



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 7 OCTOBER 1986

BOARD OF DIRECTORS dinner meeting, 5:30 PM at Streeter's Korner Kitchen, Bigfork. Open to all interested members.

1986 OCTOBER 1986

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
N. M. 3rd	F. Q. 10th	F. M. 17th	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	L. Q. 25th

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 PM Business meeting. 8:00PM Program--Bob Dunkley, Resource Planner for Glacier National Park, will present maps and explain the proposed plan for the Going-to-the-Sun Highway project.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT, Outlaw Inn, 7:30PM. Details page 5, or call Craig Hess, 257-6645, for more information.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS, orders and payment due.

EDITORS' DESK

LEO KEANE

Windswept squalls raced across the mountains yesterday afternoon as I drove north out of Missoula from a weekend meeting of the State Audubon Council in Hamilton. Great shafts of sunlight broke through between storms casting rainbows and golden blankets upon the foothills. It was Montana-sized weather, charged with energy, glowing almost with an aura of something big about to happen. Gaining the pass between Ravalli and St. Ignatious where the Missions rise from the horizon like gigantic shoulders, we turned in to view the startling patterns of earth and weather across the vast Flathead Valley. What soon caught our attention however was near at hand. On an adjacent slope of the Bison Range we focused in on a pair of bull elk pacing back and forth while tossing and shaking their antlered heads. A gust of wind caught the sound of challenging bugles. My 13 year old friend and I scrambled to a vantage point which then revealed a band of cow and calf elk intently watching the battle royal unfolding before them.

When the bulls finally met, the clash of their antlers came ringing across the hills and in that moment I felt the culmination of power in such a day. It was as though a tide of natural forces had swept down upon the earth and caught us all up into its swirling energy. And I knew at once that this is what matters, this is the Montana we live for--this place where there is still freedom for the world to be wild. And I knew it was a rare and special day when a man and a kid get carried away this close to home.

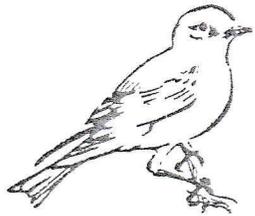


HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL

ROD ASH

Delegates from Miles City to Dillon representing all nine Montana Audubon Chapters gathered at Hamilton on September 26 and 27 for the biannual meeting of the Montana Audubon Council. The well attended council, under the chairmanship of Flathead's Bob Ballou, discussed a wide range of Montana conservation issues.

Ballou, in his President's Message to the Council, noted that the future of non-game species had been the main item in the minds of Council members in the past year. Ballou also described the activities of Audubon lobbyists in protecting environmental budgets during the legislature's special session.



Highlighting the Council's concern about non-game species, Dennis Flath, Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park's non-game species program, discussed program features. These included a blue bird trail along Highway 200 from the Idaho to the North Dakota border as a Montana Centennial project. The trail would have four boxes per mile along the highway and be completed by 1989.

Other projects started or planned include surveys of raptor routes, nature trails in state parks, and non-game education programs. Flath commented that the program's future depended on an increase in the funds from the non-game state income tax check-off. Council members urged chapters to mount a major effort to educate taxpayers to the non-game contribution on the tax form.

Possible Audubon lobbying priorities for next year's legislative session were presented by Jan Ellis, lobbyist for the Montana Audubon Legislative Fund. Options include making the non-game check-off a permanent income tax statute, a one grizzly per lifetime hunting rule, formation of a state natural history association, and environmental revisions of the states subdivision laws. Ellis won high praise from Ballou and other Council officers for her excellent legislative leadership.

Fund raising for the Audubon legislative efforts also engaged the Council's attention. Ann Humphrey, Audubon legislative intern, reported a plan to raise funds for legislative action prior to the session. She noted that much valuable time was lost during the last session because of fund raising. The plan, which involves chapter contributions, membership donations and support from non-Audubon sources, along with pre-session organization of the lobbying office, won the Council's approval.

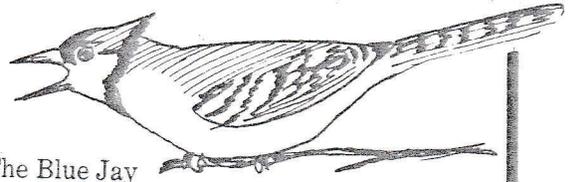
Activities and structure of the Montana Audubon Council got high praises from Gene Knoder, National Audubon's Field Representative, who was also in attendance. Knoder pointed out that the Council's structure and efforts had been highlighted at state and regional meetings as examples to be followed. Knoder announced that Audubon's 1987 National Convention will be held August 24-28 at Bellingham, Washington. The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will be held June 6-13, 1988 at Greeley, Colorado.

