



The Pileated Post

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Volume 11

Number 9

September 1987

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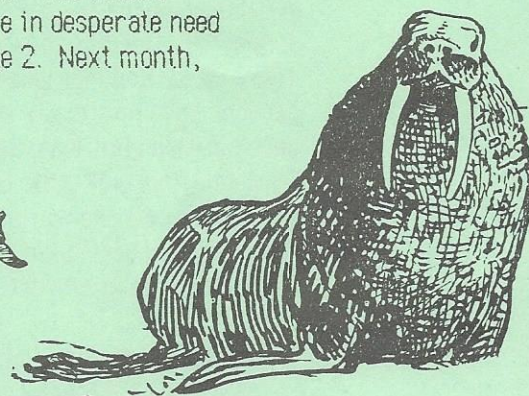
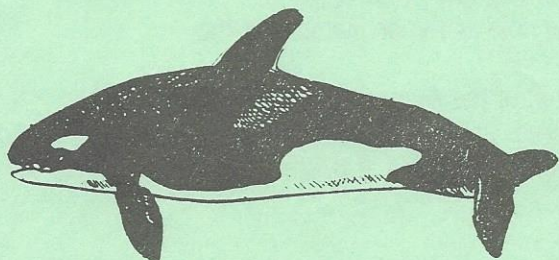
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS meeting, 5:30PM at Korner Kitchen, Bigfork. Open to all members.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 pm Business meeting. 8:00 pm Program - Craig Hess, information and education director for the Flathead Basin Commission. "Clean Water, Politics, and the Flathead Basin Commission" - 12 min. slide show and answers to questions that face the residents of Flathead Valley about water quality.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

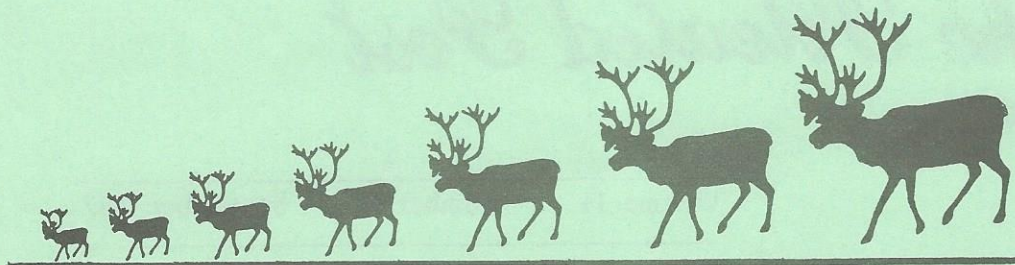
ROBIN MAGADDINO

Leo and Gail, our editor and field trip people, were married on August 22 and as one of their wedding gifts, I am filling in for the editor this month. Sometime during this past summer I spent five days in Washington, DC, courtesy of National Audubon and the Sierra Club. After two intensive days of learning about Alaska, lobby techniques, and the U.S. Congress, I emerged as the Montana representative to the all new Alaska Coalition. This group was organized in the late 1970's to help bring wilderness designation to important Alaska lands and was disbanded after Congress voted on those wilderness issues in 1980. The Sierra Club is used to victories - they have achieved many. If they don't win in one place, they win in another, and then regroup for a second go. Personally, I knew very little about the Sierra Club before this trip. The workers who make up the Sierra Clubs strike force now have my sincere appreciation. Two Alaska areas, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Tongass National Forest are in desperate need of your vocal support. This month, the Arctic NWR issue is discussed on page 2. Next month, the Tongass.



MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL FALL MEETING
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

OCTOBER 9-11



WHAT DO CLAUDS MURIE, BOB MARSHALL AND A. STARKER LEOPOLD HAVE IN COMMON?

Other than having a share of my profound respect, all three helped to convince President Dwight D. Eisenhower to establish the 8.9 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Alaska. In 1980, Congress increased the refuge to 19 millional acres and designated all but 1.5 million of the original acreage as wilderness. Deleted from that designation was 100 mi. of the 125 mi. by 25 mi. arctic coastline - the only remaining arctic coastline not yet open to oil and gas development.

In a nutshell --- The Dept of Interior was ordered by the Senate to investigate oil and gas potential on that 100 miles of coastal plain, as well as, wildlife resources, wilderness qualities and the effects of possible development. In April 1987, Secretary of Interior Hodel recommended that the entire coastal plain be opened to full-scale oil and gas development, even though the information gathered by the USFWS promised undesirable long-term, widespread effects on the quality of water, air, wildlife, and wilderness values. Eskimos and Indians who subsistence hunt and fish will also be adversely impacted.

