







The Pileated Post

VOLUME 8

NUMBER 3

MARCH 1984

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1984		MARCH							1984	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT				
 NM 2	 FQ 10	 FM 17	 LQ 24	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				

Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
at Thea Darwall's home in Bigfork.
(265 Lake Hills Drive)

Monthly meeting, downstairs meeting room,
Flathead Bank of Bigfork. Business mtg.,
7:30 P.M. Program at 8:00 P.M. (details
below)

Field Trip (details follow)

Newsletter deadline. Send articles,
materials, comments and notices to
P.O.Box 715, Bigfork, MT 59911

THE WILDS OF MONTANA

The Crazys, Lionhead, Tobacco Roots,
Swan-Jewel, Rocky Mountain Front, Lost
Water Canyon; these wild places are part of
a grassroots campaign called ALTERNATIVE W,
Montana's last chance for wilderness.

At this month's meeting, Jim
Richards, president of the Montana
Wildlife Federation, will present a
slide program on these Montana wildlands.
A little over 7% of Montana remains today
as Lewis and Clark found it on their
great 'voyage of discovery.' Of this,
3.1% is conserved forever as wilderness.
Congress is now writing a bill to deter-
mine, once and for all, the fate of
Montana's last six million acres of wild
public lands. Conservationists have
offered a compromise solution --
ALTERNATIVE W -- whereby the best of
these wild enclaves, some 2.2 million
acres, would be designated wilderness.



"Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The
ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it.
What you can do is to keep it for your children, your
children's children, and for all who come after you."

Theodore Roosevelt

FLATHEAD AUDUBON GOES (FOR THE) WILD

At the February Executive Board meeting, Flathead Audubon directors voted unanimously to join the MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION. This statewide alliance was formed at last fall's Conservation Congress. Founding members and clubs (including AUDUBON) joined together with a common interest in protecting Montana's last wilderness lands. Part of the nearby Swan Range-Jewel Basin and North Fork wildlands have been endorsed by the Wildlands Coalition as part of Alternative W.

Among the many reasons for wilderness classification is the wildlife protection gained by preserving remnants of old-growth forest habitats and their inhabitants. In these areas, 75 species of birds and mammals utilize dead trees for denning, roosting, feeding and nesting. Mature and over-mature forest is required to meet the habitat needs of those species. In addition, the pine marten, fisher, wolverine, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, saw-whet owl and pileated woodpecker require old-growth forest and undisturbed habitats. Furthermore, these wilderness lands provide irreplaceable habitats for the endangered grey wolf, threatened grizzly, mountain goats and elk, all of which fare poorly in the face of roading and loss of habitat.

AUDUBON ACTION ALERT

There are two important things you can do for wildlife:

Check your Montana state tax returns () and donate to Montana's watchable wildlife (non-game)

Write a letter to Congressman Pat Williams and send copies to the other 3 members of our delegation.

(a) Tell him you support ALTERNATIVE W, a balanced proposal for Montana's wildlands.

(b) Tell him you specifically support inclusion of the SWAN RANGE-JEWEL BASIN and NORTH FORK WILDLANDS in the Wilderness Preservation System.

Addresses of elected officials who need to hear from you:

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Toll Free 1-800-332-6106

Rep. Pat Williams
1233 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Toll Free 1-800-332-6177

Governor Ted Schwinden
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

YOUR SUPPORT is needed for these Flathead lands;

NORTH FORK WILDLANDS (Tuchuck, Thompson-Seton, Mt. Hefty) 61,500 acres total (8000 acres of Kootenai included), a stone's throw from the Cabin Creek minesite, along the British Columbia border. These wild enclaves support the densest grizzly population in the United States. Flathead conservationists have fought like wildcats for ten years to keep this area wild. It is threatened by timber and oil interests, who claim a "world class" oil structure underlies the Tuchuck.

SWAN RANGE WILDLANDS (Swan Crest-Jewel and Swan Front) 153,000 acres total, including 10,000 on Lolo Forest. A magnificent stretch of the rugged Swan Range located east of the Flathead and Swan Valleys. The Swan is known for its many gem-like lakes, rugged peaks, splendid alpine terrain and unusual canyons. It is threatened by oil interests, micro-hydro dams, and the possibility of timber "mining" in high fragile basins.

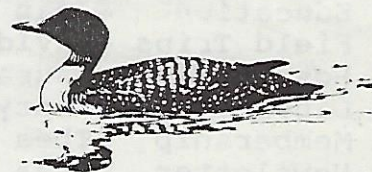
FILED POST SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the February meeting of the Executive Board, it was decided that henceforth there will be an annual charge of \$3.00 for the Flathead Audubon Society Newsletter to non-members of this chapter. Exceptions will be made for educational institutions and other environmental groups. If this policy change affects you, please send your check or money order to the Flathead Audubon Society, P.O. Box 715, Bigfork, MT 59911.



BOND LAKE FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, March 17th we will meet at the Swan Lake Post Office at 9:00 A.M., for a hike up the mountain to Bond Lake. For further details, and to register your intention to join the group, call John Gatchell (892-3543).



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Boise, Idaho / May 15-21, 1984

The 1984 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will take place at Boise State University in the midst of the scenic Boise River Park system. The mid-May timing is between academic sessions and at the peak of nesting activity at the nearby Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. The river cliffs and surrounding rangelands attract more nesting raptors than any other known location of similar size in North America.

A wide variety of fun and informative field trips, including an all day float trip on the Snake River, are scheduled to best take advantage of the spring season and local natural history.

A banquet and keynote address by National Audubon Society President Russ Peterson will kick off the weekend of "action sessions". Addresses by Audubon regional staff and guest speakers, discussion groups, and workshops will concentrate on wildlife topics, public land issues and Audubon education programs. There will be "tools and techniques" sessions on improving chapter operations and effectiveness with ample opportunity for member input into the Audubon system.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference is the traditional time to become better informed and prepared, while making new friends, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow members, and sharing your good ideas.

Plan now to attend the 1984 Conference. For complete registration details, please contact the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303

APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND
FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY (N-54)

Membership includes Audubon Magazine and THE PILEATED POST

NAME(please print) _____ Individual.....\$30/yr
ADDRESS _____ Student.....\$18/yr
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Family.....\$38/yr
Senior(+65).....\$21/yr
Senior Family...\$23/yr

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:
Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 715
Bigfork, MT 59911

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FAS OFFICERS - 1984

President- Lynn Kelly (883-5797)
Vice-Pres- Craig Hess (257-6645)
Secretary- Barbara Baxter (857-3738)
Treasurer- Tommy Clark (837-6615)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conservation- Jack White (837-6156) & Bob Ballou (644-2365)
Education -Jean Robocker (755-2751)
Field Trips -David Hudak (755-3752)
Hospitality -Laura & Terry LeDesky (257-9123)
Library -Nancy Trembath (837-6298)
Membership -Thea Darwall (837-4284)
Newsletter -Thea Darwall (837-4284)
Program -John Gatchell (892-3543)
Publicity -Edith Efraimson (755-6520)
Refuge -Elly Jones (886-2244)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stan Bones (837-6022)
David Hudak (755-3752)
Robin Magadino (837-4294)



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 715
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

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