knowledge, energy, and (yes) competitiveness, eBird now houses more than 350 million bird records worldwide! Available as a free app for mobile devices, and with an easy-to-navigate website, eBird has many innovative uses, including helping to inform conservation action across the continent.

Dan Casey will provide an entertaining summary of the latest and greatest in MT bird conservation, including an update from his new position in east-



ern Montana, and a full demonstration of what eBird has to offer. This will include showing how by entering your own checklists into eBird can have a lasting influence on habitat conservation efforts in the Flathead and elsewhere. In addition to enjoying photos of Montana's birds and habitats, you should come away from the presentation inspired to play a personal role in connecting birding to conservation, and ready to go "e-Birding"!

Dan Casey has been a fixture in Montana's ornithological community for nearly 35 years, and co-authored the recently-released "Birds of Montana". After more than 30 years in the Flathead Valley working for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and American Bird Conservancy, he now works for Ducks Unlimited, as the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture Coordinator out of Billings.

Please join us at 7 PM on Monday, September 12. We will meet in the United Way Conference Room at the Gateway Community Center, off US Highway 2 West in Kalispell.

ANNUAL MAY POTLUCK

The Whitefish Community Center was the location for our annual potluck dinner and FAS membership meeting on May 9, 2016.

After several announcements Kay Mitchell, President of FAS, gave the 2015-2016 annual report. She included comments on the following: Hawk Watch; our new treasurer, Joe Batts; OSNA; meeting programs; our education program including comments on our new education coordinator, Denny Olson. Kay highlighted our numerous field trips, valuable newsletters, our revised website, our conservation committee, publicity, our five elected officers, fifteen board members, and our generous membership, making 2015-16 a very busy year for FAS.

Two motions were made and passed by the members. Marylane Pannell and Joe Batts were elected secretary and treasurer. Barb Summer and Cory Davis were elected to the FAS Board.

It was moved and seconded to increase our basic membership dues to \$25.00 and supporting membership dues to \$40.00 per year.

The Conservation Achievement Recognition Award was given to Susannah and Dan Casey.

Dr. Marco Restani from Montana Audubon presented a program about this research on the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

By
Marylane Pannell



Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Starts Now with Volunteer Hawk Watcher Orientation

September 10 Lone Pine State Park

This fall's Jewel Basin Hawk Watch kicks off the last week in August and will continue through October (as long as weather permits) and we need volunteer bird watchers to sign up and help us monitor the raptor migration most every day. This is the 10th year of the raptor count on the Swan Ridge (about 1,400 feet above the Jewel Basin parking lot) that was initiated to help raptor researchers understand and monitor western forest raptor migration numbers and reproduction rates over time. Flathead Audubon took over the coordination responsibility for this citizen science project from the American Bird Conservancy last year. Dan Casey initiated this effort in 2008 and is still the principal investigator with FAS providing technical and administrative support and the Flathead National Forest providing permission as well as financial support.

We need many volunteers as possible to help our more experienced citizen scientists sight, track, and count every raptor that migrates over or along the ridge during the surveys. You may also be one of those rare persons who wants to become one of our Primary Observers. To get started, you can attend **our first Hawk Watch Orientation in the afternoon of September 10th at Lone Pine State Park** (see page 5). As part of our new Birds of Prey Festival, Dan Casey as well as Barbara Summer and BJ Worth will



show you raptor photos, videos, and provide other information so you can get a jump on the season.

As a follow up to the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Orientation, we are holding an **all-day field trip to the Jewel Basin site (limited to 8 observers) on Sept. 17** (see Field Trips page 8 for details).

Other field training opportunities will continue through the season.

In addition to the above opportunities, you can get more information about this fall raptor monitoring project by joining the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Yahoo Group online. Once you have received permission to join the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch Group, you can browse through past photos and reports, access the daily calendar (under Events), and sign up

on that calendar for those days that you are able to assist. Our Primary Observers thus far are Dan Casey, Kathy Ross, Barbara Summer, BJ Worth, Josh Covill, Diane Lundgren, Lisa Bate, and Steve Gnidek. Be sure at least one primary observer is also signed up for that day.

For more information on Hawk Watch, contact Kathy Ross (through September), Gael Bissell (in October) or Joe Batts (anytime). Emails and phone numbers are listed at the back of this issue. Thanks!!

By Gael Bissell.

Pied-billed Grebe continued from page 2.