The EPA and Library of Congress rejected the final EIA and Hodel's recommendations on the grounds that essential information was deleted. The DOI says that there is a 19% chance of finding economically recoverable oil and other experts have an even lower estimate. The amount of oil is around 200 days worth at our current consumption rate and due to the low oil prices, other already tested fields have not been developed. The Regan administration is crying oil shortage on one hand and abandoning, abolishing and undermining energy conservation programs on the other. This eronious "drain America first" approach may ruin one of the worlds priceless treasures.

The area would fit between Kalispell and Missoula, and be about 24 miles wide. It is difficult to get there for the casual tourist and out of our immediate attention. The wildlife values are unique and irreplaceable, not to mention the values that, as of yet, are undiscovered.

Morris K. Udall (D-AZ) sponsored H.R. 36 to designate this area as wilderness. Rep. Pat Williams has already co-sponsored this Bill and Sen. Max Baucus has indicated that he will support it. Don Young (R-AK) sponsored H.R. 1082 - the Arctic Coastal Plain Leasing Act of 1987. Rep. Ron Marlenee co-sponsored the Young Bill along with 145 others. About 80 persons have publically co-sponsored the Udall Bill. Senator John Melcher, who as yet is uncommitted (but leans toward the Young Bill), plays an essential role as senior member of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forestry.

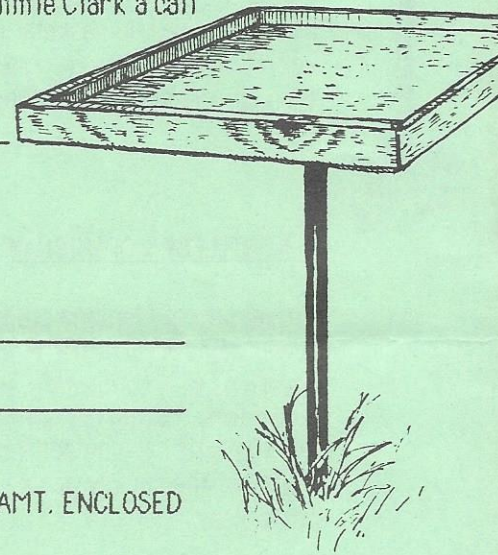
***Please call and write Marlenee to at least withdraw his support of the Young Bill and convince Melcher that his constituents want the Udall Bill to succeed. A letter with a followup call 10 days later is very effective. If you would like more information call me at 837-4294.

Robin Magaddino, Flathead Audubon President
Montana representative for the Alaska Coalition

ANNUAL SUNFLOWER SEED SALE

CHEERY CHICKADEE

Take down the hummingbird feeders and put up the platforms, gourds, tubes, Shaner pots, or whatever holds your sunflower seeds and suit. Winter is just around the corner (bite my little tongue). We have decided to handle only the black (oil) sunflower seed this year in light of the extensive observations made by Brent Mitchell last winter. Human preference aside, we birds preferred the black seed over the striped seed hands down. Brent watched birds throw out many striped seeds before finally finding a black seed, which they would then eat. On a divided platform with black seed on half and striped on the other, birds which happened to land on the striped end nearly always immediately hopped to the black seed end to eat. Yes, given no choice, we will eat the striped seeds. The 50 lb sacks will again be sold for \$15 each. Depending upon the weather, October 24 will be our delivery day (your pick-up day). Pick-up sites will be arranged in Bigfork, Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Polson, Libby, and Condon. Orders and money are due October 15. If you have time to help that day, please give Tommie Clark a call at 837-6615.



SUNFLOWER SEED ORDER FORM 1987

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF SACKS _____

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED

TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED _____

50 LB SACK AT \$15 EACH

I WILL PICK UP MY SEEDS IN:

BIGFORK___KALISPELL___COLUMBIA FALLS___WHITEFISH___POLSON___LIBBY___CONDON___

SEND CHECK AND ORDER TO: FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member _____

(due Oct 15)

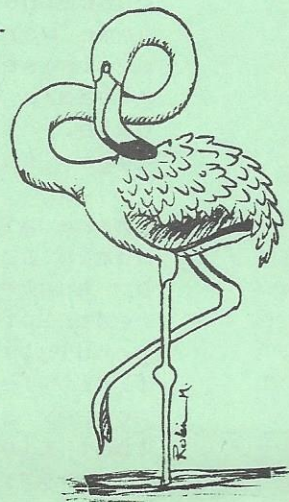
P.O. BOX 715

BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

Non-Member _____

WHAT'S THAT?????

