



# The Pileated Post

VOLUME 12

NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1988

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: Bob Ream, professor of wildlife at the University of Montana and founder of the Wolf Ecology Project, will discuss the history and current status of wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies ecosystem and present his thoughts on wolves in Montana. Dr. Ream has been the momentum behind research in the North Fork wolf pack and should be a most interesting speaker.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING FIELD TRIP: Lupine Lake National Recreation Trail, four miles round trip through lovely montane forest, intermediate level skiing ability advised, moderate hills. Meet at Buttrey's parking lot in Kalispell 9:00 AM. Return about 4:00 PM. Call Leo, 862-5807 for info.

1988 **JANUARY** 1988

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## STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village, though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.





## Audubon Members Overwhelmingly Support Board Election Process

By Peter A.A. Berle  
President, National Audubon Society

**D**ecember 4, 1987, was an historic day for the National Audubon Society. By an overwhelming margin—and in unprecedented numbers—Auduboners approved a slate of nominees for our Board of Directors which included nine members representing Audubon's nine traditional regions.

A total of 106,529 Audubon members cast proxy ballots in favor of the board's official list of candidates. An alternate slate of candidates drew 5,113 proxy ballots. These results were certified at our Annual Meeting of Members, held in New York on the morning of December 4th.

After the Annual Meeting, the new board members plunged into an intense round of board committee sessions that same day, followed by a full board meeting on December 5th.

The nine chapter-nominated board members are:

Leigh J. Altadonna, Wyncote, Pa., Mid-Atlantic Region

Wilma Anderson, Dallas, Texas, Southwest Region

Janice E. Burch, Lincoln, Neb., West Central Region

B. Bartram Cadbury, Cushing, Maine, Northeast Region

Charles G. Evans, Anchorage, Alaska, Alaska Region

Robert Y. Grant, Kenmore, Wash., Western Region

Janet C. Green, Duluth, Minn., Great Lakes Region

Harriet M. Marble, Chester, Mont., Rocky Mountain Region

Leah G. Schad, West Palm Beach, Fla., Southeast Region

This election holds major significance for National Audubon for several reasons.

- It was the first time in Audubon history that our 508 chapters directly nominated candidates for the Board of Directors, the governing body of our organization.

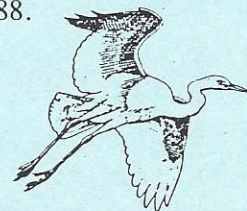
- The total number of members participating in the 1987 election through proxy ballots totalled more than 111,000, by far an all-time high for Audubon—and, we believe, a demonstration of strong interest in the future of National Audubon. Throughout Audubon history, proxy balloting had never drawn more than 19,700 votes in any single year.

- The more than 106,000 members who cast their proxy ballots for the chapter-selected members and other board candidates is a clear vote of confidence for this new Board of Directors election process, under which 25 percent of the seats on the board—nine out of 36—will always be filled by men and women who have been directly nominated by our chapters.

This past year was a tumultuous one for National Audubon. We faced severe financial pressures to bring our budget into balance for the fiscal year that began July 1, 1987. This forced us to make organization-wide cutbacks that included restructuring our regional operations—a painful process in which we lost some valued longtime staff.

The regional office cutbacks, in particular, prompted understandable anger on the part of some grassroots members. But a constructive dialogue ensued during the summer, resulting in the chapter election process, which will ensure that concerned Auduboners have greater and more direct input into board decision-making.

The events of December 4th have ended 1987 on a strong, positive note for the National Audubon Society, and we look forward with confidence to 1988.



### BRIEFLY: Christmas Bird Count 1987, Early Results

- Flathead: 80 species, new record high, includes first sightings of white-fronted goose and rufous-sided towhee.
- Ninepipe: 56 species, very low waterfowl count, nine observers covered entire area.
- Kootenai: 58 species, includes screech owl, loon, goldfinch and harris sparrow.
- Five Valley: 73 species, includes first sighting of a purple finch if confirmed.
- Glacier: Unavailable at press time. We are reminded to keep alert for banded bald eagles (orange wing band with number). Call Riley McClelland, 888-5468 with sighting report.
- Troy: 47 species, includes many white-winged crossbills and one harlequin duck at Kootenai Falls.



# CHICKADEES I HAVE KNOWN

Ann Kinsey

Chickadees have always been a part of my consciousness. As children Mother took us on walks insuring that we became aware of our world. We learned to identify the flora and fauna of western New York state. Birds received particular attention because Mother had taken ornithology in Ithaca. The cheerful chickadees flitted around our heads chattering "chick-a-dee-dee-dee".

