



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4, APRIL, 1982

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*** APRIL ***

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

Board meeting, 6:30 P.M., Flathead Bank of Big Fork

Regular meeting of Flathead Audubon Society will be held in the downstairs meeting room of the Flathead Bank of Big Fork. The business meeting is at 7:30 P.M. and the program begins at 8:00 P.M. Ron Cooper, director of the Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study, will present a program on the 5-year study that is currently in its fourth year.

U of M Wildlife Society 5th Annual International Wildlife Film Festival, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

**** MAY ****

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Spring Montana Audubon Council meeting, Great Falls, Montana. Missouri Breaks Audubon Society is the host chapter. Activities will begin with a Friday evening get-together at 6:00 P.M. at the Montana Power Company Ryan Dam Clubhouse. Saturday activities will be at the Rainbow Hotel, 1st Avenue North and 3rd St., downtown Great Falls. C. Eugene Knoder, Director of the Department of Wildlife Affairs, National Audubon Society, Washington D.C. will

be the luncheon speaker. Jerry Berner will have a presentation on the Missouri Breaks and Scenic River. Keith Colbo of the Northwest Power Planning Council will tell how to protect wildlife and fisheries in this day of power development. Gus Wolfe, noted Great Falls photographer, will present a slide program Saturday evening on raptors. The field trip Sunday will be to Benton Lake Refuge, north of Great Falls. Contact Dave Hudak for further information- phone Kalispell 755-3752.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND CROWN BUTTE

Many of you recently received an appeal from The Nature Conservancy for financial support for the Crown Butte Fund. The Conservancy attempts to preserve the very best of Montana's natural heritage through private action. This is usually done by directly acquiring the last of the best natural areas for inclusion in their nationwide system of nature preserves.

Their latest project is Crown Butte west of Great Falls. The butte is one of the largest remaining pristine prairie habitats in Montana. Unlike most areas, the butte's 376 acres are covered with robust native grasses that have never been grazed by livestock. The rough fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and green needle grass are thigh high. Beneath these tall grasses many wildflowers are found. Crown Butte's grassland ecosystem is also rich wildlife habitat. It provides rangeland for deer and antelope, while Western Meadowlarks, Vesper Sparrows, and Common Nighthawks nest in the grasses. Golden Eagles, Cooper's Hawks, Great Horned Owls, and Prairie Falcons hunt the butte. The Red Breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin perch in the limber pine which crest the rimrock.

As individual National Audubon members we frequently receive appeals for financial support from various conservation organizations or causes. Seldom would a donation produce such a tangible result as it would to The Nature Conservancy and the Crown Butte Fund. Seldom also is the supported result so close to our own backyard. Everyone is encouraged to donate. With a pledge of \$10 or more to the Crown Butte campaign you will become an automatic member of The Nature Conservancy and receive their bimonthly publication for one year. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be sent along with any questions to:

The Nature Conservancy
Big Sky Field Office
104 West Broadway
P.O. Box 258
Helena, Mt. 59624

Make checks payable to the Nature Conservancy Crown Butte Fund.

We are all encouraged to support this effort. Recent reports are that approximately \$13,000 has been pledged, with approximately \$37,000 remaining.



LATILOG GUIDE FOR AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, AND MAMMALS

Larry Thompson, a member of the Last Chance Audubon Society of Helena, has put together a DISTRIBUTION OF MONTANA AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, AND MAMMALS: PRELIMINARY MAPPING BY LATILOGS. Larry's work is patterned after that used by P.D. Skaar for birds. Last Chance Audubon Society is assisting Larry with the payment of publication costs. Any Audubon member will be able to purchase the latilog guide for \$2.00 while bookstore prices are set at \$2.95. Copies will be available at the spring Audubon Council meeting at Great Falls.

SAGEBRUSH REBELLION REINCARNATED

The cry of the Sagebrush Rebels is being heard again and this time the cry is more serious and extreme than ever before. There is a growing mood among highlevel politicians and administration officials that selling vast amounts of public lands is the proper approach to pay off the national debt. This attempt to "privatize" public land is being led by Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois and Representative Larry Winn of Kansas and is supported by a growing number of legislators and Sagebrush Rebellion leaders in the Rocky Mountain West. While this shortsighted approach is not necessarily threatening vast areas of our public lands, it is fair to say that such an approach could very likely "snowball" out of control.

During economically precarious times and when the federal budget is top news, any approach that at first glance appears to be a relief could be appealing to the average citizen. Rather than selling our land to pay our debts, let's urge that revenue structures for user fees be improved to reflect fair market value. For those of us who are aware of the many values of public lands, this is a crucial time to be vocal.

Write our legislators and urge that they not support Senator Percy's Resolution 231 or Representative Winn's Resolution 265.

from the Regional and Last Chance Audubon newsletters

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2644)

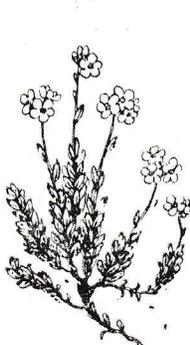
Senator Max Baucus
Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
202-224-2651)

Mr. Pat Williams, M.C.
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3211

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS 'DIRTY AIR' BILL

The Reagan Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency have enthusiastically greeted a package of Clean Air changes which would, in the words of Senator Max Baucus "steamline clean air right out of existence." H.R. 5252, the Dingell-Broyhill bill, does nothing to control acid rain or toxic air pollution. It would weaken auto emission standards, allow more pollution in national parks and wildernesses, delay health standard deadlines and remove the teeth from federal enforcement programs. Although touted as "middle-of-the-road," H.R. 5252 is viewed by many as a radical rewrite that could block progress toward cleaner air, although some industries feel it does not go far enough. The debate begun in March 1981 over amendments to the ten-year air quality law will accelerate this spring, as panels in both houses hope to submit language for floor consideration.

from National Wildlife Digest



AUDUBON FIELD SEMINARS & YELLOWSTONE INSTITUTE

Following is a list of field seminars offered during this upcoming year by the National Audubon Society:

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| June 12-20, 1982 | Nature Photography - Wind River Mountains and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming |
| June 12-16, 1982 | Our Environment and the American Legal System - Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming |
| August 15-27, 1982 | Wind River Mountains Natural History Backpack - Bridger Wilderness, Wyoming |
| November 20-28, 1982 | Ornithology Field Tour - Colima, Mexico |
| January 8-14, 1983 | Winter Ecology / Ski Tour - Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming |

Also available this summer are courses offered by The Yellowstone Institute. Subject matter will cover such areas of study as zoology, plant life, geology, ecology, history, and literature. All courses are conducted at the historic Buffalo Ranch at the Lamar Ranger Station in the northeast portion of Yellowstone National Park. Most of the five-day courses may be taken for college level academic credit if desired. Further information concerning Audubon seminars or Yellowstone Institute courses may be obtained by writing to:

Yellowstone Institute
555 South Roberts
Helena, Montana 59601
406-443-0861

Seminars
National Audubon Society
4150 Darley, Suite 5
Boulder, Colorado 80303



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIGFORK.MONTANA 59911

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Dave Hudak - President
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