



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 13

NUMBER 5

JANUARY 1989

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, Flathead Bank of Bigfork meeting room. 7:30 Business Meeting (everyone welcome). 8:00 Program: Wildlife biologist, Maria Ash, will present her slide presentation of **Native and Endangered Plants of the Flathead**. These are artfully photographed slides and will feature the plants in their natural habitats for aid in identification. Maria has performed studies of rare plants throughout the Bob Marshall ecosystem for the Forest Service and the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

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EDITOR'S DESK

Leo Keane

It's dusk, the waning moments of this year's Christmas Bird Count. We've paddled a good twelve miles today on the Flathead River, from Egan Slough to here--a stone's throw upstream from Sportsman's Bridge where we will disembark. We've seen hundreds of geese, lots of ducks, a surprising number of bald eagles. We have not seen that goshawk, that snowy owl, that one bird that makes your day, the one that leaves your heart pounding. But now on the left bank we drift toward an old growth cottonwood/spruce forest, a classic river bottom woodland. Here, I decide, is our last chance to spot the biggie. We plow up on shelf ice and me and Buck jump out on frozen mud. While Gail stands by the canoe, we slip into the forest. It is very still. Deer tracks criss-cross everywhere in old frosty snow. Here, a pileated woodpecker has chiseled apart the base of a stump. There goes the trail of a snowshoe, off to a pocket of cattails. We turn toward a stand of dark spruce. I've got goshawk on my mind, not rabbits! Quickly though I am brought up short by something quite different. A survey stake, brightly painted and inscribed with surveyor's information. There's another. And another. I realize, then, what I hoped wouldn't be true--this is the site of the recently approved RV park near the Sportsman's Bridge. I stand there a moment visualizing what is to come: roads, pump stations, camper pads cut into the heart of this old growth jungle. And I realize that by this time next year, it will be gone. The dark and tangled forest urbanized. The deer, the woodpeckers, the hare chased out of their forest habitat.

Day by day we lose a bit of the Flathead this way. We take an acre here, an acre there to build our ranchettes, our golf course. Inch by inch we move our cities out onto the valley, as if there will always be more valley. This is a frontier mentality. The time to plan is now. And Flathead Audubon must be there in every instance as a voice for the forest, the river bottom, wherever there are habitats and wild things threatened. We must be the voice to say, "Let's go slow."

Undeveloped or Undisturbed--How Do You View Our World

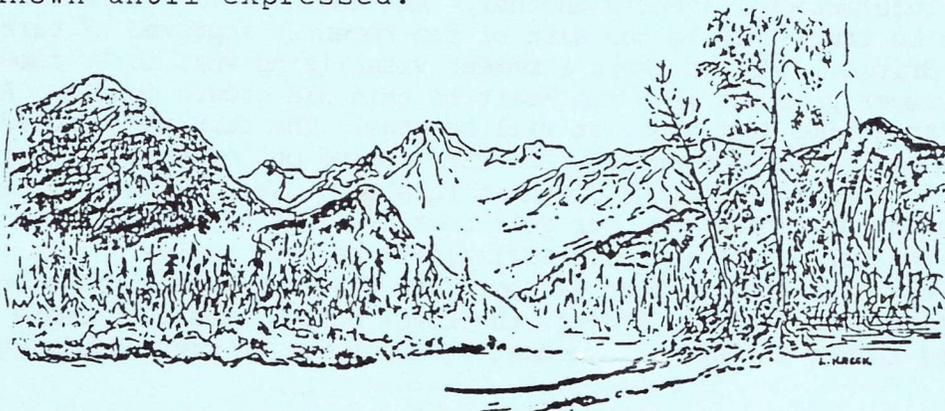
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Monida Star Route, Box 15
Lima, Montana 59739