As a rural school teacher in Wyoming chickadees became welcome winter friends, accompanying me up to the schoolhouse and down to the Shoshone River, perching on the porch of the teacherage. In New Mexico chickadees clustered around our little farmhouse. The babies squealed with glee when we peeked through the window at our feathered denizens.

Colorado proved equally hospitable to chickadees. Six feet of snow at the ranch didn't deter our friends. They flitted delightedly down to the barn gathering gleanings from the feed trough and manger.

Now we are residents of Ferndale, Montana and chickadees continue to bring me pleasure. We have three species: the black-capped, the mountain and our special Ferndale resident, the chestnut-backed chickadee. In the spring baby chickadees tumble from the birches and perch on my granddaughters' heads and cling to their fingers. Mother watches with ebullience as her great-grandchildren are initiated into the Wonders of the World.

Chickadees will continue to be a part of the consciousness of the young in our family.



## ANNOUNCING: Flathead Audubon T-shirt Design Contest!

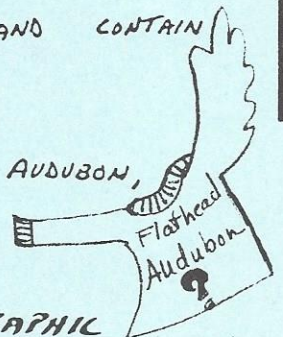
\* ENTRIES SHOULD BE ABOUT 8"x11", OPAQUE BLACK ON WHITE BACKGROUND OR OPAQUE BLACK ON WHITE BACKGROUND W/ ONE COLOR.

\* WINNING ENTRY SHOULD DEPICT A BIRD OR WILDLIFE THEME AND CONTAIN THE WORDS "FLATHEAD AUDUBON".

\* SEND ENTRIES BEFORE MARCH 12, 1988 TO: FLATHEAD AUDUBON, BOX 715, BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911.

THE PRIZE: winning entrant will receive the colorful NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. (\$25. VALUE)

NOTE: WINNING ENTRY MAY BE MODIFIED BY FA. BOARD MEMBERS PRIOR TO PRINTING





**FROM THE PRESIDENT****The Senatorial breakfast****ROBIN MAGADDINO**

Wilderness can have several meanings. That which I encountered Monday morning, Dec. 28, 1987, was one devoid of order and direction, or as Webster puts it "a large confused mass or tangle of persons" and their thoughts. Many thought of wilderness with another Webster definition as a "waste, useless and profitless; squandering." Twenty five persons gathered for breakfast with Senator Melcher to give their views on proposed wilderness areas. Only two, Dick Kuhl, with MWA, and myself were proponents of wilderness. I strongly doubt if all miners, loggers, snowmobilers, ranchers, county commissioners and state legislators are opposed to wilderness, but persons at this meeting claiming to represent those interests were definitely opposed.

Jewel Basin Hiking Area was thoroughly discussed. Two snowmobilers dominated much of the meeting by pushing the legalization of snowmobiles in the Hiking Area. This issue is unrelated to the wilderness proposal. There is illegal use of the area by snowmobilers, mainly from the Hungry Horse side of the hill, but legality of motorized access to Jewel Basin will not change with the added wilderness designation. The Forest Service declared Jewel Basin off limits to horses and motorized vehicles in 1962. The few outlaw snowmobilers will fail to establish a traditional use of Jewel Basin simply because snowcats have been excluded from the area before they were even introduced to the Flathead Valley. Melcher claims that he will vote on Jewel Basin wilderness status as indicated by Flathead Valley residents. The proposed Cube-Iron, Silcox and Trout Creek wilderness areas suffer from similar recreational conflicts.

Montana's timber, mining and oil/gas economies were also discussed. Speakers mistakenly claimed that too much timber and minerals (as yet undiscovered) would be locked up. The Thompson-Seaton and Heafly/Tuchuck proposed wilderness units, adjacent to Canada in the North Fork, are so rugged, fire scared and remote that the USFS would probably never get a profitable timber sale on either area. The one planned sale has been halted by the Forest Supervisor until the wilderness issue is settled. This valuable block of old growth provides the watershed for Whale Creek, a major bull trout spawning creek in the Flathead drainage. Boundaries have been drawn to exclude all existing mining claims from the proposed wilderness areas. EPA regulations, which currently require the maintenance of certain environmental standards will still be in effect, and will likely not become more restrictive. Technology is available to drill for oil and gas without surface occupancy of the wilderness.

