



# The Pileated Post

VOLUME 10

NUMBER 2

FEB 1986

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23	24	25	26	27	28		

BOARD OF DIRECTORS dinner meeting 5:30 PM at Streeters Korner kitchen, Bigfork. Open to all interested members.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 PM Business meeting. 8:00 PM Program--A slide show and presentation by the FRIENDS OF LAWRENCE PARK on their proposal for a new park emphasizing family use while preserving natural habitats. Open forum.

MONTANA NONGAME SYMPOSIUM, Ramada Inn, Billings, 1:00--9:00 PM. Free of charge. Details this issue.

## EDITOR'S DESK

Did your January calendar fill up like mine did? Gosh there was a lot going on--everything from avalanches to phosphates. I'd say the notion that winter in the north country is a time of hibernation has long since become a myth. This is especially true here in the Flathead Valley where there is so much to do and so many enthused people doing it. Unfortunately, skiing hasn't been as much of a distraction as it should be with this endless fog and shortfall of snow. But keep your fingers crossed.

Right now, while we're thinking of it, mark your calendar for February's Audubon meeting. If you've missed a few lately you've missed some good ones. The discussions we've had on field identification have been fascinating. You'll find we've got some people who "know their birds". And the program is always a bonus, an opportunity to stretch your imagination and broaden your horizons. Furthermore, I'm pleased to report that our Flathead Chapter isn't just for the birds. Our reason for being is still the big picture, the Audubon Cause, which is "the perpetuation of all life forms in natural habitats, and an unspoiled environment for man". Along these lines our Board of Directors wisely chose to contribute funds to the Wolf Recovery Program which is doing research at this moment within the Bob Marshall/Glacier Park ecosystem. And if you'll notice on page four our own Ms. President is offering a presentation at this month's Nongame Symposium.

So go ahead and broaden your horizons in February. Give you and your loved ones a boot out the door on Monday the 10th. Drive, glide or thumb to Bigfork for a swell time.



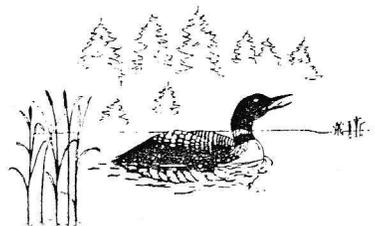
## WISKEY JACK

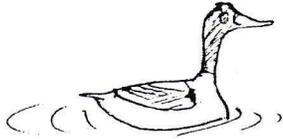
In the summer of my 19th year I took a job with a canoe outfitter up in the lake country of northern Minnesota. My boss, Justine, worked hard to make a canoeman out of me for it would be my job to guide her clients into the wilderness of the Boundary Waters. So by way of preparation for my first assignment she set me up with a canoe and provisions and told me to go explore some lakes up on the Gunflint Trail for a few days. It was my baptism in blood. Presumably if I came back alive I would prove myself as a canoeman, if on the other hand I became so much wolf fodder, well Justine would have to find herself another guide that summer.

This trip was a turning point in my life for it was here that I first faced myself all alone---and finally found myself at home. And too, it was here that I met a lifelong friend the second morning out when Wiskey Jack flew into camp. I had just buttered a slice of bread and turned to my fire to stir some hot cereal. When I reached back for the bread, left on a stump which served as my table, it was gone. I whirled around in time to see Wiskey Jack winging off into the pines, clutching my bread like too big a surprise for too small a guy. But that's the nature of Wiskey Jack---so human a bird.

The Ojibway Indians who were the original inhabitants of the boreal forest called him wiskatjan. We might suppose in their tongue it would translate something like "the one who comes for breakfast". Of course the voyageurs and fur trappers who were the first of our kind to see the northwoods and make friends with the Ojibway were quick to change this into the vernacular, Wiskey John, or more frequently the less formal nickname, Wiskey Jack. And down through the years as more of us came to know this denizen of the northwoods, this feathered friend with a penchant for pastries and shiny objects, we tagged on descriptions like Canada jay and camp robber. To this day the American Ornithologists' Union, the official decision making body when it comes to the nomenclature of American birds, refuses to go along with any such colorful appellations for so gray a bird---thus we have gray jay.

But to me he'll always be Wiskey Jack, my northwoods friend, an ever-bouyant personality in the lonliest pf places. And so I'm glad that he too is at home in the Rocky Mountains and that we may continue to enjoy one another's company along the trail. I saw a pair last weekend just for a moment, floating easily as they do over a deep gorge of the Middle Fork, a crystalline winters day. They stopped briefly, asked if I might have lost a key, tossed a shiny gum wrapper, perhaps dropped a sliver of bread, then whistled and fluttered off into the deep forest. Once again I found myself thankful for friends who never change.