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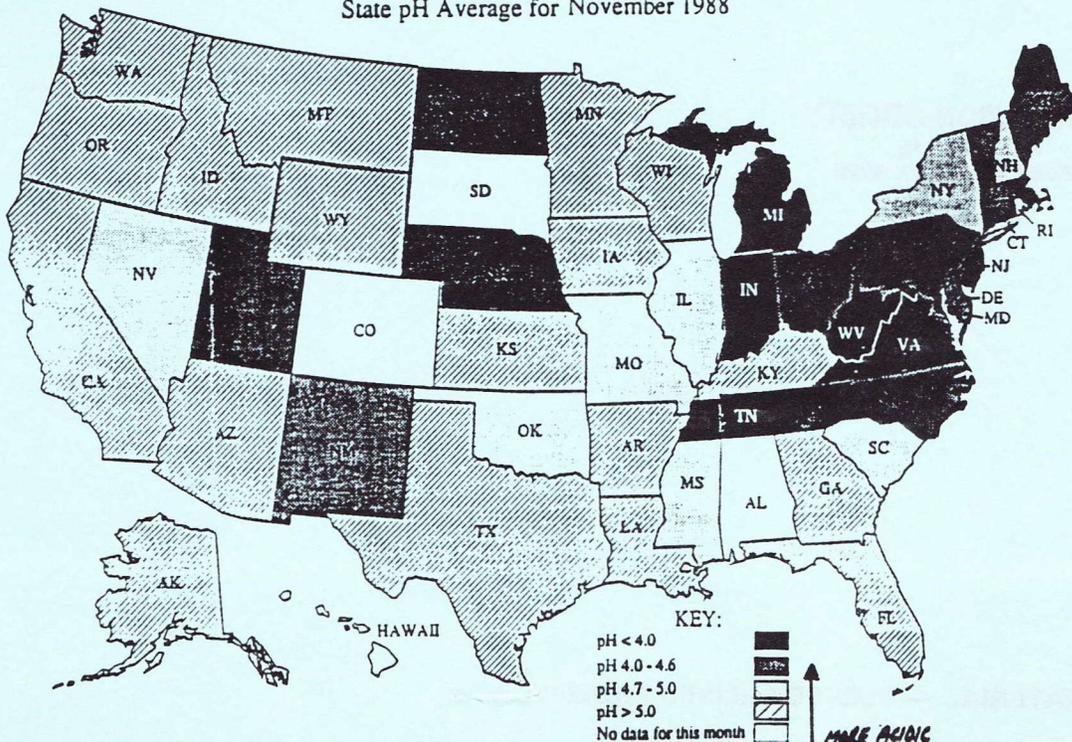
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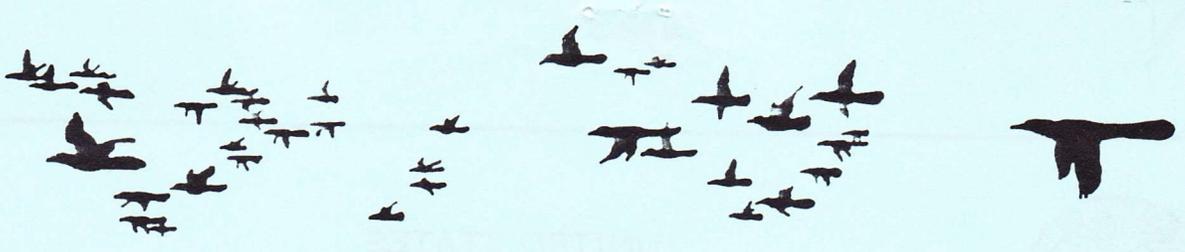
I am looking for two volunteers to work on a wildlife research project at Red Rocks Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Montana from May to September 1989. The positions require people who can commit their entire summer to this project and are willing to work full 40-hour weeks. There will be little financial compensation (per diem and free housing provided) but it should be a rewarding educational experience, and there are a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities available after work.

