



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 8, DECEMBER, 1982

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

---DECEMBER---

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	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	31	

Regular meeting of Flathead Audubon Society will be held in the downstairs meeting room of the Flathead Bank of Big Fork. A Board of Directors meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. The regular meeting at 7:30 P.M. will be devoted primarily to election of officers for 1983 and the planning of the 1982 Big Fork Christmas Bird Count. A short film about birds of prey titled, "Spirits On The Wing" will also be shown.

Big Fork Christmas Bird Count and Pot Luck Dinner. Dinner will begin at approximately 5:30 P.M. at a location to be announced.

---JANUARY---

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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 a 7:30 P.M., while the program begins at 8:00P.M. Cal Tassinari, wilderness specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, will present a program on wilderness ethic.



BIG FORK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1982 Big Fork Christmas Bird Count will be held December 18, 1982. The Christmas count is generally the high point of Flathead Audubon activity and is an event in which everyone should participate. Probably the most common comment made about the count is about how much fun it is. It is an event that is enjoyed by beginning, intermediate, and advanced birders. The upcoming December meeting of Flathead Audubon will be devoted almost entirely to planning the count. Anyone wishing to participate, but unable to attend the meeting, should contact Jean Robocker--Kalispell--755-2751. If unable to count in the field, one may count at their feeders. The count results will be compiled at a pot luck dinner the evening of December 18. Everyone come and enjoy!!

Enclosed in this issue is a map of the Big Fork Count area and a list of possible count species. Please use this form to record count results.

POACHING SKYROCKETS WHEN MINERS MOVE IN

It was reported in a recent article in National Wildlife that whole herds of deer, elk, and pronghorn have been wiped out by miners and oil drillers in remote mountain communities of the American West, and state fish and game agencies have been unable to respond.

According to Stephen H. Berwick, chief scientist with a California-based environmental consulting firm, poaching levels have increased 50 times normal in some areas where energy developers have moved into unpopulated wilderness. As a result, Berwick states, local populations of animals are being completely destroyed. Berwick studied the problem extensively while preparing an environmental impact statement for the Defense Department on a proposed military construction project.

State fish and game agencies are hampered by lack of statistical evidence but enforcement officers confirm the problem. "It's my feeling that the influx of transient types of workers dramatically increases the poaching rate, but most of what I'm going on is gut feeling, not data," says Kris Moser, Chief of Wildlife Law Enforcement at the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Elsewhere, specific horror stories tell a tale of their own. In one Nevada mining town, a single miner killed 63 deer in one year, according to a report from that state's fish and game department. And in a Wyoming county, game violations jumped 1000 percent following a surge in oil and uranium mining in the mid-seventies, according to the Harry Harju of Wyoming's Game and Fish Department.

Berwick's data provides the first overview of the problem. Among construction workers in several different kinds of rapid-growth areas, he found those on energy development projects had the highest rate of poaching. In one Colorado mining county, poaching is so out of control it could--in theory--kill up to 563,000 animals in a ten-year period.

State fish and game departments are "nearly powerless in the face of the poaching problem," says Berwick, because they don't have the manpower or the funds to stop the poaching, and because the high levels of poaching haven't been adequately documented. "And if the magnitude of the problem isn't documented, fish and game officers can't justify requests for more money to enforce the law," he says.

The relationship between poaching and energy development is a particularly urgent problem because of new development in places like the Overthrust Belt of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Some of those areas contain the most productive deer herds in the country, according to Wyoming's Game and Fish Department. "If we don't try to mitigate these impacts--through enforcement or education--we'll lose control of the resource," says Berwick.

-- Virginia Quinn

CALL FOR BIRD FEEDER AND HOUSE DESIGNS

Dr. Stephen W. Kress, author of The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders, is beginning work on a new book about attracting birds to homemade feeders, houses, and watering sites. Tentatively titled The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds, the new book will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses, and baths. Dr. Kress has asked for help in finding improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats, and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, The Living Bird Quarterly. The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles. Detailed plans with measurements and photographs if available should be sent to:

Dr. Stephen W. Kress
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

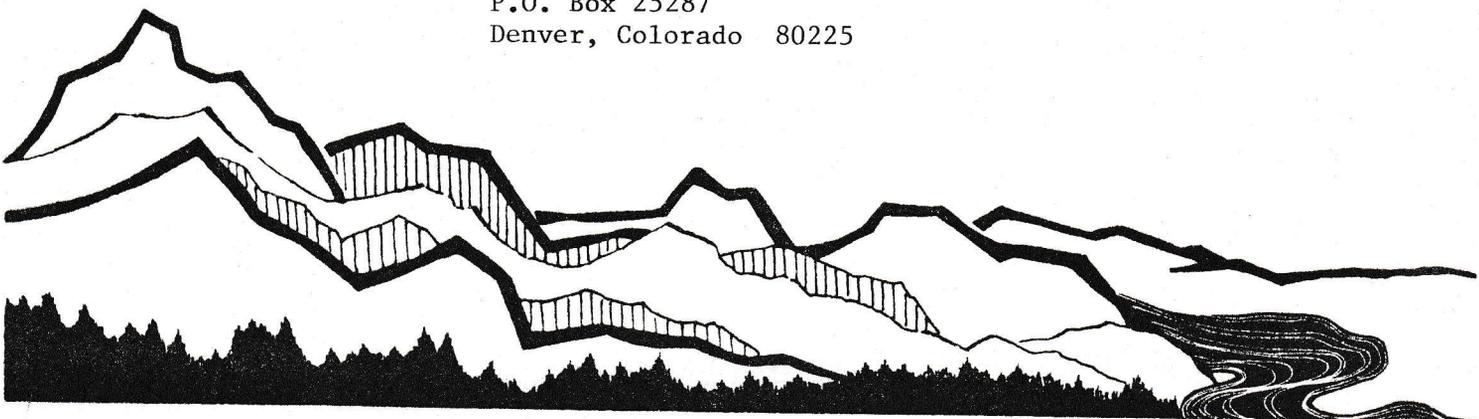
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Glacier National Park is beginning a planning process to formulate development concept plans for four use areas in the Park:

1. North Fork
2. Lake McDonald Lodge Complex Area
3. St. Mary - Rising Sun Complex Area
4. Many Glacier Complex Area

Presently these plans are in the formation stage where input and data is being collected. Anyone interested in the use of these areas should involve themselves in this planning process. Input and comments will be accepted until approximately January 1, 1983. To review and discuss the plan alternatives contact Alan O'Neil, assistant superintendent, at Park Headquarters, West Glacier, 888-5441. Maps of plan alternatives will also be available at the upcoming December regular meeting of Flathead Audubon. Comments on the plans should be sent to:

Howie Thompson, TMW
Denver Service Center
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

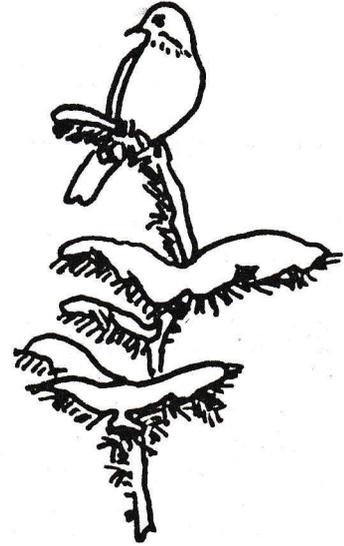


JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Due to the Christmas and New Year Holiday and scheduling problems there will be no January newsletter. The next regular newsletter will be the February, 1983, issue. Please note the date of the January regular meeting under "Calendar of Events." We wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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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