



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER, 1980

The Flathead Chapter of the Audubon Society meets on the second Monday of each month in the meeting room below the Flathead Bank of Bigfork. The business meeting begins at 7:30 and the program at 8:00.

THE BIG DAY IS COMING

The Christmas Bird Count will be on Dec. 20th this year and will be the focus of the December Audubon meeting. The Bird Count covers the area within a 7.5 mi. radius of the Little Brown Church (a bit north of the area in the past in order to include more river habitat and less lake!). If you are planning on participating in the field, consider making a test run a few days ahead of time to check the roads and look for especially promising sites.

NEW BIRDERS PLEASE NOTE: The Christmas Bird Count is an excellent opportunity to start birding. There are lots of skilled birders going out to team up with. We'll get organized for the count at the December meeting and have lots of help for newcomers so be sure and attend.

And don't forget the Pot Luck Dinner after the count. It will get started at dusk so bring your bird tally and that big appetite you worked up in the field (along with your special dish and table service) to the Bigfork Methodist Church, one block east of the high school.



WANAGAN

Watch for legal notices of application for approval of the revised Wanagan Development by the Planning Commission. IF presented the last week in December, as expected, there will be a public hearing the second week in January, with a deadline for major referrals before January 7th and for general comments before January 14th.

RESOLUTIONS AT DECEMBER MEETING

Two organizations are seeking the support of the Flathead Audubon Society, and because of approaching deadlines we will vote on resolutions to support them at the Dec. meeting. If you are unable to attend and wish to have a say in these matters, please mark the ballots below and mail them to the local chapter before Dec. 6th.

Flathead Lake Protective Fund
(Caroline Point Estates)

On Nov. 3, the county granted the 28-acre Caroline Point Estates, former site of Elks Rest in Lakeside, a preliminary zoning of Planned Unit Development. This means they will be limited to the number of units proposed (84 living units with 64 boat slips), but there will be no minimum lot or building size, and that the sewer system is not subject to State review. The protest period ends 30 days from the legal notice of preliminary zoning (between Nov. 3 and 10).

The Flathead Lake Protection Fund has been organized to raise funds for legal fees in an effort to retain the present zoning designation of R-2. Their purpose is not to stop Caroline Point Estates, but to push for a less dense development with full State agency review. (Contact Barbara Bennett at 837-6100 or 844-3592 for further information.)

Coalition for Canyon Preservation

On Oct. 10, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled to ban further construction of the four-lane highway being built at the Canyon entrance to Glacier National Park until the defendants (DOT, FHWA, & MDOH) can show that their present plans comply fully with environmental laws. The Coalition for Canyon Preservation believes that they will be unable to do so for the following reasons: the National Park Service recently determined GNP to be the most threatened of all our National Parks, in part due to destruction of protective buffer zones by external encroachments. The Coalition believes the Canyon area provides such a zone between the urbanization of Flathead Valley and the area that includes GNP, the Great Bear Wilderness, and the Flathead Wild and Scenic River. The Canyon area also touches two grizzly bear management areas.

It is hoped that the Court decision will cause the agencies involved to recognize the threat of encroachment to the Park, the Coalition plans to retain an attorney to work with MDOH on a new Environmental Impact Statement, (Contact Sharlon Willows at 387-5872 for further information.)

Resolution - Flathead Lake Protection Fund (Caroline Point Estates) for _____ against _____	Resolution - Coalition for Canyon Preservation for _____ against _____
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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
FLATHRAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

General Instructions

1. There is a participation fee of \$1.50 for every count participant. This is to help pay the cost of publishing the Christmas Bird Count issue of American Birds.
2. Dawn-to- dusk counts are more valuable than shorter ones. Please try to spend the whole day either in the field or watching your feeder.
3. All claims for exotic and unusual species, even those species common other times of the year, must be accompanied by a full description of all marks actually observed, including size, shape and color pattern, voice (if heard), behavior and habitat. Give the location, date, time, weather, light, distance, optical equipment and names of observers. Photographs help.
4. List birds seen in count area during count week but not seen count day. The count week includes only the three days before and the three days after count day.
5. Indicate the numbers of birds seen. Do not use a check mark.