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 ON THE REFUGE
 

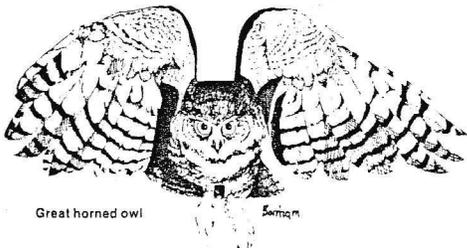
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 ROBIN MAGADDINO
 

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I spoke with Ray Washtak, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Manager, to find what's happening on the refuge. Upcoming projects for the Swan River Refuge include installation of the refuge sign we donated, and construction of a parking lot near the Bog Road this spring. Ray will be interested in our input as to their locations. Six goose nesting platforms will be erected along the shore of the refuge during February or March. Let Ray know if you would like to help (a good field trip). About 20 acres were burned on the Flathead Waterfowl Production Area for goose browse production. Unfortunately, boat traffic near the mouth of Flathead River kept the birds off that area. Another spot further west will be burned next spring for the same purpose.

Goose production hit an all-time high of 94 on the Swan Refuge, while duck production was 244 (a little low). Production was way down on the Wetlands Management District--- only 611 ducks (the peak of 1400 occurred in 1982) and 107 geese. Duck numbers were so low during summer waterfowl counts continent wide that the opening day of hunting season was delayed two weeks. Waterfowl hunter success was very poor in the Flathead Valley this year due at least in part to lack of birds.


**WHO-O-O FORGOT US?**


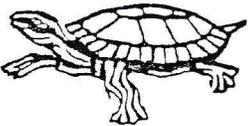
**REMEMBER NONGAME WILDLIFE  
AT TAX TIME!**

ATTENTION ALL TAXPAYERS!! (this means us). Don't fail to contribute to the NONGAME WILDLIFE CHECKOFF. Find LINE 61 on your state tax return, then kick in any amount you wish, whether you are receiving a refund ☺ or making a payment ☹. And if someone else is preparing your taxes let them know you plan to contribute--- otherwise it won't get done. Non-game wildlife is our responsibility. This year show you care.

THE SECOND ANNUAL NONGAME SYMPOSIUM

Ramada Inn  
Billings, Montana  
February 26, 1986

- 1:00 Introduction  
Dennis Flath, Nongame Biologist, MDFWP
- 1:15 Nongame Programs in Other States  
Betsy Spettigue, Information Specialist - Helena
- 1:35 The Montana Natural Heritage Program  
David Genter, Coordinator - Zoologist, The Nature Conservancy
- 1:55 The Sensitive Species Program - Implications for Wildlife  
Mike Hillis, Wildlife Biologist - Lolo National Forest
- 2:15 The Montana Loon Survey  
Dan Skaar, Biologist - Bozeman
- 2:30 Break
- 3:00 The Piping Plover - No Longer Nongame  
Chuck Carlson - Fort Peck
- 3:40 Project Wild  
Bob Briggs - Environmental Specialist  
Office of Public Instruction  
and  
Lynn Kelly - Life Science Teacher  
Polson Middle School
- 4:00 The Future of the Montana Nongame Program - Panel Discussion  
Moderator - Dennis Flath  
Panelists: Ron Marcoux - Associate Director, MDFWP  
Harriet Marble - President, Montana Audubon Council  
Betsy Spettigue - Information Specialist  
Rick Douglass - Assistant Professor of Biology,  
Montana Tech  
A Montana State Legislator
- 5:00 ~ 6:00 Social Hour (Cash bar)
- 6:30 - 7:00 Poster session participants will be at their posters to answer questions
- 7:00 Slide Presentations:  
Bats: Myth and Reality  
Saving America's Bats
- Presented by David Genter, Zoologist, The Nature Conservancy  
and  
Tom Lemke, Wildlife Biologist, MDFWP
- 8:00 Rats, Bats, Cats, Chats, and Ambystomids:  
Some adventures in nongame wildlife technique  
Larry Thompson, Natural Resources Information System



FIRESIDE GUIDE TO GOOD READING  
Suggested by Mike Aderhold  
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks



There's A Bat In The Attic and A Woodchuck In The Garden by Richard A. Patterson, 30 pages. Methods of Reducing Wildlife Problems in Suburban Homes and Yards. Published by the Indian Creek Nature Center, 6665 Otis Road S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401; 1985. Price \$4.50.

Montana's Explorers, The Pioneer Naturalists, 1805 - 1864 by Larry S. Thompson, 109 pages. Interesting look at Montana before it was settled. Published by Montana Magazine, Inc., Box 5630, Helena, Mt. 59604; 1985. Price \$13.95.

