







# The Pileated Post

VOLUME 11

NUMBER 8

NOVEMBER 1987

1987 NOVEMBER 1987						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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					
		FM 5	LQ 13	NM 21	FQ 27	

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

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 Business meeting. 8:00 Program: A special Audubon film on what may be the worlds most endangered mammal-- "The Blackfooted Ferret". This movie features the Audubon Society's famous cinematography and an eloquent statement for conservation

Flathead Wildlife meeting: TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEWS. Details page 2.

## EDITOR'S DESK

Leo Keane

Flathead Audubon extends our congratulations to the Yellowstone Chapter in Billings who recently won a second place award in the Society's national newsletter contest. The Yellowstone Flyer took the award in Category II, for chapters with from 300 to 900 members. Lila Weber of Yellowstone Audubon is the newsletter editor. She and her fellow members put together an extensive newsletter with coverage of local and national conservation issues as well as birding news and field observations. The Yellowstone Flyer has become a model for other Montana chapter newsletters within the past several years.

We also entered our own Pileated Post in the contest, also in Category II, with our subscription of nearly four hundred. The results were enlightening. First of all, I was impressed with the depth of criteria and judging. It was very thorough, and no doubt the winning newsletters earned their awards. Secondly, the judging suggested many ideas for improving the impact and interest of our newsletter. Hopefully, in the following months you might notice some changes for the better resulting from our entry.

One criteria the judges weighed heavily was that the newsletter reflect a variety of styles from several contributors. That means you! We'd like to have a cross section of our membership showing up from time to time in the Pileated Post. You know, everybody likes to hear what their neighbors and colleagues have to say--be it an opinion or an experience. And we newsletter editors find the task of sorting through too many articles far more inspiring than plugging in for too few. So go ahead, make my day (and get yourself published!). We welcome prose, poetry and artwork in any vein of nature or conservation. Beyond that, your imagination is the limit.





FROM THE PRESIDENTRobin Magaddino

I have joined an elite percentage of conservationists. I have spoken directly with Senator John Melcher. For over an hour (glad it was his dime) we traded views, listened to each others opinions and shared a few "political realities". I learned two important things: First, this powerful individual wants to hear from Montanans about issues "from their own backyards", and secondly, he believes the Audubon Society, with over 4000 members statewide, is an important political voice. I personally give the man credit for the incredibly hard task of being a congressman. And actually, I believe we could be friends. Like me, he is opinionated, is sometimes swayed by erroneous information, tries to please many people, and loves Montana and Montanans.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: I felt like I barely had time to get there before the oil wells. Melcher felt there was nothing happening in the Arctic that would concern anyone in Montana. Good grief! He had lots of wrong "facts", such as: 1) The natives want drilling (many came to Washington D.C. to testify against it before his committee), 2) Caribou were not bothered by the pipeline and wouldn't be by this oil development (research by Alaska Fish and Game refutes this), 3) the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain is not an important calving ground (this is actually the primary area), 4) oil drilling in the Arctic is non-polluting (thousands of pollution violations have been cited since 1980), 5) there is no danger to fisheries (fresh water is very limited on the tundra and oil drilling would dry up many waterways and lakes), 6) the natives want money from oil development (only the Native Corporation does, the native people are scared to death of losing their subsistence caribou and fisheries).

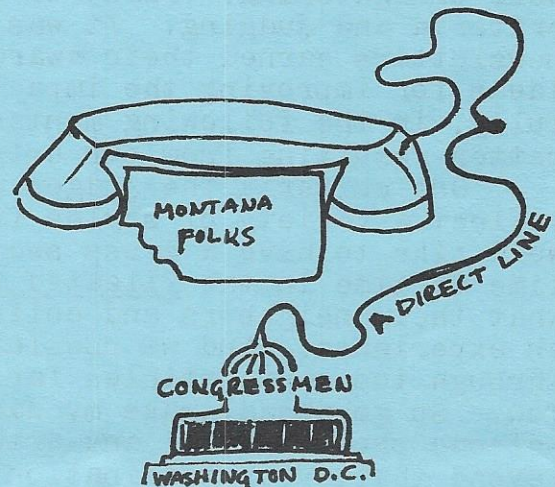
After our conversation I learned that Big John has not even attended even one of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge hearings in his own Committee!!

Montana Wilderness: Melcher feels that people who live near a proposed wilderness have the greatest voice in its future. My feeling is that wilderness is an issue that concerns all citizens of the nation and the world. But for now let's play it his way: if you are a snowmobiler yet feel that illegal use of the Jewel Basin is unwarranted and distasteful, or if you use off-road vehicles but still believe that a roadless, motorless wilderness is desirable, or especially, if you use the Rocky Mountain Front or the Gallatin for hunting, fishing and hiking and would like to see places that remain for solitude-- LET JOHN MELCHER KNOW NOW! He needs a more rational and global perspective.

#### TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEWS

A program presented by Jay Nelson of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council will be in Kalispell, Thursday, November 12 at the regular meeting of Flathead Wildlife, 7:30 PM at the P.P. & L. Bldg. on Meridian Road. Jay went from Montana to SE Alaska as a biologist and now lobbys for preservation of old growth rain forests. I highly recommend his program. See you there!

Robin





MONTANA'S OWN AUDUBON ADVENTURES  
Rod Ash

An Audubon adventure of its own is underway for the Montana Audubon Council. At its recent fall meeting the council, composed of delegates from Audubon chapters throughout the state, voted to undertake two big ventures. One venture will establish a permanent endowment fund and the other a permanent Montana Audubon office and director.

The council voted to establish the Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund. The fund will be developed as a permanent endowment. Income from the endowment fund will not be used until the fund reaches \$20,000. The fund will be used to finance projects and studies intended to enhance, protect and understand Montana's wildlife and natural communities. A board of directors appointed by the chairman of the Audubon Council and subject to the council's authority will manage the fund.

The committee authorized council president Bob Ballou to appoint the board of directors and authorized the board to commence raising funds. Audubon chapters will be assessed fifty cents per member to establish revenues necessary for getting the fund underway.

Ballou said that the endowment would be a "wonderful thing." "Montanans will be helping to preserve their wildlife heritage," he said.

In the second new venture the council established a committee to work toward the funding of an Audubon state council office and paid state director. The committee must raise \$10,000 out of a proposed \$20,000 budget before the council will approve the opening of the office. To aid the funding of the office the council voted to assess each chapter fifty cents per member.

Delegates pointed out that the office and director's duties will include the lobbying effort presently funded during each legislative session.

Council delegates argued that a state Audubon office was essential to coordinating the many activities being undertaken by the council and chapters. The office would also enhance the statewide presence of Audubon in the conservation community.

Conservationists may now breath a sigh of relief since Provincial authorities in British Columbia brought to an early halt the open season on gray wolves in the provinces southern portion. The gunning and trapping season was set to run through February, but when it became evident that the wolf packs sharing the US/Canadian border were more vulnerable than anticipated biologists from both countries recommended the closure. At least half a dozen wolves were shot from the two packs originating from Glacier Park. Write Ralph Archibald of the Ministry of Environment and Parks in Victoria, B.C. expressing your views on the closure, and please encourage him to discontinue the wolf hunt until wolf recovery is complete.



WESTERN BIRD BANDERS CONFERENCE  
Elly Jones

Recently I attended the Western Bird Banders Association meeting in Tuscon. It was a wonderful learning experience with live banding demonstrations and presentations. I lucked out at a silent auction and got a new woodpecker trap. We were invited to an open house at the Tuscon Audubon Bookstore and I bought two books, both signed by the authors ! Hawks by Bill Clark is a new Peterson Field Guide and is very good.

We went on field trips, also, and in two days I saw 111 species- 33 were new ones for me. Our leaders said it was a 'slow' time !

We went to the Audubon meeting, too, and it was like going to the movies here. They have a large, active membership. The Auduboners were most friendly and helpful and chauffeured us flightless folks all around.

A good number of banders are elderly and they are looking for new banders. If you are interested or would just like to observe, you are welcome to join me at home on weekends. (886-2244)

Below is a flyer sent by a bander from Reno. Let's keep a lookout for these banded gulls.

Again I'd like to express my gratitude to Flathead Audubon for helping me get started in bird banding.

# WANTED

## information

ON

GULLS Banded AT LAKE LAHONTAN , CHURCHILL CO NEVADA

BOTH RING BILLED AND CALIFORNIA GULLS

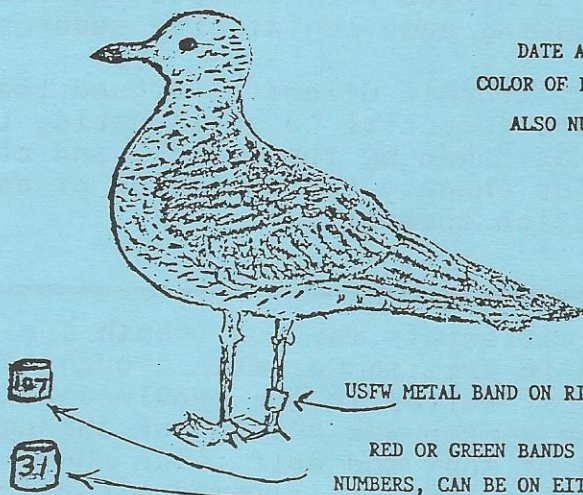
### CONTACT

ALAN GUBANICH  
DEPT OF BIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO  
RENO, NEVADA  
702 784 6652

