



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2, MARCH, 1983

CALENDAR OR EVENTS

---MARCH-----

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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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 at 7:30 P.M., while the program begins at 8:00 P.M. Jim Chaffin, a falconer from Missoula, will present a program on raptors. Jim will be bringing at least a gyrfalcon and perhaps other birds. He has 22 years experience with falconry, and is one of the founders of the Montana Wildlife Medical Fund, a wildlife rehabilitation

center at Stevensville. The center treats approximately 100 injured animals per year, of which about 40 are raptors.

BIRDS OF THE SWAN RIVER REFUGE

A bird list of the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge was recently released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 1,568 acre refuge provides a variety of wildlife habitats and supports at least 171 species of birds. The Swan River NWR was adopted by Flathead Audubon in 1981 under the Audubon Society's "Adopt-A-Refuge Program." The bird list was the result of much help from Ellie Jones and several other Flathead Audubon Society members. Flathead Audubon member Robin Magaddino is refuge manager for Swan River NWR. Copies of the bird list can be obtained by contacting Dave Hudak--Kalispell--755-3752.

JEWEL BASIN APPEAL

Last fall the U.S. Forest Service made a surprise announcement recommending that the Jewel Basin Hiking Area be leased for oil and gas development. The Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association, joined by Flathead Audubon and Flathead Wildlife, sent an appeal of that decision to Regional Forester Tom Coston. That appeal is presently before Max Peterson, Chief of the Forest Service. Anyone wishing further information on this matter should contact John Gatchell--Columbia Falls--892-3543.

RAPTOR OBSERVATIONS

The Montana Bald Eagle Working Group has begun a raptor observation program in Montana, and has asked Flathead Audubon members to help. Information on sightings of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons are primarily wanted, except on refuges, where all sightings of raptors are requested. Observation data will be computerized, and quarterly a printout mapping raptor sightings in the state will be sent to participants. Observation cards can be obtained from, and sighting information should be sent to:

Robin Magaddino
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Northwest Montana Fish and Wildlife Center
 780 Creston Hatchery Road
 Kalispell, Montana 59901
 Phone 755-7870

RAPTOR OBSERVATION CARD

Species: _____

Observer: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ T. ____ R. ____ Sec: ____ 1/4: ____

No. Observed _____ Age Class: adult * _____
 immature * _____ unclassified _____

Habitat: _____

Comments: _____

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR RAPTOR OBSERVATION CARD

- Species** — common name of species observed
- Observer** — last name of person reporting the wildlife observation
- Date** — date of observation
- Time** — time of observation (24 hr)
- Location** — general location, i.e., Bigflat, Blackfoot River, etc., and legal description to 1/4 sec.
- No. Observed** — number of species seen at location
- Age Class** — when possible, report number of birds in each age class
- Habitat** — habitat in (or over) which the raptor was seen or obviously using
- Comments** — report on feeding observations, direction of flight path, any markers on raptors, specific activity such as perched, roosting, etc.

Under HABITAT please indicate if riparian or away from water; and if perched, the type of tree (conifer, deciduous, snag, pole, etc.). Sightings of marked birds should be reported immediately, while other sightings can be reported any-time.

The Montana Bald Eagle Working Group is made up of wildlife representatives from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Burlington Northern, Inc..

NON-GAME "WATCHABLE WILDLIFE"

At the time of this writing the Non-Game Bill before the Montana State Legislature had been passed by the State House of Representatives. The bill which provides for a non-game funding check-off on the state income tax form has yet to pass the Montana State Senate. A companion bill to establish a state non-game advisory board failed to leave committee, and is therefore dead for this session. Information on legislative activities and status of bills before the legislature can be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-332-3408. Messages for legislators can be left by calling non toll-free 449-4800. Information on the Non-Game Bill can be obtained locally by calling Janet Hess--Kalispell--257-6645.

BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE

At the February regular meeting a motion was passed that Flathead Audubon join the Bob Marshall Alliance. The Alliance is a wide group of conservation organizations and individual Montanans dedicated to securing the wild future of the Bob Marshall country. The Alliance is presently putting together a proposal for a Bob Marshall Completion Bill. The proposal would consolidate under wilderness designation appropriate wildlands bordering the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Areas being investigated are Deep Creek, the Rocky Mountain Front, Clearwater, Monture, Falls Creek, Silver King, and the Swan Range. Information about the Alliance can be obtained by contacting John Gatchell--Columbia Falls--892-3543.



APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND
FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership includes AUDUBON Magazine and THE PILEATED POST

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____	_____ Individual.....\$25/yr
ADDRESS _____	_____ Family.....\$32/yr
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____	_____ Student.....\$15/yr
	_____ Senior (over 65).\$17/yr
	_____ Senior Family....\$19/yr

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:
Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 715
Big Fork, Montana 59911

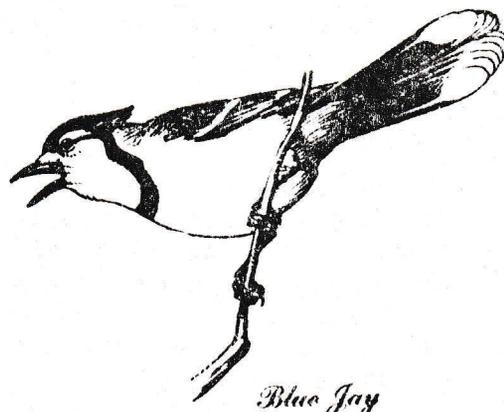
BLUE JAY

For the last two months an unusual visitor to bird feeders in the Woods Bay area has been a Blue Jay. Unfortunately it was absent during the more severe weather of the Big Fork Christmas Bird Count. The Blue Jay is the only bright blue and white bird with a crest. The combination of its spirited, aggressive ways and loud, varied calls gives the species a highly distinctive character.

The Blue Jay has many calls and cries. Two of the most common are JAY, JAY and its loud CLA, CLA, CLA, CLA. Another sounds somewhat like the call of a red-shouldered hawk. The jay also has a pleasant whistled TEA-CUP, TEA-CUP note, a TULL-ULL note, and a "creaking wheelbarrow" call note in which the bird twice raises and twice lowers its head. It also utters a KUK, KUK, KUK sound, a pebbly growl, and a series of bell-like notes.

The blue jay has a seldom-heard song, usually uttered when the bird is well hidden. It is a subdued mixture of sweet low notes and whistles remotely suggesting a robin, mockingbird, or goldfinch. But for a hundred persons who recognize its calls, hardly one has heard this song.

Like most jays, the blue eats almost anything edible. Department of Agriculture biologists have found that about 25 percent of its food is animal and 75 percent vegetable in origin. The animal food consists largely of insects. Sometimes a jay will eat a small fish, salamander, tree frog, or mouse. Very rarely will it take a bird. Its former reputation as a robber of birds' eggs and nests seems to have been exaggerated. It loves to eat acorns and also hides and stores them.

*Blue Jay*

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIGFORK.MONTANA 59911

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