Hummingbirds: Their Life and Behavior by Esther Q. Tyrrell and Robert A. Tyrrell, 224 pages. The most complete compilation of information on hummingbirds available and the best array of hummingbird photos ever published. Published by Crown Publishers Inc., One Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016; 1985. Price \$35.00.

Audubon Wildlife Report 1985 edited by Amos S. Eno and Roger L. DiSilvestro, 650 pages. A field guide to government natural resource agencies and their programs. Published by the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022; 1985. Price \$16.50.

P. D. Skaar's Montana Bird Distribution, 3rd Edition, 70 pages. A comprehensive summary of what birds are where in Montana. A must for serious bird watchers. Published by the Montana Academy of Sciences and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Available from Nongame Wildlife Program, Box 5, MSU, Bozeman, MT. 59717. Price \$3.00.

Snake River Birds of Prey produced by the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Power Company and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 52 pages. Well illustrated, beautifully presented summary of most of the raptors in Montana and Idaho. Available from the Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705. Free.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 1985  
FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY  
TOMMIE CLARK, TREASURER

RECEIPTS

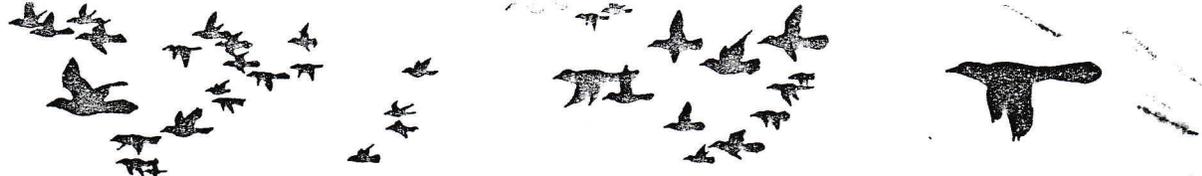
Nat'l Audubon.....	1,286.00
Birdathon.....	891.85
Birdseed.....	9,830.00
Interest.....	343.05
Council meeting.....	1,830.00
Transfer from savings...	41.26
Contributions.....	474.42
	14,696.56

Checking bal 12/31/84..	5,676.37
Total.....	20,372.93

DISBURSEMENTS

Newsletter, postage, stationary.....	1,199.77
MT Audubon Council fees.....	112.50
MT Audubon Council.....	400.00
Council meeting.....	1,837.50
Birdseed.....	5,757.50
Telephone.....	150.66
Sign (FWS).....	400.00
Audubon Adventures.....	200.00
Regional Audubon.....	385.00
Don Skaar Loon Project.....	200.00
Advertising.....	81.00
Books donated.....	408.65
Christmas Bird Count.....	33.00
Guest speakers.....	244.90
Reinbursements conference.....	216.17
Money Market Certificate.....	5,000.00
Total.....	16,626.65

The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter is approximately \$3.65 per member. Thanks to all who participated in the Audubon activities. We had a great year in 1985. The State Audubon Council meeting held at West Glacier, November 2-3 had the highest attendance of any State Council meeting to date.



1 9 8 5    F L A T H E A D   A U D U B O N   S O C I E T Y    D I R E C T O R Y

OFFICERS

President	Lynn Kelly, Box 2289, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
V-President	Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Secretary	Sherry Jones, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	887-2492
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lne, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

DIRECTORS

1985	Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
1986	David Hudak, 6100 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	755-3752
1987	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	257-8130

CHAIRS

Conservation	Jack White, 1235 Swan River Rd., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6157
	Bob Ballou, Box 11881, Rte 1, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Education	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-2751
	David Hudak, 6100 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	755-3752
Field Trip	Betty Rose, 1066 Steel Bridge Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-0852
Hospitality	Nancy Trembath, 6065 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6298
Library	Susan Cahill, 6100 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	755-3752
Membership	Leo Keane, 2175 Houston Dr., Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Newsletter		
Program and		
Publicity	Dan Casey, 265 Breezy Pt., Somers, MT 59932	857-3143
Refuge	Gail McGlothlin, 348 Somers, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-7072

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

FLATHEAD AUD. SOCIETY  
\$20 N54

Please make checks payable to the National Audubon Society

Mail to: Susan Cahill  
6100 Montana Hwy 35  
Bigfork, MT 59911

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Regular monthly meetings are preceded by an Executive Board meeting, the time and location of which are published in the preceding newsletter. The business meeting (7:30 PM) and program (8:00 PM) are held in the downstairs meeting room of the Flathead Bank of Bigfork. These are all open meetings and all interested people are invited to attend. THE PILEATED POST is published nine times a year, September through May, and is sent to all members of the Flathead Audubon Society as one benefit of National dues. For others who would like to receive the newsletter, cost is \$3/yr.

INSIDE:

- \*Whiskey Jack Strikes Again
- \*Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Nongame Wildlife
- \*Goose Poop, and More



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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