

The Accipiter Express

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY - BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911 Sept., 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.

Sept. 11 (Monday): The program will consist of two important local conservation issues. One will consist of a slide presentation and update of the Lower Flathead River and the Army Corps of Engineers Dam proposals. Slides will be of previous Audubon float trips down the river. The second presentation will be by Bill Cunningham of the National Wilderness Society on the Forest Service RARE II program and on the status of the Great Bear Wilderness legislation.

October 9 (Monday): Our Own Slides, Photographs, or Things of Interest From Nature. Everyone is encouraged to bring 10 slides of birds, mammals, scenic views, etc. to share with the membership. If you are not a photographer any other articles from nature you can bring would be of interest. Note: Put your name on your slides!

November 13 (Monday): Dr. Riley McClelland will return to present a program on the Bald Eagle concentration along lower McDonald Creek in GNP and also discuss the eagle banding project which is aimed at learning more about the eagles' distribution and migratory patterns. Many of you will recall Riley's presentation last May on cavity nesting birds.

December 11 (Monday): Final plans will be made for our annual Christmas Bird Count and after count potluck. There will be a review of birds likely seen on the count with slides from the chapter's slide file. Also a short film on Bighorn Sheep.

CHECKLIST FOR LOWER VALLEY ROAD BEING PREPARED: The Lower Valley Road, that area between the Flathead River and Somers north of Hwy. 208 has been a popular area for birding. Although primarily in agricultural use, the area possesses numerous potholes, sloughes, creek and river edge, fence rows and pasture. This variety of habitat yields a diverse number of breeding bird species. The area is also used heavily by migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The area is easily accessible at all months of the year and close to the Kalispell, Bigfork and Lakeside-Somers communities.

From observations recorded by many people Wanda Jamieson has begun compiling a checklist for the area. Anyone on a field trip or on a casual drive through the area is encouraged to record their observations and send them on to Wanda. In addition to these casual observations a formal roadside census will be conducted once a month. Anyone interested in helping with the census runs should contact Wanda. Besides being an aid to local birders the checklist will be especially helpful to non-resident birders traveling through the area.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS - PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW: Dave Shaner will once again be ordering bulk quantities of sunflower seeds ordered directly from growers in North Dakota. The quality of the seeds has always been excellent. Because there is no mark-up on the cost of the seeds beyond the freight there are certain limitations in ordering: (see top of next page)

- 1) ~~Payment in advance.~~ \$13.00/50# bag (\$1.26/#). Checks payable to Dave Shaner.
- 2) Minimum order - 50%. If you want less go together with a friend.
- 3) Orders must be picked up at Dave's as soon as possible after delivery. Dave does not have the time or facilities to store the seed since it is quite bulky. Please, no out-of-the-valley orders.
- 4) Contact Dave Shaner directly (4135 Montana Rt. 35, Bigfork, Montana 59911; ph: 837-4388) or place order at the September 11th meeting.
- 5) Deadline for ordering: September 15 (approximate date of arrival, October 1st.)

MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: The Montana Audubon Council is sponsoring a state-wide photography exhibition. The five Montana chapters, which comprise the council, wish to encourage the photography and enjoyment of Montana's natural heritage and believe that photography can contribute greatly to the public awareness of this heritage.

RULES:

- 1) Entries are open to all persons except professional photographers, and all entries must be received by October 1, 1978, by the Five Valleys Audubon Society, P.O. Box 8425, Missoula, Montana 59807.
- 2) Each photograph must be accompanied by a \$3.00 entry fee which covers handling and mailing costs when photographs are returned to the entrant.
- 3) Categories will be designated as follows:

I. Black and White	II. Color
a. Montana	a. Montana
b. Wildlife and Plants	b. Wildlife and Plants
c. Man and Nature	c. Man and Nature
- 4) At least five entries will be selected from the entries in each category. The resulting photographs will comprise a traveling exhibit which will be extensively presented throughout the state of Montana at suitable public forums. All photographs entered will be on exhibit during the fall, 1978 meeting of the Montana Audubon Council at the University of Montana on October 14.
- 5) A "Best of Show" photograph will be selected from the traveling exhibit, and will receive a \$40.00 honorarium. From the remaining photographs, a "Best of Category" selection will be made in each category. These selections will receive an honorarium of \$15.00 each.
- 6) If an entry is a photograph produced from a slide, the original slide should accompany the photograph.
- 7) Selected photographs from this exhibition will appear in Montana Magazine.
- 8) Photographs not chosen for the traveling exhibit will be returned to the entrant after November 1st, 1978. Photographs selected for the traveling display will become the property of the Montana Audubon Council until September 30, 1979. At that time, they will be returned to the entrant.
- 9) The Montana Audubon Council, although treating all entries with appropriate care, is not responsible for damage to the photographs while they are in the care of the council.
- 10) Each photograph should be accompanied by whatever information is available on the photograph and a short biography of the photographer.
- 11) Photographs should be suitably but compactly mounted in a professional manner. No bulky or delicate frames will be allowed. Minimum photograph size is 8x10.
- 12) The president of the Montana Audubon Council will interpret and extend these rules where necessary.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON CHAPTER'S SLIDE FILE has continued to expand greatly this past year so that we now have over 200 slides. By our first meeting we will have available a list of bird species of which we still need photographs. Cheri Seli is cataloging and filing the slides and they will be available to members that would like to use them to present a bird program to an interested group.

ALASKA - "THE LAST GREAT FIRST CHANCE": As many of you may know the House of Representatives passed the Alaska legislation (H.R. 39) by an impressive majority of 277-31 (neither Baucus or Marlenee were present). The final version of the bill is strongly backed by the Alaska Coalition and other environmental organizations. The legislation (S1500) is now in the Senate where it is facing strong opposition from development interests and both Alaska senators who oppose the bill on State's Rights issues. Thus far 19 senators have co-sponsored S1500. Neither of Montana's senators have co-sponsored the bill. In fact, Sen. John Melcher, a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee which is handling the bill, is one of those pushing hardest for changes in the House version of the bill in favor of increased development. Your letters to Sen. Paul Hatfield and especially Sen. Melcher are urgently needed expressing your support of this land mark legislation. Ask them to resist any weakening amendments which would alter the original H.R. 39 version of the bill. Explain to them why this legislation is important to you. Mention that these are Federal Lands which all U.S. citizens have an interest in and have a right to be involved in land use decisions affecting these lands. Opposition in the Senate will be the toughest obstacle this legislation has faced by far. Everyones help is needed. Please write. Literature providing more information will be available at chapter meetings. Senators may be contacted at Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

THE GREAT BEAR - A REQUEST FROM THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY: On August 11, after a nearly three month delay in the Administration recommendation for the Great Bear Wilderness, President Carter sent his proposal for a 360,000 acre Gt. Bear Wilderness to Congress. The President's recommendation is sound -- it does not recommend a transmission line corridor (choosing instead to rely on the President's authority to establish one if the need arises) nor does it recommend the exclusion of 52,000 acres north of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River for gas and oil development (reasoning the area has greater value as wilderness than in energy development).

Sen. Hatfield and Rep. Baucus have introduced the Administration proposal and a field hearing is to be scheduled in Montana. Sen. Melcher and Rep. Marlenee are the weak links in our congressional delegation having not yet supported the Administration proposal. Please write asking them to support the Forest Service 360,000 acre Great Bear Wilderness (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and Senate Office Building, Wash., D.C. 20510).

If we make a united all out effort we can at last achieve permanent wilderness protection for the Great Bear -- the last large unprotected expanse of grizzly habitat in the lower 48.

CHAPTER LIBRARY CONTINUES TO GROW: Our chapter library has grown this summer through the donation and purchase of a number of books. Some of the books are:

- Life and Lore of the Bird
- Ocean Wanders
- Birds of Prey of the World
- Peterson's and Fisher's World of Birds
- Pictorial Guide to the Birds of North America
- Birding from a Tractor Seat
- Roger T. Peterson's Dozen Birding Hot Spots
- The Last Eagle (Children's Book)

These books and the selections including the publication American Birds are available to members to check out at our monthly meetings or during school hours at the Bigfork Elementary School library. If you have books or other material you wish to donate, or would like to donate funds for book purchases or have suggestions for library additions please see a member of the board. Its your library, take advantage of it!

MONTANA CITIZENS NONGAME ADVISORY BOARD: The Montana Citizens Nongame Advisory Board to the State Department of Fish & Game held its first meeting May 4, 1978, at Helena. The second meeting was held July 7, 1978, also at Helena. The Council, appointed by Governor Tom Judge, has set Monday, August 28, 1978, as the next meeting, to be held at Billings, in the meeting room of the Billings Parmlly Public Library, 510 North Broadway (28 St.), to begin at 1:30 P.M. The Council members wish to emphasize that the coming meeting at Billings is for the purpose of obtaining as much public participation as possible. The Council members want to know what the public wants in the way of a nongame program. If interest is sufficient, there will be an evening meeting to accommodate those unable to appear during the day.

