

The Accipiter Express

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY - BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

MAY, 1978

CHAPTER MEETINGS: Held at Bigfork Grade School AV Room (just off Library)
Regular Board Meeting: 6:30 P.M.
Business: 7:30 P.M. Program: 8:00 P.M.

May 8 (Monday): Dr. Riley McClelland will present a slide program and discussion on his research of cavity hole nesters and the importance of certain types of forest habitat to these bird species. He is also involved in research projects concerning how woodpeckers relate to pine beetle infestations, heron rookeries, and the annual fall concentration of Bald Eagles along Lower McDonald Creek in Glacier National Park. Dr. McClelland would like information on any active Pileated nest you know about.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The May 8th meeting will be our last regular meeting until fall. The next regular meeting will be Monday, Sept. 11th. There are field trips scheduled for this spring and summer in which you are encouraged to participate. For those of you keeping bird checklists please continue sending them monthly to Wanda Jamieson. This is also the time of year to fill out nest cards. For those of you not familiar with the nest card program and would like to collect data on bird nests you observe please contact Wanda Jamieson, Barbara Fenner, or Dan Sullivan for information.

Lower Flathead River Float - CHANGE OF PLANS!!!!!!: Because the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes closed the Lower Flathead River to motorized boats and large groups this spring for the protection of nesting waterfowl, the river float will not be held. As an alternative a float down the Lower Swan River from the New Ferndale Bridge on Hwy. 209 to the old steel bridge above the Swan River dam is planned. The trip is 4-6 hours in length depending on stops. There is a large marsh area along the river which will provide a side trip for those interested. The river also passes a large heron rookery and osprey nests. The river is classed as easy. Meet at 9:00 am at the Ferndale Saveway Grocery Store parking lot on Hwy. 209. Contact Rick Trembath for more information.

FIELD TRIPS:

May 6 (Saturday): Lower Valley Road between Somers and the Flathead River. Habitat: Potholes, sloughs and river edge. Birds: waterfowl, marsh birds, hawks, swallows. This is an excellent trip to start the season. All observation can be done from cars and most sightings are at close range. Time: 8:00 A.M. until noon. Meet at the New Covenant Christian School (formerly Rouselle School) on Hwy. 208. Contact Wanda Jamienson for more information.

May 20 (Saturday): Lawrence Park and Kiawanis Park in Kalispell. Habitat: River edge cottonwoods, deciduous shrubbery and some conifers. Planned from 8 A.M. to noon. An easy trip that requires little walking and an excellent use of Kalispell's undeveloped parks. Expect to see heron, Osprey, grouse, Killdeer with young, swifts, Lewis' Woodpecker, swallows, Catbird, warblers. Meet at Little Big Man Pizza Parking Lot, Main and Idaho. Contact Barbara Fenner for more information.

May 21 (Sunday): Canoe float down Swan River through the Swan River NWR. A pleasant and easy canoe trip, no rapids. Expect to see grebes, Bald Eagle, waterfowl (Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser), heron, snipe, hummingbirds, swallows, warblers, finches. Afternoon trip: 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. Meet between 1:30 and 2:00 at Swan Chapel in town of Swan Lake on Hwy. 209. Contact Elly Jones (886-3491) or Rick Trembath (837-6298) for more info.

June 24 (Saturday): Kerr Dam and Ninepipe NWR. A full day so bring a lunch. This has been one of our most prolific trips. In past years we have seen over 70 bird species. Marcy Bishop (883-4146) will guide us through Ninepipe and explain her Double-crested Cormorant study. Meet at 8 AM in Polson at Sacajawea Park on the Flathead River (Main & 2nd Ave. E.) Another easy trip, little walking required.

July 15 (Saturday): Jewel Basin. A four mile round trip hike to Birch Lake. The walk provides a magnificent view of the Flathead Valley. Also expect to see many subalpine birds (Olive-sided Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, Fox Sparrow) as well as subalpine flora. Bring a lunch and a small container of drinking water. Meet at the Echo Lake Store on Hwy. 326 at 8:00 A.M. Contact Newton Reed (837-4494) for more information.