HUGH JUDD  
2325 JESSIE  
SPARKS, NEVADA 89431  
702 356 7485

### NEED TO KNOW

DATE AND LOCATION OF SIGHTING  
COLOR OF BAND AND WHICH LEG IT IS ON  
ALSO NUMBER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE



USEFW METAL BAND ON RIGHT LEG

RED OR GREEN BANDS WITH HIGHLY VISIBLE  
NUMBERS, CAN BE ON EITHER LEG



BIRD PORTRAIT: Rough Legged Hawk

Leo Keane

*Buteo lagopus*: *Buteo*, "broadwinged", and *lagopus*, "rabbit's foot", due to the feathers which cover this hawk's entire foot to the talons, hence, the common name, rough legged.

This hawk is as much a harbinger of the changing season here in the mountain valleys of western Montana as, say, the migrating flocks of robins and bluebirds. But even more, in my mind, I connect the appearance of autumn rough leggeds to the onset of "good hunting", for when these statuesque birds show up on fence post and telephone pole it most often signals the arrival of the legendary (often illusory) "northern flight" of ducks. Those days when we did a lot of river drifting in the fall of the year it was always cause for great exclamations when the rough leggeds moved in because we knew the big flocks of mallards would soon follow.

Nowadays there seems to be far less predictability in our natural phenomena, and in particular our weather patterns. I imagine hawks and mallards alike are stationed far to the north basking in this protracted summer. But surely a storm will press down from the Arctic before too long and send the great flocks reeling. I, for one, am anxious for that day. After all, it is the hunting moon.

Look for rough leggeds in open country--the wheat fields and hay lands of the Flathead are ideal habitat during migration. (Rough legged nesting range is in the far northern tundra.) They may be seen hovering, like a kestrel, or flying slow and low to the ground, like a marsh hawk (oops, I mean northern harrier). They pounce quickly to dispatch their preferred food--mice. On the other hand, for a really good look at a grand bird, simply stop the car (well off to the shoulder of course) next time you see one of these joyfully cooperative fellows atop a power pole (they're inquisitive too!). Creamy, speckled underparts with a brown back and belly band? That's a rough legged.

To learn more of the rough legged hawk's life history I refer you to The Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds (my bible), by John K. Terres. Robin Magaddino supplied this rendition of a soaring rough legged which is exactly right.

FLATHEAD MONITORING FOR ACID RAIN

Acid rain is usually thought of as a problem of eastern North America, particularly New England and Eastern Canada. However, the waters and forests of the northern Rockies are within a region considered by scientists to be at risk for serious degradation if industrial air pollution grows in the region.

Flathead Chapter members can become involved in a nationwide acid rain monitoring network being established by the national Audubon Society. In its efforts to combat the spread of acid rain, Audubon is seeking volunteers willing to collect data on acid rain in their localities.

The Flathead Audubon Society has authorized Jim Rodgers, Flathead's Education Chairman, to contact science teachers within the Flathead basin with the purpose of establishing student manned monitoring stations. Interested teachers should contact Jim Rodgers at Box 984, Polson, MT 59860.

Other chapter members interested in volunteering for acid rain monitoring can write directly to: Citizens' Acid Rain Monitoring Network, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Rod Ash





# 1987 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

## OFFICERS

President	Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Vice President	Jack White, 1235 Swan River Road, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6157
Secretary	Barb Baxter, 255 Oldenburg Road, Somers, MT 59932	857-3738
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Lane, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

## DIRECTORS

Bob Ballou, Box 11881, Route 1, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-8130
Lynn Kelly, P. O. Box 2289, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	887-2492

## CHAIRS

Conservation	Rod Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Education	Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	
Field Trips	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Hospitality	Susannah Casey, 265 Breezy Point, Somers, MT 59932	857-3143
Library	Nancy Trembath, 6065 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6298
Membership	June Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59862	754-2289
Newsletter	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Program and Publicity		
Schools/Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Road, Kalispell, MT 59911	755-2751

## National Audubon Society

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I'd like to join. Local Chapter:

FLATHEAD AUDUBON N 54

Mail to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY,  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 2664, Boulder, CO 80321

## INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

\$20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 - 8 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

7XCH8

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 preceeding newsletter. The business meeting (7:30) and program (8:00) 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, the cost is \$4.00 per year.

THANKS TO ALL  
FOR YOUR GREAT HELP  
OCTOBER 24!



## FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 715  
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911



Non-Profit Org.  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 3  
BIGFORK, MT  
59911