Council members are: Charles (Chuck) Carlson, Fort Peck; Dr. C. V. Davis, Bozeman; Charles (Chuck) Jarecki, Polson; Luverne (Vern) Lindquist, Glendive; Harriet Marble, Chester; John Staigmilller, Cascade (who is also a legislator); Bill Sternhagen, Helena; Dr. P.L. (Phil) Wright, Missoula; and Jim Phelps, Billings, the Chairman. Several Audubon members will be recognized as serving on the Council.

The first meeting was to organize and to hear presentations of nongame needs as understood by the Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Robert F. Wambach, Director, stated that out of the total fish and game budget only \$37,000 is earmarked or dedicated to the nongame program. Yet studies show the so-called "non-consumptive" uses outweigh "consumptive" uses. "Non-consumptive" uses are bird-watching, back-packing, picture taking, and hiking, all of which involve wildlife and wildlife habitat. "Consumptive" means hunting. Dr. Wambach made mention of two bills now in the U.S. Congress that will establish nongame programs (see separate article on this page). "Whether we get this federal support or not," he stated, "I still think this department has an obligation to build the nongame program."

-Jim Phelps, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Soc.
(8/78 issue of Yellowstone Valley Flyer)

ALSO: One of the primary functions of the Advisory Board is to suggest methods to fund the nongame program. Some of the ideas discussed were: 1) an income tax check-off system allowing taxpayers to earmark part of their state taxes to the nongame program. This method has been successful in other states; 2) A portion of the funds from vanity or personalized license plates be used for the nongame program; 3) Increased exposure and accessibility of the \$5.00 Nongame Wildlife Stamp which have been poorly publicized and could only be purchased from District Fish and Game Offices. - Daniel Sullivan

NONGAME FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT OF 1978: The bill, H.R. 10255, as titled here is stalled, after being up for action under suspension of the rules, because several organizations, at the last minute, sent telegrams of opposition.

Some Congressmen (our own Ron Marlenee among them) fear the bill is inflationary, because it authorizes general funds. The Office of Management and Budget would only endorse the bill under such terms as OMB opposes dedicated funds. Now OMB wants action postponed for a year. A bill (H.R. 10915), which would fund nongame programs through excise taxes (such an on bird seed and binoculars) is also opposed by OMB. It is truly a Catch 22 situation.

Mr. Marlenee also is concerned that the Section 9(a) requiring federal-state coordinate to the maximum extent practicable would lead to land-use implications and adverse effect on farming and ranching. Since condemnation to purchase land for habitat is not authorized, it is difficult to understand that any land, unless under full control (usually full ownership) of a resource agency, would be affected.

The companion bill (S. 1140) has passed the Senate. Let Representatives Ron Marlenee and Max Baucus know your feelings. Each may be addressed at House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

- Jim Phelps, Yellowstone Audubon Society
(8/78 issue Yellowstone Valley Flyer)

NATIONAL AUDUBON DUES INCREASE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1978: National Audubon Society dues will be increased Sept. 1 and a new system of figuring the chapter's share of the dues will go into effect at the same time. Under the new schedule student and senior citizen individual memberships will be raised to \$13.50; individual membership to \$18; and family to \$21. All other categories will remain at their present level.

Edward H. Harte, chairman of the board, stated:

"The National Audubon Society shares about one-third of the membership dues with its local chapters, and pays virtually all the costs of promoting new memberships, processing, and reporting monthly to chapters. To my knowledge no other similar organization provides such a substantial percentage for local efforts. In addition, every member receives the bi-monthly publication, Audubon, at the society's expense. The balance of the dues is applied toward the acquisition and maintenance of Audubon sanctuaries, centers, camps, support of regional offices, legislative efforts in Washington, research, and other operation and services of the society."

"The last membership dues increase was in 1974. Since then inflation has eroded the real-dollar value of our membership income by approximately 40%. To maintain the society's programs, the board of directors has had to resort to deficit budgets (during which time, however, the net worth of the society has continued to grow somewhat through generous capital gifts and bequests)."

"In approving the 1978-79 budget, the board of directors has adopted a plan to return to a balanced budget by 1981. To achieve this goal, to continue its unique dues-sharing partnership with chapters, and to keep the society in the forefront as a leading environmental organization, the board of directors voted to increase membership dues and realign chapter shares. The individual dues are increased by only 20%."