Dam Discussions: A public forum will be held in Dixon, Montana at the Tribal Work Center May 27th to discuss the effects of proposed dam construction on the Lower Flathead River. Presentations begin at 9 A.M. and continue to 5:30 P.M. Some of the topics to be discussed will include effects on fisheries, wildlife and agriculture; northwest power demands and needs; area geology; and dam economics. A float trip has been planned for May 28-29. For further information contact Doug Baty, Box 26, Dixon, Montana.

Donations Requested for Bluebird Trail: Twelve hundred Bluebird nest boxes have been placed throughout the Flathead Valley thanks to Art Aylesworth, the prime initiator and organizer of the project, Newton Reed who placed 200 boxes in the north part of the valley, and the Western Bee Factory for supplying the wood and cutting out the nest box parts without charge. The only direct cost was that of hinges and nails at an approximate cost of \$.30 per box. Most of this expense has been paid by individuals who placed boxes and the Audubon chapter but a small deficit remains. If you were unable to participate directly in the project but would like to help support the trail system please send your contribution to: Bluebird Trail Hardward Fund, c/o Art Aylesworth, Box 794, Ronan, Mt. 59864. Funds received in excess of this year's costs will be used to place additional houses in the future. This is a most impressive beginning for a bluebird trail and Art is to be commended for his considerable time and effort spent in beginning it.

Hummingbird Feeders: Hummingbirds are now arriving back in the valley and many of you will be placing hummingbird feeders in your yards. A few points to remember: Clean your feeder about every 2 weeks, boil the feeder parts or rinse them with scalding water, keep the feeder clean of mold or other residue; Place your feeder out of the direct sun, if your feeder juice is not used within a week discard it and replace it with fresh juice; make juice by mixing 1 part sugar to 4-5 parts water (do not use stronger ratios - its too rich for the birds and cheaper for you.), bring mixture to a boil, COOL before placing in feeder and refrigerate surplus. Do not use honey as it tends to produce fungus. The debate whether food coloring is harmful goes on without resolution. However, once the birds discover your feeder the color may be deleted and the birds will continue coming as abundantly as before. The most common species are Rufous and Calliope, some people are fortunate enough to have Black-chinned. Anyone attracting Black-chinned Hummingbirds or other species please report it to Wanda Jamieson with appropriate details.

AN ENCOURAGING NOTE: The pair of Bald Eagles that nested along the Flathead River above Sportman's Bridge which lost their nest tree last fall have renested nearby. When Dan Sullivan observed the pair April 30th their behavior indicated there were young in the nest.

WILDHORSE ISLAND: Our chapter has been asked to participate in the development of management plans for Wildhorse Island. We have been assigned to the Public Use Committee and have been asked to respond to the following questions:

Your general views relative to public use of Wildhorse Island for this season and in the future?

What mainland sites should provide maps, literature, etc. available for distribution?

Where to locate regulations, general information signs, literature, etc. on the island?

Should existing signs on the island be taken down?

Your ideas on how to maintain adequate island-mainland communication?

What island cleanup is needed?

How to manage commercial touring this season and in the future?

How to manage boat ferry guided tours on the island?

Feasibility of: Dock sites; camping sites, picnic sites; trail location.

If you have any ideas regarding these questions or others please talk with or send comments to Rick Trembath or Elmer Sprunger so they may be compiled and submitted at the next committee meeting.

1978 Directory:

President, Rick Trembath, E. Lake Shore, Bigfork, Mt. 59911	837-6298
Vice President, Elly Jones, Swan Lake, Bigfork, Mt. 59911	886-3491
Secretary, Barbara Fenner, 136 5 th Ave. E., Kalispell, Mt. 59901	755-0560
Treasurer, Nancy Trembath, E. Lake Shore, Bigfork, Mt. 59911	837-6298

Board of Directors:

Daniel Sullivan, Yellow Bay, Bigfork, Mt. 59911	982-3281
Marcy Bishop, West Shore, Polson, Montana 59860	883-4146
Elmer Sprunger, Box 145, Bigfork, Mt. 59911	837-6613
Wanda Jamieson, 1340 Willow Glen Dr., #11, Kalispell, Mt. 59901	257-5840

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

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