



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 8

NUMBER 8

NOV 1984

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1984	NOVEMBER						1984
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
 FM 8	 LQ 16	 NM 22	 FQ 30	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		

5:30 PM, Board of Director's no-host supper meeting at Streeter's Korner Kitchen, Bigfork. (Hwy 35 & Swan Hway.)

7:30 PM, Monthly business meeting, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room.

8:00 PM, Program: Birds of Prey in Montana with special emphasis on the peregrine falcon, will be presented by Jay Sumner. Jay is a science teacher at Arlee Junior High, and worked with John Craighead on grizzly bear research for ten years.

Two items of importance to be dealt with at the business meeting are planning for the annual Christmas bird count in December, and selection of a nominating committee for the election of new chapter officers for 1985. Chairpersons are also needed; these are not elected, but, like chapter officers must be willing to devote the necessary time and effort. If you have not been approached, but are willing and able to serve in one of the positions listed in the directory on the outside page of this newsletter, please contact Lynn Kelly at the next meeting or call Thea Darwall at 837-4284.

THE BIRD SEED SALE was a great success, thanks to the diligent help of many people. We sold 465 fifty pound sacks of sunflower seed at \$16.00 per sack. This is more than 11½ tons! The breakdown of sack distribution for the area is as follows:

Kalispell	- - - - -	117
Bigfork	- - - - -	115
Columbia Falls	- -	70
Whitefish	- - - - -	59
Somers/Lakeside	- -	36
Libby	- - - - -	34
West Glacier	- - -	18
Polson	- - - - -	16



Our thanks to all who ordered early, and special thanks to those who helped deliver with their trucks, including Bob Emerson and Dale Wick (Columbia Falls), Lynn Kelly (Polson), Barbara Baxter, Robin Magaddino, Ralph and Tommie Clark, David Hudak, Elmer Sprunger, Bob Salzman, and Brent Morrow and Brent Mitchell. Also many thanks to Max Edgar and Sheila Michels for delivering the seed to West Glacier. And to Mike Aderhold and Toren McCarthey for all their assistance and the use of the FWP building for temporary storage. And to Terry Abell for providing temporary storage for unclaimed sacks in the Whitefish area.

BIRD SEED SALE (continued)

Radio stations KOFI, KGEZ, and KJJR provided wonderful assistance in spreading the word concerning the non-arrival/arrival of the truck load of seed from east of the mountains, when an early snowstorm closed the pass. All told, this was a very successful endeavor which required the cooperation of many to whom we are indebted. To those whom I may have failed to recognize, please know that your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

reported by Lynn Kelly

The Montana Audubon Council met in Bozeman over the weekend of Oct. 5-7. Bob Ballou and I were the delegates from Flathead Audubon Society. Starting with the traditional wine and cheese party Friday night, the gathering included two early morning birdwalks and the business meeting which lasted most of Saturday.

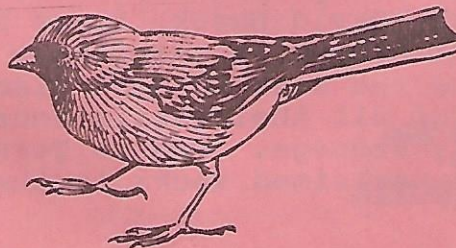
The major thrust of the business meeting was to outline the legislative priorities that the State Audubon Council will support. The details of these issues will be presented in a later newsletter. Don Nelson from the Regional Office in Boulder, CO was present. Bob Turner arrived later. Don announced that Polly Plaza has been reinstated to her position and will continue her "issues" work which will center on wilderness, forest plans and grizzly bears. Perhaps our chapter's "financial rebellion" helped in getting Polly back. We hope so, anyway!

One point of interest which is of special concern to our chapter is that it was decided that the fall state council meeting (1985) will be hosted by Flathead Audubon. Special emphasis will be on the annual gathering of bald eagles in Glacier National Park. It is a privilege for us to host this meeting and it will require lots of organizing and work. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this project.

