



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 8 NOV 1985

1985	NOVEMBER							1985
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
	☾ LQ 5	☀ NM 12	☾ FQ 19	☺ FM 27	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		

STATE COUNCIL MEETING, Glacier National Park.

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork, Meeting Room.

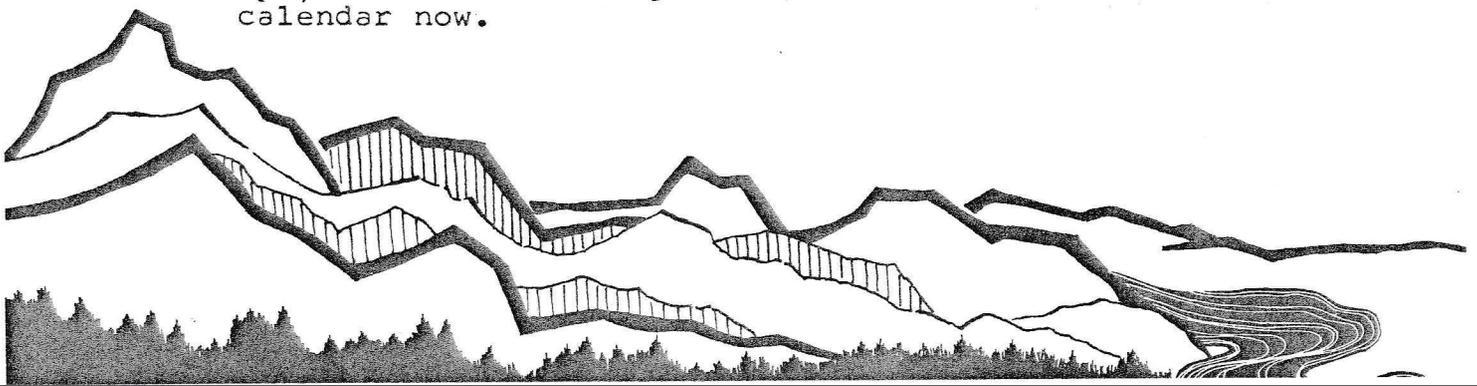
7:30 PM, Business meeting.
8:00 PM, Program. Tom Lemke, new biologist with Fish, Wildlife and Parks at Thompson Falls, will talk about wildlife in the Mariana Islands where he formerly worked.

1986 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 1986 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference will be hosted by the Huachuca Audubon Society in Southeastern Arizona, August 4-10. The HAS is planning an outstanding array of field trips which will take you into some of the best birding spots in the Southwest. The Chiricahuas and Huachuca Mountains, Patagonia/Sonoita Creek, Ramsay Canyon, Audubon's Research Ranch, the new Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, the Rio San Pedro riparian zones, and other exciting spots.

Life listers should have many exciting opportunities to add specialty hummingbirds, black, grey and zone-tailed hawks, Montezuma quail (always tough to find), perhaps an elegant trogon, becard, and sulphur bellied flycatcher, and many more.

The conference will center on issues of that area with special emphasis on riparian wetlands and their importance. In January the Regional office will be mailing information on lodging, how to register, more detailed field trip write-ups, etc. You are urged to put these dates on your calendar now.



Interesting Facts about Flathead Waterfowl

1. The American Coot is a black water bird whose chicks are orange-red in color.
2. The Whistling Swan and the Trumpeter Swan may use the Flathead Valley as a regular migration route.
3. The Common Loon is a bird which dives for its food. It has been known to stay under water for 15 minutes.*
4. Loons have been caught in fishing nets set at 180 feet below the surface of the water.*
5. Mallards can live without food for slightly over 3 weeks in cool air temperatures. The hens show a greater resistance to starvation than the drakes.*
6. Birds living on the coast on salt water environments have salt glands at the base of the bill to help get rid of excess salt.*
7. Birds have a very poor sense of taste; however, the sense of touch, especially at the tips of the bill or tongue, is highly developed.*
8. Birds have five different types of feathers, including one type of down feather that dissolves into powder. This is called the "powder down" feather. The powder helps to waterproof the feathers and provide a nice luster to the birds' appearance.*
9. Waterfowl have oil glands at the base of the tail. The birds will put a small amount of oil on their bills and then run each feather through the oil on the bill. This is called preening. If a bird does not have the oil gland, or if some type of chemical is introduced into the water that causes the oil to become ineffective, the bird will lose its waterproof coating on the feathers and will not be able to swim or float on the water.*
10. Feathers do not grow all over a bird's body; they grow in special areas called feather tracts.*
11. Male ducks are usually very colorful, but in the late summer the ducks molt and lose all of their flight feathers at once. Obviously at this point the birds cannot fly. To help protect themselves during this flightless time, the male ducks lose their bright colors and take on a dull brown coat called "eclipse plumage".*
12. Young geese become attached to the first large moving object they see. This is usually their mother, but if she is absent they can become attached to humans or even non-living things. To make matters worse, when Mama shows up again they may ignore her and remain with their human or non-living friend.*