Pied-billed Grebes are listed as a species of least concern due to their wide distribution and high population numbers. However, since they depend on healthy wetlands for their success, we should continue to work to protect these wetlands from degradation or destruction.

Migration in western Montana is dependent on whether or not there is open water. When migration occurs, it happens at night, which is one reason you will rarely see a Pied-billed Grebe in flight. They prefer to dive rather than fly if threatened. If you look for Pied-billed Grebes in the spring, you will probably hear them before you see them. During territorial defense, males give a loud distinctive call "cow-cow-cow-cow-cow-...cowp...cowp...cowp..." Other calls are produced, but this one is the most easily discerned and is a tip-off to start your search. A good place to look for

Pied-billed Grebes is Dahl Lake at Lost Trails NWR. Just remember they might be hiding in plain sight.





Birds Of Prey Festival

10th Annual September 10th, 2016 LONE PINE STATE PARK
 A FREE Family Event with lots of kid activities!
 Cosponsored by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park



Ongoing Outdoor Educational Booths and Fun Activities: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

- Face Painting by Fancy Face Designs (Kathleen Francis) – hawk, eagle and owl faces!
- Professor Avian Guano (Denny Olson), a roving, improvisational, theatrical character -- teaching bird songs and bird lore!
- Hockaday Art Museum Docents, with bird art activities for every age
- Sally Snag (U.S. Forest Service), providing bird homes for thousands of years!
- Lone Pine State Park Staff: with Owl Trunk activities
- Flathead Audubon Society volunteers, teaching everything you ever wanted to know about birds
- The Montana Bird Lady, showing off her LIVE HAWKS and answering questions about them

Educational Programs:

- 7:30 AM – ‘Early Bird’ Birding Hike with Ben Young
 9:30 AM – “Bird Photography Tips and Tricks” with Dick Walker
 10:15 AM – “Glacier’s Stunning Harlequin Ducks” with John Ashley
 11:00 AM – “The Montana Bird Lady” (Kari Gabriel) with LIVE HAWKS!



Volunteer Hawk Watcher Orientation: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Hawk watching training for volunteers to help with Hawk Watch project on Mt. Aeneas. See page 4 for more information. For those who would like to help with counting hundreds of migrating hawks and eagles, and want to learn from experts in a high-altitude magnificent setting, check it out.

CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

Highlights from May and June 2016 Board Meetings

May Board Highlights

- ◆ Approved adding Bruce Tannehill to accounts access to facilitate financial reviews.
- ◆ Heard report on Wiley Dike observation blind that the piers are now set although it took more than originally planned and that it is ready to begin construction of the superstructure.
- ◆ Approved a recommended \$5 increase in dues subject to membership vote.
- ◆ Discussed details of use of the Whitefish Community Center meeting room for the May potluck.
- ◆ Heard report that the Warbler Weekend at Tally Lake is on track and that trip leaders are needed.
- ◆ Discussed Montana Audubon’s request for donation above what FAS has been giving each year. Decided that in addition to the normal \$1000 donation FAS would donate \$500 specifically for legislative affairs plus \$500 specifically for Important Bird Areas.
- ◆ Heard report from the Education Committee describing proposed changes in the strategic plan.
- ◆ Decided to offer Denny Olson the Conservation Educator contract.
- ◆ Heard that a meeting is planned with the US Forest Service to work out details for next fall’s Hawk Watch.
- ◆ Heard report on website plans for the summer and approved a set of E-Commerce guidelines.

June Board Highlights

- ◇ Heard and accepted Treasurer’s Report.
- ◇ Reviewed, discussed, and approved a budget for 2016-2017.
- ◇ Heard report that Birdathon is on track.
- ◇ Discussed need for vests with Flathead Audubon identification on them to increase visibility of our leaders and volunteers at various activities. Approved purchase of 3 vests.
- ◇ Discussed and approved FAS signing on as a supporter of the Quiet Glacier Coalition.
- ◇ Heard report that Hawk Watch meeting with the Forest Service went well and will be continuing next fall.



Conservation Education Corner

by Denny Olson FAS Conservation Educator



Changes

I spent four years as a member of Flathead Audubon's Board of Directors and Chair of the Education Committee. It has been a wonderful time – not just because this is by far the most committed, hard-working board I have ever experienced, or because together we generated two exciting new projects in our detailed education strategic plan and a successful phenology calendar fundraising product. For me, it is about my new set of Audubon friends. Odd as it may seem, I can't wait to go to board meetings and Audubon events, because of very valued friends there.