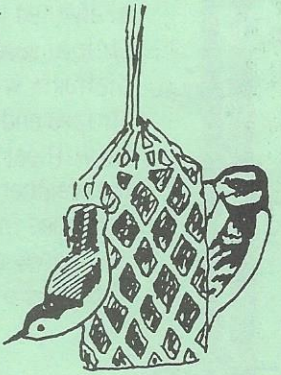
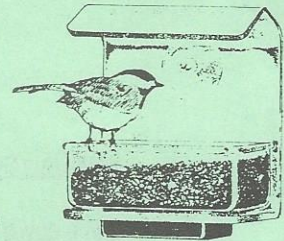
Need help identifying that colorful crowd of birds at your feeder this winter? Flathead Audubon Society is selling the new edition of National Geographic Society-Field Guide to the Birds of North America, considered to be the best all around field guide for this continent. Your cost is only \$17.00. Contact Robin Magaddino, 837-4294, or pick up a copy at our regular meeting.



FEEDING OUR WINTER RESIDENTS

CHEERY CHICKADEE

I'm one of them. Goodness knows why we chickadees stick around here. There are quite a few seed heads of various plants sticking up through the snow and lots of insects overwintering in the crevasses of cottonwood bark to provide us with enough nutrition to survive a normal winter. A severe winter, however, can be devastating to first year birds and undernourished adults. Food supplied by humans gives many birds a slight advantage against those long, cold nights. Feeding wild birds can also provide an entertaining variety show right outside your living room window. Each year your feeders will attract more and more birds (we bring our chicks and grandchicks). "What to serve for dinner?" you might ask.....Almost all birds will eat sunflower seeds; some will like millet; a few, cracked corn. Suet, beef fat, hung up in wire baskets is a favorite of all. Peanut butter can be spread into the petals of a pinecone or into holes which have been bored into a small log (these are then suspended from a convenient branch). Old cookies, bread, muffins and fruit are also appreciated. Water is the most attractive item you can have in your winter birdie diner. I've seen hanging planters, plastic milk jugs, picnic tables, plywood platforms, garlic baskets, hollow logs, and pinecones used to hold bird food, as well as a whole variety of specially designed feeders. Begin feeding this winter with sunflower seed ordered through the Flathead Audubon Society.



A NORTH FORK OPINION OF WOLVES - YOU HEARD IT FIRST RIGHT HERE

University of Montana student Pat Tucker queried the residents and hunters in the North Fork area regarding wildlife management, especially of the wolf. She mailed survey forms with 28 questions to 480 hunters and 187 residents in February. An incredibly high 79% sent in responses. Following is Pat's brief summary of this rather involved process. Anyone wishing more details can contact Pat through the Wildlife Biology Dept., UM, Missoula, Montana 59812. A copy of the survey and results is also available in our Audubon files at the President's residence.

"From the questionnaire I was able to identify many subgroups of people. While all of the following groups hope wolves continue to inhabit the North Fork, support is less strong among older people, people who's parents and/or grandparents hunt, people who first moved to or visited the North Fork before 1970, and people who have or are raising animals for food.

My general impression is that there is broad support for having wolves in the North Fork, but that support is tempered by concerns about restrictions on human activity. Many people voice some worry about human safety. Hopefully, this concern will decrease with time and education. There have been no serious attacks by unprovoked, wild, healthy wolves in North America to date. In contrast at least 11 people were killed by domestic dogs from May 1985 to Sept. 1986.

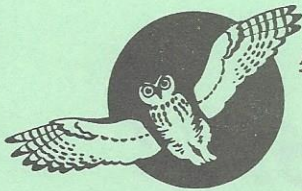
There also seems to be a general concensus that restrictions on human activity to promote wolf recovery are not wanted at least by hunters. Fortunately there should be little need for many restrictions. Management that promotes healthy deer and elk populations will promote wolf recovery. The exception is the first few weeks after the pups are born in the spring. If the mother is disturbed and leaves the den for even a few hours at that time the pups may die of hypothermia. Therefore, during the recovery process it may be necessary to restrict human access to the denning area for a few weeks."