"I can assure you that all the fat has been cut out of the 1978-79 budget. Any further cuts would adversely affect the society's effectiveness. In the inflationary climate in which we operate there is no alternative to this increase in dues."

- Audubon Leader (7-28-78)

THE SNAIL DARTER IS MY BROTHER: "The snail darter isn't all that may be destroyed if the valley behind the Tellico Dam is flooded. Following, in slightly abridged form, is a statement delivered last month before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee by Jimmie Durham, director of the International Treaty Council:"

"I am a Cherokee. In the language of my people, there is a word for land: Eloheh. This same word also means history, culture, and religion. We cannot separate our place on the earth from our lives on the earth nor from our vision and our meaning as a people. We are taught from childhood that the animals and even the trees and plants that we share a place with are our brothers and sisters.

"The Cherokee people lived for thousands of years in what is now Tennessee, Georgia, and Carolina. In our own history we teach that we were created there, which is truer than anthropological truth because it was there that we were given our vision as the Cherokee people. But President Jackson illegally drove us out of that land, from Echota, the center of our world.

"There is no Cherokee alive who does not remember that Trail of Tears, who does not remember and revere that sacred land and Echota.

"Today the Tennessee Valley Authority plans to flood the sacred valley that held our two principal cities, Echota and Tenasi, after which the state is named. The Tellico Project, with its un-needed dam, would destroy an area of great religious importance, many settlement sites, cemeteries, rich farmlands, forests, and the river itself. The anthropologists have dug up some bones and some pottery at Echota and TVA tells us that we can visit those bones at a museum. But the spirits of our ancestors are not in a museum.

They live in the pine and hickory and walnut trees and in those free-running creeks and rivers.

"The flooding of our old valley has been stopped temporarily because of a little fish that lives there and nowhere else. Many people have made fun of this little fish and I would like to ask why it is considered so humorously insignificant. Because it is little, or because it is a fish? This incredible arrogance towards other life has caused great destruction in this country. To me, that little fish is not just an abstract "endangered species", although it is that. It is a Cherokee fish and I am its brother. Somehow, it has acted to save my holy land so I have a strong gratitude for that fish.

"The Cherokee people in Tennessee, Oklahoma, the Carolinas, Georgia and wherever we might be, are of one voice and of one mind that this dam, this degradation, be stopped. We want our universe, our Eloheh, with all of its fish and all of its life to continue. And, we are sure that this cannot be against the interests and wishes of the American people."

-Audubon Leader, 7/14/78 issue

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE SULLIVANS:

Dear Friends: Because I have accepted work in the Bozeman area, Karen and I will be gone before the first meeting this fall. Although we are looking forward to the challenge of new work and becoming involved in a new community we leave the Flathead with some sadness. We have become involved in the area's stresses and pressures and in its beauty and peace. We will not forget it with our move. We have had the privilege of developing many warm friendships. These too will not be forgotten. Being involved with the Lower Flathead Valley Bird Club and then the growth and development of the Audubon Chapter will always remain a special part of our lives.

With our leaving a new newsletter editor and a membership chairman will be required. These are both important positions for the proper function of the chapter. They cannot expect to be filled by members doing other chapter work unless their work is taken on by someone else. For our chapter to be the most effective possible the work load must be distributed among as many people as practical. This stimulates interest and involvement throughout the membership and prevents over work and disenchantment of those responsible for the chapter leadership. Any help is valued, please participate. It increases interest, enjoyment, knowledge, and is rewarding far beyond the time and effort expended.

Election of officers and board members will be in December. A nominations committee is needed to submit candidates names before November 1st so that they can be placed in the November newsletter. Please try to help out.

To all of you, our farewell and best of luck in the future years. Dan Sullivan

1978 Directory: Rick Trembath, President, E. Lake Shore, Bigfork, Mont. 59911, Ph. 837-6298
Elly Jones, Vice-President, Swan Lake, Mt. Ph. 886-3491
Barbara Fenner, Secretary, 136 5th Ave. E., Kalispell, Ph. 755-0560
Nancy Trembath, Treasurer, E. Lake Shore, Bigfork, Ph. 837-6298
Board of Directors: Daniel Sullivan, Elmer Sprunger, Wanda Jamieson, Marcy Bishop
Newsletter Editor: Daniel Sullivan Membership: Karen Sullivan

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

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