But my role has changed. I now work for the Board, as the Flathead Audubon Conservation Educator, and despite not being one of the Directors, I'm pretty excited at the prospect. My whole life work has been about nature education, through writing books, school residencies and assembly programs, a Montana TV show, and travel all over North America expressing my multiple personality "disorder" as Doc Wild (Crittterman), Professor Avian Guano, Dr. Loonacy, The Lost Voyageur, and others. Now I get to more of the same in the place I love enough to call home, and with people I love just as much. And, I still get to go to board meetings and events!

I hope to continue to honor the Flathead Audubon tradition of doing a lot with a little. We will continue to do our time-tested field trips, Christmas

Bird Counts, Hawk Watch and Birdathon, the Pileated Post, our snazzy new interactive website, managing the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, and great monthly programs. And, we'll continue to do the Conservation Educator-driven Birds of Prey Day, Backyard Bird Count, Road Scholar Intergenerational Program, schoolyard wildlife gardens, school and organization programs by request, Forestry Expo, FVCC Senior Institute Birding Class, Beauty of Birds class, the yearly nature events fundraising calendar, an old and young kids intergenerational program in Owen Sowerwine, signing out our great educational trunks to teachers, Whitefish Legacy Partners joint programs, and on and on.

After I get my footing (I had a full summer schedule before taking on the CE role.), I have some ideas to add as well, subject to board approval. One of those should be a bit of fun – I'll give our monthly meetings a taste of our Education Program with a mini bird song quiz (with prizes!) and some natural history about one of the quiz birds. I'll also offer another late summer teacher workshop on birds and conservation and we are also working on better ways to evaluate the successes of our conservation education efforts.

So, it looks like I'll be tired, but very, very happy.



SIGN UP FOR THE 2016-2017 FEEDERWATCH SEASON

Project FeederWatch is a citizen science project that began in Ontario, Canada in the mid-1970s and partnered with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology ten years later in the USA. It is a winter-long project starting in November and ending mid-April, in which

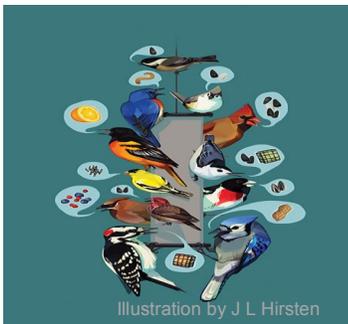
participants periodically count birds at backyard feeders and/or other local areas. This endeavor is designed to help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

This is the perfect project for anyone who likes birds, and wants to contribute and share information about birds with fellow citizens and scientists.

No particular skill level or background is necessary to participate in the project. Participants will

receive a research kit and resources to help attract and identify common winter species including an interactive tool that allows participants to learn about the food and feeder preference of nearly 100 species and how to predict what birds can be attracted to your area. All you have to do is watch your feeder or area as much or as little as you want over two consecutive days as often as once a week, record what you see, and send your data in. There is a fee associated with this project for data analysis. It is \$15 Special Cornell Lab Member price and \$18 Regular Project FeederWatch price.

The data gathered by people like you will only become more important as predicted changes in climate continue to occur. Check out www.FeederWatch.org where you will find an amazing amount of information including how to sign up for the project, a list of the 25 most common winter birds, tips on tricky bird identification, participant stories and photos, and much more. You can also sign up by phone toll free by calling 800-843-2473; M-TH, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, F, 8:00 AM -4:00 PM ET.



Lisa Bate Wins Jack Potter Award

Lisa Bate, Glacier National Park wildlife biologist (and Flathead Audubon Member) has been awarded the Jack Potter Glacier National Park Stewardship Award, established to promote stewardship of Glacier Park's spectacular natural resources.

Lisa exemplifies the key attributes behind the Stewardship Award. She loves the Park, and she works intelligently and with determination to understand and protect the big as well as small wonders of Glacier. Even those little things like bats, that people don't even know they come to Glacier to enjoy!

Lisa began as a seasonal wildlife technician and was rapidly



Photo courtesy of Lisa Bate

Lisa with Harlequin Duck

the discovery of the ducks wintering ground in Puget Sound, Washington.

Speaking of bats, Lisa conducted the park's first bat study that led to the discovery of two new bat species living in the park. She has also assumed the leadership of the Breeding Bird Survey that monitors breeding success in the park. And she contributes annually to the Citizen Science Program in Glacier that allows visitors to participate in the Park's scientific research.