THE LONG HOT SUMMER WITH NATIONAL AUDUBON-IT'S NOT OVER YET

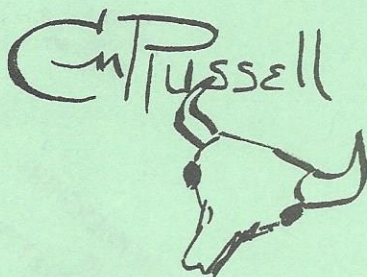
On May 18, 1987, National Audubon announced that, due to lack of funds, they were closing the Regional Offices, including ours in Denver. Services supplied by that office would come from a newly developed Western Office located in Sacramento, CA. Of course, the staff would be greatly reduced and so would our services. Out cry from Audubon Societies across the nation brought these plans to a screeching halt.....but the story is far from over. Bob Turner will remain in the Denver Regional Office, but have broader duties and a reduced staff. All regions were not so fortunate.

Gordon Weber, treasurer of the Yellowstone Chapter in Billings, was invited to attend a meeting in Washington, D.C. on August 8, to help develop a process whereby regional representatives would be nominated by the chapters to National's Board of Directors. It was also resolved that included in the 36 National Board membership, there shall be no less than nine Directors, one from each region, chosen from their respective regions by an elective process to be agreed upon by the Board with consultation with the Chapter leaders present at the August 8 meeting. The nine regional Board members shall be elected in the term to begin in December 1987. The initial terms of the regional Board members shall be staggered so that three shall expire in 1988, three in 1989 and three in 1990. Each term thereafter shall be for a full three year term. Those with shorter terms are eligible for re-election if the regions involved so desire. In order to keep the process simple this first year, we will work through the State Councils and Regional Office. After the nominations are in, the election will be held on the basis of one vote for each chapter. September 30 is the deadline for nominations. This and other issues are being discussed at the Audubon National Convention in Bellingham, WA as this letter goes to press. Rod and June Ash of our chapter are attending and will give us the blow-by-blow account at our September meeting.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Flathead Audubon was able to sponsor 20 classrooms this fall, along with an additional sponsorship from a private donor. We, and especially the children who are receiving this gift, thank the sponsor whole-heartedly. It's never too late to begin sponsoring classrooms in NW Montana with this varied and thorough environmental education program. Contact Nancy Trembath, 837-6298, for more information.



THE CHARLIE RUSSELL SHOW

staring

Raphael Christy

a delightful evening including slides, short stories,
and unusual and beautiful sawblade music

Friday, September 25, at Cavanaugh's Motor Inn, Kalispell
refreshments at 7:30 p.m.
program begins at 8:00 p.m.

\$6.00 advance tickets--\$8.00 at the door

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER BENIFIT
call Gail Bissell, 752-5744, for more info
(advance tickets will be available at the Sept. Audubon meeting)





1986 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911
Jack White, 1235 Swan River Road, Bigfork, MT 59911
Barb Baxter, 255 Oldenburg Rd., Somers, MT 59932
Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lane, Bigfork, MT 59911

837-4294
837-6157
857-3738
837-6615

DIRECTORS

Bob Ballou, Box 11881, Rt.1, Charlo, MT 59825
Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901
Lynn Kelly, P.O. Box , Polson, MT 59860
Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860

644-2365
257-8130

CHAIRS

Conservation
Education
Field Trip
Hospitality
Library
Membership
Newsletter
Program and
Publicity
Refuge
Schools/Clubs

Rod Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59826
Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860
Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
Susannah Casey, 265 Breezy Pt., Somers, MT 59932
Nancy Trembath, 6065 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911
June Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59862
Leo Keane, 2175 Houston Dr., Whitefish, MT, 59937

887-2492
754-2289
887-2492
857-3143
837-6298
754-2289
862-5807

Bob Ballou, Box 11881, Rt 1, Charlo, MT 59825
Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd., Kalispell, 59911

644-2365
755-2751

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. Regular monthly meetings are preceeded by an Executive Board meeting, the time and location of which are published in the preceeding 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 \$4.00/yr

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 card

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

\$20

☐ STUDENT \$18

☐ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

☐ Bill me, please.

N54

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society

Mail to: June Ash

Box 957

Condon, MT 59826

Sunflower Seed Issue

Orders Due Soon



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 715

BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

Non-Profit Org.

Postage

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Permit No. 3

BIGFORK, MT

59911

SPECIAL \$20 INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
A GIFT FOR YOURSELF OR A FRIEND
ORDER FORM ON BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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