<u>Common loon</u>	<u>Ruffed grouse</u>	<u>Pygmy nuthatch</u>
<u>Horned grebe</u>	<u>Ring-necked pheasant</u>	<u>Brown creeper</u>
<u>grebe sp.</u>	<u>Gray partridge</u>	<u>Dipper</u>
<u>Great blue heron</u>	<u>Turkey</u>	<u>Winter wren</u>
<u>Whistling swan</u>	<u>American coot</u>	<u>Long-billed marsh wren</u>
<u>Canada goose</u>	<u>Ring-billed gull</u>	<u>American robin</u>
<u>Mallard</u>	<u>Gull sp.</u>	<u>Townsend's solitaire</u>
<u>Pintail</u>	<u>Rock dove</u>	<u>Golden-crowned kinglet</u>
<u>Green-winged teal</u>	<u>Mourning dove</u>	<u>Bohemian waxwing</u>
<u>American wigeon</u>	<u>Great horned owl</u>	<u>Northern shrike</u>
<u>Northern shoveler</u>	<u>Pygmy owl</u>	<u>Starling</u>
<u>Redhead</u>	<u>Short-eared owl</u>	<u>House sparrow</u>
<u>Canvasback</u>	<u>Belted kingfisher</u>	<u>Red-winged blackbird</u>
<u>Lesserscaup</u>	<u>Common flicker</u>	<u>Brewer's blackbird</u>
<u>Common goldeneye</u>	<u>Pileated woodpecker</u>	<u>Evening grosbeak</u>
<u>Barrow's goldeneye</u>	<u>Hairy woodpecker</u>	<u>Cassin's finch</u>
<u>Bufflehead</u>	<u>Black-backed 3-toed</u>	<u>Pine grosbeak</u>
<u>Hooded merganser</u>	<u>woodpecker</u>	<u>Common redpoll</u>
<u>Common merganser</u>	<u>Northern 3-toed</u>	<u>Pine siskin</u>
<u>Goshawk</u>	<u>woodpecker</u>	<u>Red crossbill</u>
<u>Sharp-shinned hawk</u>	<u>Gray jay</u>	<u>White-winged crossbill</u>
<u>Cooper's hawk</u>	<u>Blue jay</u>	<u>Slate-colored junco</u>
<u>Accipiter sp.</u>	<u>Steller's jay</u>	<u>Oregon junco</u>
<u>Red-tailed hawk</u>	<u>Black-billed magpie</u>	<u>Tree sparrow</u>
<u>Rough-legged hawk</u>	<u>Common raven</u>	<u>Song sparrow</u>
<u>Buteo sp.</u>	<u>Common crow</u>	<u>Snow bunting</u>
<u>Golden eagle</u>	<u>Clark's nutcracker</u>	<u>Other _____</u>
<u>Bald eagle-adult</u>	<u>Black-capped chickadee</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>immature</u>	<u>Chestnut-backed chickadee</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Marsh hawk</u>	<u>Mountain chickadee</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Prairie falcon</u>	<u>White-breasted nuthatch</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Merlin</u>	<u>Red-breasted nuthatch</u>	<u>_____</u>

Other wildlife seen _____

Comments _____

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT _ 1980

Names of people in your party _____

Hours spent as feeder watcher _____

Hours spent as field observers and miles covered:

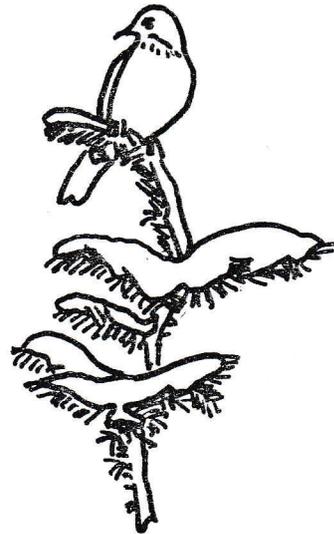
Driving _____ miles _____ hours	Snowshoeing _____ miles _____ hours
Walking _____ miles _____ hours	Canoeing _____ miles _____ hours
Skiing _____ miles _____ hours	Other _____ miles _____ hours

Did your party split into groups? _____ If so, indicate miles and hours as above for each group.

If you spent time before dawn looking for owls, indicate number of hours _____.

THE LEGEND OF THE ROBIN

An old legend tells of how a robin kept the Christ child warm that cold Christmas night by fanning the fire by the manger with his wings. The robin's breast became a deep red from the glowing heat of the flames, a blessed badge of honor which he's carried since that holy night.



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