



# The Pileated Post

Volume 5, Number 1

January, 1981

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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 30      Riley McClellan lecture on his bald eagle research program  
7:00pm      Swan Lake Club House
- Jan. 31      Field trip - Swan Refuge (with the refuge manager) 9 am, Swan Chapel  
Contact Elly Jones to see if walking or cross-country skiing.  
There will be further spur-of-the-moment Saturday field trips as  
interest and weather permit.
- Natural Resources Lecture Series at Flathead Valley Comm. College  
each Tues, 7-10, Rm. 15, Glacier Hall - no fee
- Feb. 3      WILDLIFE - Mike Aderhold and Frank Singer
- Feb. 10      OIL & GAS
- Feb. 17      ENERGY
- Feb. 24      MINERAL RESOURCES
- Feb. 9      Monthly meeting - Guest, Mike Aderhold will present a slide program  
on Birds and Small Mammals of Eastern Montana
- Mar. 9      Monthly meeting - Guest, Ursula Mattson, will present a program on  
the Mountain Goats of Glacier National Park.

## RESULTS OF RESOLUTIONS

At the December meeting the resolution to support the Flathead Lake Protection Fund (Caroline Point Estates) was voted down. However, individual support was suggested. Financial or other contributions are being handled by Barbara Bennetts, Box 4, Lakeside, MT 59922.

It was decided to support the Coalition for Canyon Preservation. Letters of concern should be addressed to the new Director of Highways, Gary Wicks in Helena.

As of the December meeting, Flathead Audubon is officially opposed to the Wanigan development. To this end, it was voted at the January meeting to contribute \$200 to the Flathead Wildlife Defense Fund. Further contributions may be sent to the Fund at Box 4, Kalispell, MT. (A mini-field trip in the Wanigan area on January 17, resulted in the sighting of 15 species, including an immature bald eagle.)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

Twenty-eight people participated in the seventh annual Bigfork Christmas Count Saturday, December 20. The participants spent a total of 24 hours watching feeders, 60 hours walking 47.5 miles, and 23 hours driving 187.5 miles in a 7.5-mile radius around the Little Brown Church. They counted 3906 birds representing 68 species.

Individual species counts were as follows:

Common loon	2	Ring-billed gull	16	Dipper	7
Red-necked grebe	1	Gull spp.	2	Winter wren	1
Great blue heron	4	Rock dove	82	Long-billed	
Whistling swan	21	Mourning dove	1	marsh wren	2
Canada goose	602	Great-horned owl	1	Robin	2
Mallard	596	Pygmy owl	1	Golden-crowned	
Gadwall	7	Belted kingfisher	4	kinglet	83
American wigeon	1	Common flicker	30	Bohemian waxwing	121
Common goldeneye	86	Pileated woodpcker	6	Northern shrike	3
Barrow's goldeneye	6	Hairy woodpcker	12	Starling	56
Ruddy duck	2	Downy woodpcker	22	House Sparrow	109
Common merganser	34	Red-headed woodpcker	1	Red-wgd blkbird	218
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	Gray jay	1	Evening grosbeak	164
Cooper's hawk	1	Black-billed magpie	65	Pine grosbeak	3
Rough-legged hawk	15	Common raven	25	Common redpoll	476
Golden eagle	1	Common crow	9	Pine siskin	182
Bald eagle	17(16a, 1i)	Black-capped chkadee	245	Am. goldfinch	13
Marsh hawk	5	Chestnut-backed chkadee	3	Red crossbill	52
Ruffed grouse	9	Mountain chkadee	33	Wh-winged crossbill	6
Sharp-tailed grouse	9	Wh-breasted nuthatch	1	Dark-eyed junco	81
Ring-necked pheasant	23	Red-breasted nuthatch	102	Tree sparrow	7
Turkey	165	Pygmy nuthatch	6	Song sparrow	9
Killdeer	1	Brown creeper	2	Snow bunting	32

Gray partridge were seen during count week, but not count day.

A LETTER FOR YOU

Dear Auduboners,

Gail Bissell and I are serving as organizers and contact people for Audubon members during the 1981 legislative session. We are acting as the coordinating staff in Helena for the Montana Audubon Council. If you have any questions or need any information don't hesitate to call or write us -- we are here to help!

I would like to remind members that the Council must continue to raise funds to maintain legislative efforts - especially to pay for those phone calls! Please have any contributions sent to the Environmental Information Center, Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624. Make sure to note that the contribution is for the Audubon legislative effort.

If you have a particular interest in legislative action, I encourage you to join the Environmental Information Center. E.I.C. puts out a bi-weekly legislative update on environmental issues. This is an excellent source of information - and the most complete one available. Individual memberships are \$15/yr.

And finally, if you are willing to come to Helena and testify on the Nongame Funding Bill or any other legislative Audubon favors, please let Gael or I know. That's all for now.

phone - 443-2520 or  
442-1488

Sincerely,  
Janet Ellis  
Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

NONGAME WILDLIFE BILL

There is a bill before the legislature to provide funds for nongame wildlife (excluding predators) programs. The 1973 Montana Nongame & Endangered Species Act requires the state to manage nongame wildlife "for human enjoyment, for scientific purposes & to ensure their perpetration as members of ecosystems." However no funding source was provided, so funding has come primarily from sportsmen's licensing fees. But there are little funds budgeted this year and none in 1982!

The current bill provides for a check-off box allowing Montanans to contribute \$5, \$10, or more from their state income tax returns or by adding the amount to their taxes being paid. Based on similar programs in other states, Montana can expect to raise \$75,000.

Program possibilities include (1) the continuation of raptor surveys; (2) more information gathering and regulation of falcons taken for falconry: the pressure on falcons is increasing due to the rising market value of birds as a result of the demand for falcons in other countries; (3) an inventory and publication of Montana's reptiles and amphibians; (4) information gathering on animals of special interest and concern to Montanans, such as Osprey, Hoary Marmot, Golden Eagle, Northern Bog Lemming, Pileated Woodpecker, Long-Eared Owl, Wood Frog, and many more.

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Legislative Council Public Information Office - for hearing dates, times, and locations, copies of bills, status of bills - TOLL FREE - 1-800-332-3408.

Legislators

Letters & telegrams: Senator \_\_\_\_\_ or Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
Capitol Station, Helena, MT 57601  
Telephone - Legislative Information and Message Center - 1-406-449-4800

Governor's Office

Letters and Telegrams - Gov. Ted Schwinden (or) Lt. Gov. George Turman  
Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59601  
Telephones - 1-406-449-3111 1-406-449-3773

1981 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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Program - Rick Trembath, 6065 Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911.....837-6298  
Field Trips - Ellie Jones, Swan Lake Rt, Bigfork, MT 59911.....886-2244  
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Librarian - Helen Dresden, Box 90, Lakeside, MT 59922.....884-3559  
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