The highlight of the meeting was a luncheon during which the two recipients of the First Annual Montana Audubon Conservation Journalism Award were honored. Stephen Kemp won the award for the best newspaper article. He is a free-lance writer from Billings. His extensive article centered on the peregrine falcon in the Yellowstone ecosystem. The second recipient was Ken Walcheck, who received the award for the best magazine article. Ken is the Information Officer for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Miles City. Entitled "A 1980's Dust Bowl?", this article was the result of the anger Ken felt as he sat alongside a highway in Eastern Montana watching a giant swirling cloud of dust descend upon him. The dust was so thick that he had been forced to stop his car due to low visibility. Published in the Sept/Oct 1983 edition of Montana Outdoors, this thoroughly researched article depicts a problem that continues today in eastern Montana and deserves the attention of those of us in the western part of the state.

There is a continuing search for outstanding newspaper and magazine articles which center in on conservation issues in Montana. If you find anything that seems to fit that description, please send me a copy of it and I will forward it to the state council for review.

The meeting was instructive, encouraging and fun. Members are reminded that you are welcome to attend these state gatherings. Your input is important!!



Rocky Mountain Front Workshop - September 21-23

Where in the Continental United States (perhaps even the world) is the only area where the traditional prairie behavior of the grizzly can still be seen?

Where in the United States is the southern-most point where you can observe a large area of peat bogs normally seen only in Northern Canada and Alaska?

Where is the largest herd of Bighorn sheep located in the lower 48?

The answer to all three questions is surprising until one remembers that, just as beautiful objects often come out of small boxes, so wonderful things (more often than not) are found in small, out of the way places. In this case I am speaking of the Pine Butte Preserve located just north of Choteau, Montana. Nestled against the majestic eastern front of the Rocky Mountains and owned by Nature Conservancy, the preserve includes the Circle 8 Dude Ranch which was the site of the Rocky Mountain Front Workshop. The workshop was organized by Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon out of Great Falls.

September was a good time for the workshop as it provided the opportunity for a western Montanan to see the breathtaking beauty of autumn on the prairie. It also provided the opportunity to become reacquainted with driving icy roads as the first major snowstorm of season happened along dumping 10 inches of snow on the ground, cancelling the one major field trip of the workshop, but creating a winter wonderland in autumn as the snow covered the brilliant golds and red of the prairie vegetation.

Nature Conservancy biologist, Ken Wylee presented a slideshow which explained why the area was so special. Besides being the only place in the US where prairie behavior of the grizzly can still be studied, it also preserves an intact portion of the rare foothills/prairie plant community and a 5-6,000 acre peat bog with an assortment of plants normally seen only in Northern Canada and Alaska. The area is used extensively by the beaver who is considered to be the most important element of this ecosystem. The beaver's activities are responsible for providing the basis for the Aspen plant community in the swamp. The Aspen groves have been found to be essential to the grizzly as radio signals from collared bears usually come from deep within the shelter of these trees during daylight hours. At night the bears come out of the groves to utilize food sources found on the grasslands.

This is just a momentary glance at the incredible place known as the Pine Butte Preserve. It is indeed a special place. The Montana Audubon Council plans to have more workshops at the Circle 8 so watch for the opportunity and be sure to take advantage of it!!

A footnote concerning this workshop was the saddening news that 2 grizzlies were killed a short time after the workshop had occurred. The details surrounding the deaths of these bears are unclear but one thing is sure and that is that the population of bears on the Eastern Front suffered an important loss because one of the bears killed was a favorite sow (about 20 years old) who had raised more than her share of cubs throughout her reproductive lifespan. The deaths point out the need for continued research and land acquisition where necessary, as well as stiffer penalties for persons illegally killing these bears. The \$15,000 reward National Audubon has offered for information about such people continues to aid in this process.

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

Membership includes Audubon Magazine and THE PILEATED POST

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

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

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