Lisa's passion for wildlife and education don't stop at the park boundary. She is always ready and willing to give public presentations, assist teachers with science education, and apply her expertise to local conservation issues.

Headwaters Montana estab-

lished the award in 2011 after the retirement of Jack Potter, a 40-year veteran of Glacier Park. Potter retired from the park as Chief of Science and Resources. He was known for his vigorous defense and advocacy of the Park's natural resources, sometimes in opposition to forces looking to be expedient or financial rather than custodial.

Adapted from Headwater Montana announcement



Photo courtesy of Lisa Bate

Lisa with bat crew

promoted to more demanding project work. She led the wildlife mitigation work for reconstruction of the Going to the Sun Road. Simultaneously, she coordinated the harlequin duck study that led to

AMAZON SMILE

Do you ever shop on Amazon.com? If you do, or know someone who does, here's a nice way that you can help Flathead Audubon without spending even an extra penny. Type "**Smile.Amazon.com**" into your browser and **designate Flathead Audubon Society** as your nonprofit organization. It's a simple, free

and automatic way for you to support FAS. The selection and prices on Smile.Amazon.com are exactly the same, with the added benefit that Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to Flathead Audubon. So sign up now, while you're thinking about it – thanks for helping the birds!

WHITEBARK ECOSYSTEM FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

September 16-18, 2016 Whitefish, Montana

For more details on location, time, and content, call Rebecca Lawrence, Native Plant Restoration Program, Glacier National Park, 406-888-7836.

CAN YOU HELP? Hawk Watch Looking for a Small Camper to Borrow

FAS is looking for a small hard-sided camper to borrow this fall for about 6 weeks.

The camper will be placed near the Jewel Basin trailhead for the overnight use of Hawk Watch volunteers – to save them a long drive back and forth from home. It will be well taken care of, with only 1 or

2 volunteers using it at a time. The loan will be tax deductible; FAS will provide a letter documenting its value for tax purposes.

For more information or to offer a camper, contact President Kay Mitchell, kbmitch@centurytel.net or 756-8130.

FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All Flathead Audubon 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 the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" is available at the Flathead Audubon general meetings and on www.FlatheadAudubon.org.



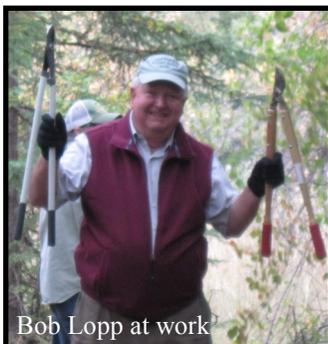
JEWEL BASIN HAWK WATCH TRIP, Saturday, September 17, 8 AM-5 PM. This is a follow-up field trip opportunity for those planning to attend the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch training at Lone Pine State Park on Sept. 10th (see accompanying article) as well as anyone who is interested in seeing migrating fall raptors. We will meet at 8am at the Swan River School parking lot at the junction of Hwy 83 and Echo Lake Road. From there, we'll carpool to the Jewel Basin Trailhead. The hike to the Hawk Watch site will take approximately 2 hours and is uphill at a moderately strenuous pace. We'll plan to be back at the trailhead by 4 PM and the school by 5 PM. Weather can affect the field trip so dress accordingly. The temperature and winds can make the "feels like" temperature 20-30 degrees colder at the ridge than in the valley. This trip is limited to 8 people. If you're interested in participating please call or email Cory Davis (406-257-3166), piranga99@gmail.com

GOLDEN EAGLE MIGRATION IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, Sunday, October 9, 1-4 PM. Join Steve Gniadek and Flathead Audubon for a leisurely, mostly sedentary, "field trip" to observe migrating golden eagles, and learn about raptor migration routes and patterns. Bring a lawn chair and binoculars. Spotting scopes recommended, but a few should be available for sharing. Unlike the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch site, where birds pass at eye level, eagles migrate high over the McDonald Valley, with peak numbers in early October. Also unlike the Jewel Basin site, no hiking is required to see golden eagles and other raptors from the Lodge parking lot. Depending on the weather, dozens of golden eagles can be observed in a single hour. Golden eagles have been counted from this site for many years, and it is one of the premier golden eagle migration sites in Montana. Meet at Lake McDonald Lodge parking lot. Everyone is welcome to stop by anytime in the afternoon. If you have questions email Steve Gniadek, grayjaybro@yahoo.com