**THE FACTS**

1. Only 0.3% of the programmed timber harvest for the next decade will be removed by the current wilderness bills.
2. Concessions have already been made when delineating these wilderness boundaries as to include even less percentage of future programmable timber harvest.
3. Mining claims have been protected and excluded.
4. Oil industry will be willing to drill under the wilderness from outside when it becomes profitable for them.
5. Recreational use is actually the only real conflict. Motorized vehicles are excluded from wilderness areas in most cases (there is an air strip inside the Bob).

The right to recreate is a big issue with Senator Melcher. I suppose that I have the right to a bit of silence and solitude when I go to the tiny percentage of the outdoors designated for that purpose. I could camp out at the public library for the silence, but I hope it never comes to that.

The Tragedy of the Commons is that fear of loss and greed of gain bring about rapid over exploitation of the common resources to the final detriment of all.

Senator Max Baucus  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-2651

Senator John Melcher  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-2644

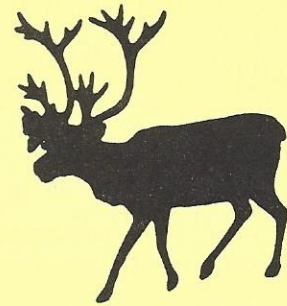
Rep. Pat Williams  
U.S. House  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3211

Rep. Ron Marlenee  
U.S. House  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
1-202-225-1555





## ARCTIC UPDATE JANUARY 1988



### THE ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a place of incomparable wildlife and wilderness. Home to more than 200 species of wildlife, it provides vital habitat for mammals, and migratory and resident birds. Within the Refuge lies the Arctic Coastal Plain, an area of 1.5 million acres, with 125 miles of coastline along the Beaufort Sea. This area is recognized by the Department of the Interior as "...the most biologically productive part of the Arctic Refuge for wildlife and is the center of wildlife activity on the Refuge." The plain's year-round residents include polar bears, muskoxen, golden eagles and arctic foxes.

Grizzlies, moose and wolves spend spring and summer there. The plain is an important staging area for millions of migratory birds as they fatten up for their long migration south. The 200,000 member Porcupine Caribou Herd migrates hundreds of miles annually to calve and nurse their young in this important area. Intact and undisturbed, the coastal plain of the refuge encompasses a complete spectrum of arctic and subarctic ecosystems, perhaps the last such place of its kind in North America.

### OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

The debate over opening the Arctic Coastal Plain to oil and gas exploration and development is one of the most significant issues facing the 100th Congress. It is an issue that has united and mobilized the environmental community nationwide.

The Department of the Interior has recommended that the Coastal Plain be opened to oil and gas exploration and development. However, according to the DOI's own report--

-There is only a one-in-five chance that there is any economically recoverable oil (based on a price of \$33/barrel) under the Coastal Plain. At lower prices, this already low probability estimate for economically-recoverable oil must be revised sharply downward.

-If recoverable oil is found, the mean estimated quantity of oil that can be recovered is 3.2 billion barrels. This 3.2 billion barrels would supply the U.S. with about 200 days worth of oil (based on energy use projections from the Department of Energy).

Justification for oil exploration and development is often based on our nation's increasing dependence on foreign oil. This dependence is due in part to increasing consumption and the lack of a sound energy conservation policy. Inevitably, we will need to lessen our dependence on oil, foreign and domestic. The current Administration's actions has only served to exacerbate this increasing need for oil.



In the past six years, the Administration has--

- abandoned support of automobile mileage standards;
- fought a home appliance energy efficiency standard;
- eliminated incentives for renewable energy development; and
- slashed research funds for a variety of renewable energy sources.

The need is not to open the Coastal Plain for development, but rather to develop a balanced energy program, utilizing conservation, alternative energy sources and technological innovation. The Coastal Plain's 125 mile coastline is the only section along Alaska's 1100-mile long Arctic Coastline that is not open to exploration or development...and it should remain so.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** Senator Bennett Johnston (D-La.) announced a delay of any action on a development bill until February of 1988. It is critical we keep pressure on our own **Senator John Melcher**, who sits on this committee. We need to **urge him to vote against any development legislation** (S1217 and a Johnston-McClure substitute) **and to support the Wirth-Bumpers amendment** which would require a three year energy alternatives study of the Coastal Plain (1002 Area) before any decision is made. Senator Melcher, in his response to conservationists' letters, has indicated he is leaning toward development and does not believe there is any significant concern by Montanans for the wildlife and wildlands of the Arctic. He needs our input!

**SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** **Senator Max Baucus** attended a December hearing on S1804, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness bill. While he asked quite a few questions, his response to letters from conservationists has been non-committal. We need to **urge Max to cosponsor S1804**, which would designate the Coastal Plain of the Refuge as wilderness. The committee will continue hearings on this bill in January.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:** **Representative Pat Williams** has already co-sponsored HR39, Morris Udall's bill to designate the Coastal Plain wilderness. **Representative Ron Marlenee** has co-sponsored Don Young's bill, HR1082, which would open the Coastal Plain to development. **Write Representative Marlenee urging him to remove his sponsorship of HR1082.**

Senator John Melcher  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202)224-2644

Senator Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202)224-2651 (800)332-6106

Rep. Ron Marlenee  
U.S. House of Rep.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202)225-1555

#### **ACTIVIST EFFORTS**

It is important to keep the pressure on both Baucus and Melcher by writing and calling. Phone trees are now being organized for 'quick response' to legislative events. Also, a short video, "Arctic Refuge: A Wilderness In Peril", is circulating to various groups and clubs. If you're interested in showing this video to friends, clubs, church groups, Scout troops, etc., extra copies are available.

For further information and copies of the video, contact Robin Magaddino, Montana Representative for the Alaska Coalition at 837-4294 or Sandy McIntyre, Regional Associate for The Wilderness Society, at 586-1600.



PORTRAIT: NORTHERN GOSHAWK

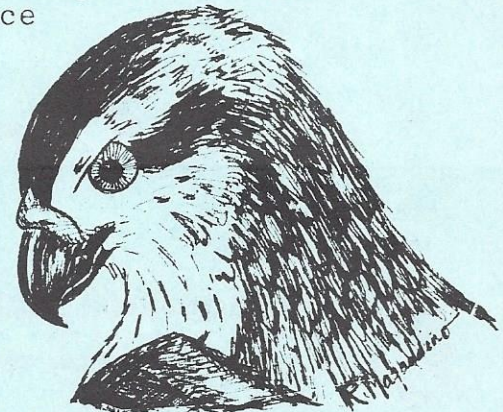
Leo Keane

"A bird in hand is worth two in the bush". Or put another way: a bird in the binoculars is worth any number darting elusively through the shadows.

That's been my luck with goshawks, up till now. It seems they've always appeared as a dark and silent apparition flapping off into the forest, like a bird dreamed of. Up till now, goshawks have eluded my grasp--that clear view required for positive field identification. But last week, on Christmas Bird Count day while exploring the rolling upland forests of the Many Lakes area, a goshawk materialized out of the trees and alighted on a spruce across the road from us. He posed there, as though out of an Audubon painting, preening and fluffing, first his slate back toward us, then his delicately barred front, then finally he launched himself in a noiseless glide over our gawking faces. This is the joy of bird-watching. Most any day in the field is blessed with these extraordinary visions.

The northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, literally "noble hawk") is uncommon even in this its preferred habitat--the boreal forests of the far north and mountain states--where it shares the big woods with its smaller cousins, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. But the northern goshawk is inarguably the "king of the forest". In this domain its large size, speed and agile flight make him the most efficient woodland raptor, capable of matching zig for zag darting snowshoe hare or grouse on the wing. Likewise, out of the forest, over northern lakes a goshawk is big and fast enough to take even waterfowl; hence the common name, goshawk or "goose" hawk.

I had a fascinating conversation with Murry Graham, a bird-watcher/naturalist out of Columbia Falls who (and pardon me if you are a pigeon fancier) used to raise pigeons expressly to release as prey for a goshawk which had taken up residence in the forest near Murry's home. After three years of releasing pigeons and watching this goshawk stoop for the kill, Murry learned a good bit about goshawk behavior. My understanding is that a goshawk takes prey much as a falcon, with a dive from above and a striking blow that sends the victim earthward where it is dispatched with a powerful drive of the talons. Interestingly, goshawks are more readily tamed and trained than falcons and thus are actually preferred for falconry.



After our goshawk drifted off into the snowy forest we forged on amidst the hills and vales of Many Lakes. The day was bright and beautiful. High overhead Canada geese clamored down the backbone of the Rockies, the last flights of autumn. The big, showy birds continued to capture our attention: a belted kingfisher rattled over a creek, a pileated woodpecker whacked against a snag, grouse whirred off through the brush. At the forest edge we came upon a huge flock of wild turkeys, chasing and scratching, totally unconcerned by our presence. Of course there were the "little gray birds" too--winter wren and water ouzel. But what will remain engraved in my memory is this vision of a lone goshawk, appearing for one, breathless moment out of the wild.



# 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 59626	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, Box 2922, Kalispell MT 59901	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	758-8344

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) 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.

## 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 - 6 weeks for delivery of your first issue.

*★ Lupine Lake Cross Country Winter Field Trip*  
*Saturday, January 33 - details page 1*



**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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