13. The drake abandons his female when the eggs are laid. Male geese and swans, however, stay with females and help raise the young throughout the summer. Geese and swans often mate for life.
14. Grebes are a type of waterfowl common to this area. The red-necked grebe will build nests on floating vegetation in the middle of a lake or reservoir, as a protection from enemies found on the shore.*
15. Ducks and geese lay 8-12 eggs. They hold off incubating the eggs until the last one is laid. As a result all the eggs hatch about the same time (within 2 hours) and all the young can leave the nest together for the safety of the water.*
16. Ducks frequently nest in or near gull colonies because the gull fiercely protect their nesting sites and young from predators like crows.*
17. The redhead duck breeds here in the west (as far west as Utah) but migrates to the Atlantic coast states for the winter.*
18. In a typical migration, ducks leave Manitoba and Saskatchewan on October 23-24. On October 24-25 1/2 million ducks will arrive in the wintering area of Louisiana. The ducks can make a continuous flight of 2400 kilometers to Louisiana at an average ground speed of 65-80 Km/hr or 1600-1900 Km/day.*
19. Blue geese and snow geese travel without stopping from James Bay, Canada to Louisiana at a rate of 46 km/hr or 1100 km/day.*

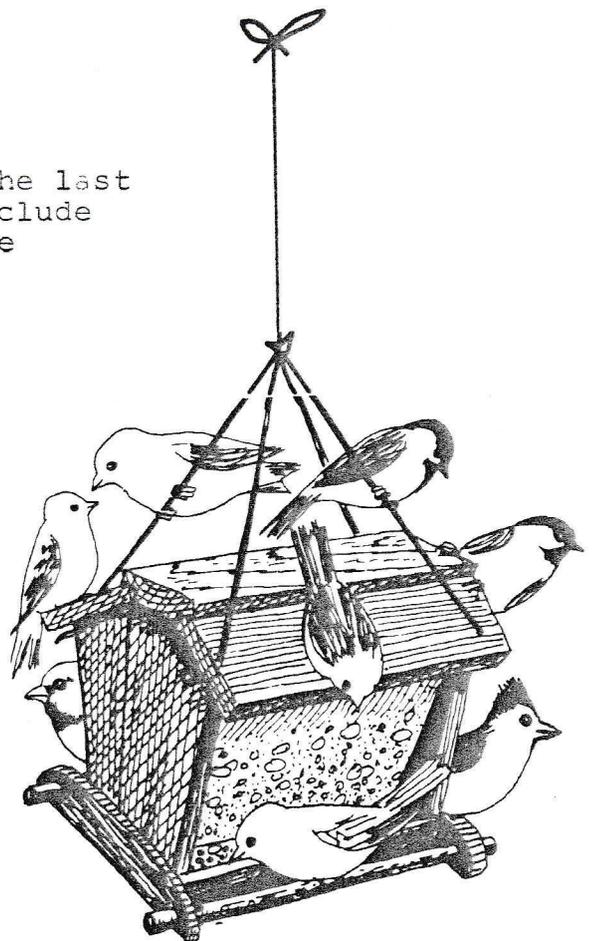
*From THE LIFE OF BIRDS by Welty.

FROM THE EDITOR....

This issue of THE PILEATED POST is the last that I will edit. I had expected to conclude this effort in behalf of Audubon with the December issue, our customary time for a change in officers. However, a family "crisis" requires my presence in California soon and indefinitely.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped me in this endeavor by sending in articles for publication. Special thanks go to Barbara Baxter, whose countless services to FAS are never-ending, and who frequently helped with the circulation aspect of this job on short notice.

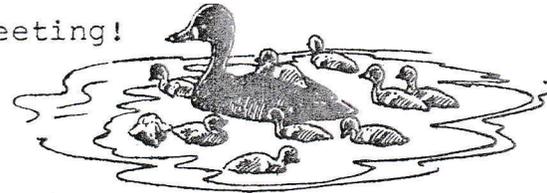
...Thee Darwall



WELCOME
NEW
BIRDWATCHERS

name	date of arrival	proud parents
Josephine Anne (Jodie)	8-5-85	Janet & Stan Bones (and brother Mack)
Laura	9-29-85	Nancy & Rick Trembath
Hannah	10-14-85	Susannah & Dan Casey (and sister Lauren)

We'll be looking for you at the November meeting!



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, 59860	883-5797
Vice-Pres	Craig Hess, 370 3rd Ave. WN, Kalispell, 59901	257-6645
Secretary	Sherry Jones, Box 984, Polson, 59860	887-2492
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lane, Bigfork, 59911	837-6615

DIRECTORS

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

CHAIRS

Conservation	Jack White, 1235 Swan River Rd., Bigfork, 59911	837-6157
	Bob Ballou, Box 118B1, Route 1, Charlo, 59825	644-2365
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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 (8:00PM) 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, Sept. 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 monthly newsletter, the cost is \$3.00 per year.



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