Numerous other issues covering BLM lands, the grizzly bear book project, Red Rocks Lakes Wildlife Refuge land acquisition, and Wilderness Bill status were reported and discussed by the Council.

The Bitterroot Chapter received high praise from Ballou for its successful and gracious hosting of the Council's weekend. The meeting was adjourned at approximately four o'clock at which time many delegates went for a hike up Blodgett Canyon.

Flathead Chapter delegates were Jack White and Rod Ash. Also attending from the Flathead were Leo Keane, Nancy Ballou, Ruth White and June Ash.

FROM: ROSEBUD AUDUBON SOCIETY
 TO: ALL MONTANA AUDUBON CHAPTERS



The Blue Jay
 A large bird with basically blue back and gray front.

BLUE JAY SURVEY

The blue jay, a common bird of the oak/maple forests of the East and Midwest, is becoming more common across Montana. This survey is an attempt by the Rosebud Audubon Society to increase our knowledge of blue jays from around the state. The birds apparently are associated with deciduous trees found in river bottoms in Montana, and therefore with the towns found in those habitats. Blue jays appear to be year long residents, are common visitors to bird feeders and are spread across the state.

Send us whatever information you have on blue jays in or near Montana: where they occur; how long they have been around; what they eat; etc. We will compile the information and put out a report during 1987. Please send your information to Mark Gorges, Rosebud Audubon Society, 503 S. Center, Miles City, MT 59301. Thanks

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH PLANTINGS

Landscaping your yard? Why not make it for the birds?

Here's a table from the Soil Conservation Service showing the food value of some common shrubs. Other common trees and shrubs are used for shelter and nesting areas.

Food plots consisting of sunflowers, millets, cereal grains and corn will provide food for a variety of birds in winter, and also provide shelter for sparrows and juncos, which like to feed on the ground.

The best way to attract a variety of birds to your yard is to provide a variety of habitats -- shrubby thickets, mowed lawns for robins, large trees, small trees, unmowed grass, etc.

If you don't have much room, do what you

can to provide the basic needs such as an evergreen for shelter and some berried shrubs for food.

-- Kristi DuBois

Foods Preferred by Familiar Birds

PLANTS	BIRDS														
	Grouse, pheasants, and quail	Rain-tailed pigeons	Woodpeckers	Stellar, s and scrub jays	Chickadees, nuthatches, and nutcrackers	Robins	Thrushes and bluebirds	Cedar waxwings	Orioles and tanagers	Black-headed grosbeaks	Evening grosbeaks	Purple, Cassin's, and house finches	Goldfinches and siskins	Purplish-sided and brown towhees	Juncos and sparrows
Blackberries	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cascaras		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cherries	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Crabapples	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Dogwoods	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Elderberries	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Firethorns	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Grapes	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hawthorns	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hollies	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Junipers	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Mountain-ashes	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Russian-olive	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Serviceberries	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Snowberries	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sunflowers	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○



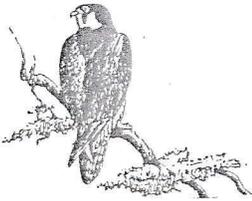
Insects around plantings attract vireos, warblers, wrens, flycatchers, kinglets, swallows, and martins. Grasses and weeds attract many seed-eating birds. Sugar-water feeders in conjunction with flowers of salvia, evergreen huckleberry, red-flowering currant, and the columbine; and fuchsias attract hummingbirds. Other plants especially attractive to birds include madrone, cotoneaster, salal, highbush cranberry, huckleberries, blueberries, currants, gooseberries, maples, oaks, and other "mast" trees.

Groups of birds usually have similar plant food habits, although individual bird preferences and extent of use may vary. Preference ratings for the plants were based on data from food-habit studies, but actual plant use by birds varies by season and situation.

● Choice ○ Good ○ Fair u Used, amount not determined

PEREGRINE PORTRAIT

COMPILED BY THE EDITOR



No doubt all of us kept our fingers crossed for the injured young peregrine falcon that was found in the West Valley area this September, and were saddened by the news of its' death. We extend our appreciation to the man who brought the bird in from the wild and to the vet who tried to keep it alive.

When a bird as rare as a peregrine shows up this close to home I begin to wonder about its' life history--where it came from, what would have brought it here and its' natural habits. For those of you who are also fascinated but mostly unfamiliar with peregrine lore, I'd like to share some of the highlights I've discovered. For this information I've relied primarily on the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS* by John K. Terres, a book which I'd also like to highly recommend.