These should be ideal positions for people who have a strong birdwatching background and are interested in expanding their experience in wildlife field work. This is a non-game wildlife research project and will be mostly field work with lots of walking. For details and application, contact:

Janissa Balcomb, Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge,
Monida Star Route, Lima, Montana 59739. (406) 276-3347.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Citizens' Acid Rain Monitoring Network
State pH Average for November 1988





1989 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, Rt.1, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Bob Shennum, 2888 Swan Hwy., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6208
Lynn Kelly, P.O. Box 2289, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797

CHAIRS

Conservation	Rod Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Education	Jim Rogers, Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611
Field Trips	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Hospitality	Susannah Casey, Box 2922, Kalsipell, MT 59901	857-3143
Audubon Adventures/ Library	Nancy Trembath, 6065 MT Hwy 35, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6298
Membership	June Ash, Box 957, Condon, MT 59862	754-2289
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Program	Brent Michell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalsipell, MT 59901	756-8130
Schools/Clubs	Jean Robacker, 1655 Montford Road, Kalsipell, MT 59901	756-6344

National Audubon Society

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

FLATHEAD AUDUBON N 54 7XCH8

Mail to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
\$20

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

7XCH8

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★ Acid Rain
★ Boho Wapwings
★ Happy New Year!



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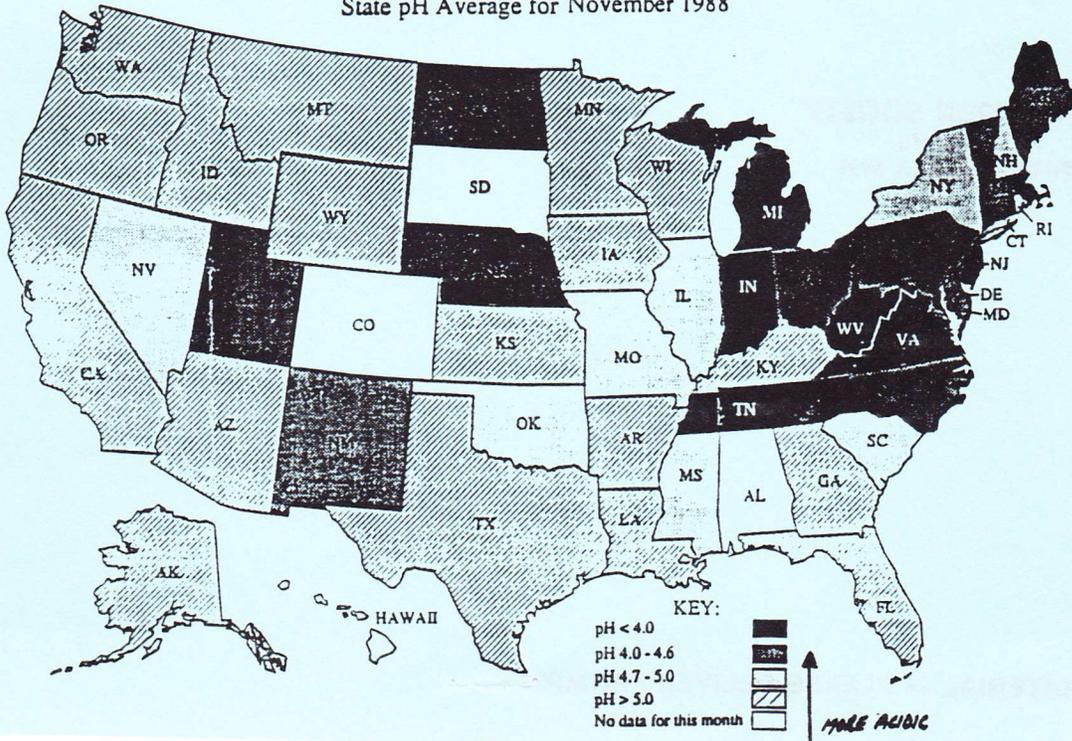
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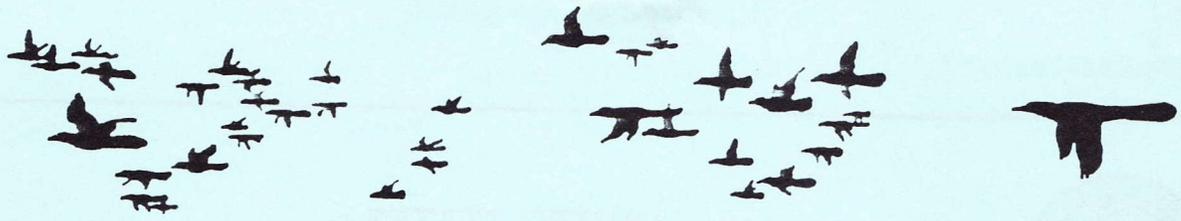
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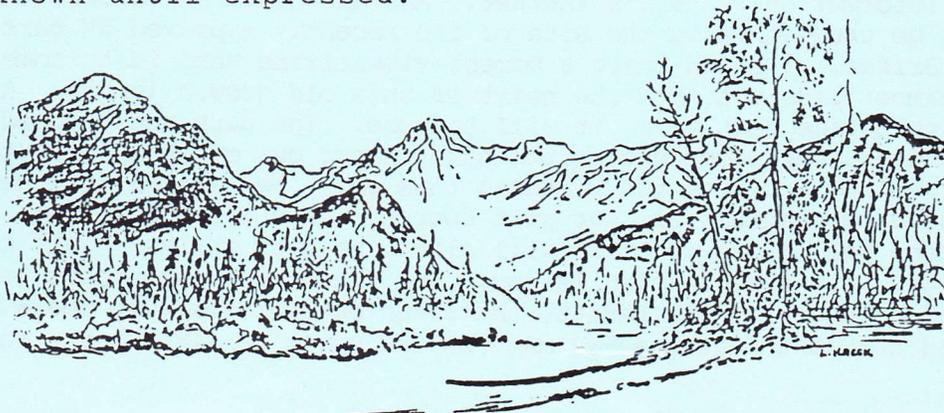
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EDITOR'S DESK