AUTUMN BIRDING IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY, Sunday, October 30, 10AM-1PM. Join premiere birder Craig Hohenberger exploring the Creston, Ramsfield Road and Bigfork area for late season migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. You will be treated also to an extensive list of resident birds that enjoy the winter with us, chickadees, nuthatches and bald eagles just to name a few of our wintering birds. Meet at 10AM at the Creston Elementary School parking lot, across Hwy 35, north of the Creston Fire Hall. Bring a lunch, binoculars, dress warm and plan to car pool. To sign up and for more information email Craig at asoleado2003@yahoo.com

Annual OSNA Work Day

The long-awaited 2016 annual workday for the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area is scheduled for Saturday, 24 September. We'll gather at the Montessori School on Willow Glen Drive at 0900. We'll carpool to OSNA from Montessori and should be done by noon.



Bob Lopp at work

There are a few key projects that need to be tackled – some branches that are overhanging a neighbor's fence need to be cleared back, some trails cleared and mowed, some old fencing removed, and, of course, as always weeds to be addressed. Many hands make light

work, so please come with work gloves and wearing old clothes appropriate for the weather. It would help if you can also please some of the tools we'll need for these projects: loppers, pole saw, clippers, axe, wire cutters.

This should be a fun and quick day as we all pitch in to spruce up OSNA. If you have any questions or suggestions or need directions, please contact Bob Lee at 270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net or Linda Winnie at 253-7430 or lindawin@centurytel.net.

By Bob Lee



HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS WITH A SMARTPHONE

If you already have a smartphone you have a powerful tool for getting photos of birds and other wildlife. National Audubon recently published an article on how to get the most out of smartphone photos. It can be found at: <http://www.audubon.org/magazine/may-june-2016/how-photograph-birds-smartphone> Best results require a spotting scope and adapter although binoculars and adaptor are a lower priced option. Tripods are almost a necessity to reduce shake. The article discusses things like shutter speed, ISO settings, file size, and composure.



National Audubon Society

Spring and Summer Field Trip Reports

Reports and pictures of the following Spring and Summer FAS fieldtrips are available on the FAS website under "Latest News" (www.flatheadaudubon.org/latest-news/):

- ◆ Give a Hoot (April 16)
- ◆ Early Bird Walk on FVCC Campus (April 23)
- ◆ Mission Valley Potholes and Prairie (April 30)
- ◆ Birding by Bicycle (May 14)
- ◆ American Prairie Reserve/Bowdoin NWR (May 20-22)
- ◆ Tally Lake Campout (June 9-11)
- ◆ Lost Trail NWR (June 19)
- ◆ Wild Horse Island (June 22)
- ◆ Going Batty (August 12)

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



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.



SEPTEMBER 2016



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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.

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 - Denny Olson: auduboneducator@gmail.com

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Kay Mitchell	kbmitch@centurytel.net	756-8130
Vice-President	Gael Bissell	gbissell535@gmail.com	261-2255
Secretary	Marylane Pannell	kuhlpan@cyberport.net	871-7613
Treasurer	Joe Batts	jbatts@mc.com	844-0299
Past-President	Bob Lopp	boblopp@bresnan.net	752-7026

DIRECTORS

2015-2018	Lewis Young	68 Garrison Dr., Eureka 59917	889-3492
2015-2018	Paula Smith	paulabobsmith@centurytel.net	837-0181
2015-2018	Doug MacCarter	dsmaccarter@gmail.com	602-663-8611
2015-2018	Jan Metzmaker	jmetzmaker@hotmail.com	862-7960
2015-2018	Jake Bramante	jake@hike734.com	250-8394
2016-2019	Cory Davis	piranga99@gmail.com	257-3166
2016-2019	Barbara Summer	parkview@cyberport.net	270-1285

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Lewis Young	889-3492	Program	Bob Lee	270-0371
Education	Denny Olson	249-3987	Publicity	Paula Smith	837-0181
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	837-3837	Sales	Jill Fanning	862-8070
	Cory Davis	257-3166	Refuges	Kathy Ross	837-3837
	Doug McCarter	602-663-8611	Website	Paula Smith	837-0181
Finance	Mike Fanning	862-8070			
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	Jill Fanning	862-8070			
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Natural Area	Bob Lee	270-0371			
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	755-1406			
	Kay Mitchell	756-8130			
	John Hughes	261-2506			
	Lewis Young	889-3492			
Nominations	Bob Lee	270-0371			

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 Executive Director: Steve Hoffman
shoffman@mtaudubon.org
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FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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- Supporting Membership \$40
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