The peregrine falcon was, until quite recently, one of the most widely distributed birds of prey, breeding on every continent except Antarctica and occurring in migration at nearly any latitude worldwide. At the height of their abundance, which was probably early in this century, they nested successfully from isolated mountain cliffs to the ledges of urban skyscrapers. Only in 1950 did the rapid decline of the species begin, and 15 years later the peregrine was no longer found over most of its' original breeding range. Mans' use of DDT was responsible for this unprecedented demise of a bird species. The by now familiar scenario was the pesticides' course through the food chain which caused the laying of thin shelled eggs. Unfortunately, the peregrine has not rebounded, as other birds of prey such as eagles and ospreys, now that DDT use is widely curtailed. To this day the peregrine nests in North America only in remotest Canada, Northwest Territories, and Alaska--with a few returning to cliff-side aeries of the Pacific coast.

Peregrine physiology is a composite of adaptions for rapid flight. Feeding mostly on other bird species, and particularly pigeons and waterfowl, which it overtakes and captures in flight, the peregrine may attain speeds of from 100-275 m.p.h. making it quite probably the fastest creature on earth. I found this a breathtaking account of a peregrines' capabilities: "The peregrine usually hunts from high in the sky over open country while scanning the air and ground below. On sighting its prey, while it is in rapid straightaway flight, it may turn quickly and circle or pause, seemingly motionless in the air. Suddenly it pitches downward, beginning with a few rapid strokes of its wings; then drawing them partway to its sides, it plunges earthward in a blindingly swift and steep dive. As it overtakes its flying prey... the peregrine suddenly closes and strikes a tremendous blow with its feet. If the blow kills its quarry the falcon follows it closely to the ground... or it may swoop below, turn over on its back in flight, reach up with feet and snatch the dead bird out of the air."

Can you imagine such grace? What wouldn't you give to witness this mastery of speed and power in a wild bird? This alone is reason enough that we preserve places on earth for the peregrine falcon to live and fly.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

OCT. 23, 7:30 PM, OUTLAW INN

WHERE DO THEY STAND ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

FOURTEEN LEGISLATIVE HOPEFULS IN ONE ROOM.

GRILL THEM!

SPONSORED BY:

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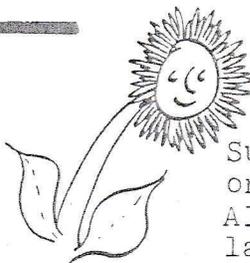
* MONTANA ECC, SIERRA CLUB,
AND TROUT UNLIMITED

MILE HI COTTAGES AVAILABLE

Modern housekeeping cottages overlooking a mountain creek are available for rental year-round at the Conservancy's Mile Hi/Ramsey Canyon Preserve. Located 90 miles southeast of Tucson in the Huachuca Mountains, the Mile Hi stretches across the mouth of Ramsey Canyon, one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse canyons in southern Arizona.

To arrange a visit or obtain a brochure and bird list, write: Mile Hi/Ramsey Canyon Preserve, RR 1, Box 84E, Hereford, Arizona 85615. Phone: (602) 378-2785.

Note: Beginning October 1, 1986, advance phone reservations will be needed for daytime visits on Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. Visitor hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



SUNFLOWERS

Sunflower seeds will continue to be on sale till the deadline--Oct 27th. Although orders have filled for the large striped novelty seed, there will be plenty of the smaller black oil seeds available for your needs. Think about a sack of sunflowers as a Christmas or birthday present--perhaps along with a feeder. Delivery will be November 8th in Kalispell at the Fish and Game office on North Meridian from 10-12:00 AM, and in Bigfork at Lakehills Shopping Center from 9-11:00 AM. You may pick up your seeds during these times. And thanks a bunch!

GRIZZLY BEARS AND PHEASANT HUNTERS ON THE FLATHEAD

Because the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has refused to delay upland bird hunting in a limited area of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Bob Ballou, President of the Montana Audubon Council, said he will be considering taking some action if it can be shown that this constitutes a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Ballou said that Tribal officers requested a delay of upland bird hunting on Tribal lands adjacent to grizzly habitat in the Mission Range foothills. The tribe asked for the season delay until the grizzly bears have gone into hibernation. The request was made both for grizzly protection and hunter safety, Ballou said. Fish, Wildlife and Parks officers have turned down the request.

Rod Ash

1986 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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 _____

Membership category preferred:

- INDIVIDUAL/S10 SR. CITIZEN—INDIVIDUAL/S21
 FAMILY/S18 SR. CITIZEN—FAMILY/S21
 STUDENT/S18

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Bill me, please.

R26
7XCH8

CHECK PAYABLE TO: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAIL TO: BETTY ROSE
1066 STEEL BRIDGE RD
KALISPELL, MT 59901

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 Refuge

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 \$3.50/yr.

★ SUNFLOWER ORDERS DUE OCTOBER 27!



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