Leo Keane

It's dusk, the waning moments of this year's Christmas Bird Count. We've paddled a good twelve miles today on the Flathead River, from Egan Slough to here--a stone's throw upstream from Sportsman's Bridge where we will disembark. We've seen hundreds of geese, lots of ducks, a surprising number of bald eagles. We have not seen that goshawk, that snowy owl, that one bird that makes your day, the one that leaves your heart pounding. But now on the left bank we drift toward an old growth cottonwood/spruce forest, a classic river bottom woodland. Here, I decide, is our last chance to spot the biggie. We plow up on shelf ice and me and Buck jump out on frozen mud. While Gail stands by the canoe, we slip into the forest. It is very still. Deer tracks criss-cross everywhere in old frosty snow. Here, a pileated woodpecker has chiseled apart the base of a stump. There goes the trail of a snowshoe, off to a pocket of cattails. We turn toward a stand of dark spruce. I've got goshawk on my mind, not rabbits! Quickly though I am brought up short by something quite different. A survey stake, brightly painted and inscribed with surveyor's information. There's another. And another. I realize, then, what I hoped wouldn't be true--this is the site of the recently approved RV park near the Sportsman's Bridge. I stand there a moment visualizing what is to come: roads, pump stations, camper pads cut into the heart of this old growth jungle. And I realize that by this time next year, it will be gone. The dark and tangled forest urbanized. The deer, the woodpeckers, the hare chased out of their forest habitat.

Day by day we lose a bit of the Flathead this way. We take an acre here, an acre there to build our ranchettes, our golf course. Inch by inch we move our cities out onto the valley, as if there will always be more valley. This is a frontier mentality. The time to plan is now. And Flathead Audubon must be there in every instance as a voice for the forest, the river bottom, wherever there are habitats and wild things threatened. We must be the voice to say, "Let's go slow."