



The Pileated Post

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MAY 1989

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28	29	30	31				FQ 12	FM 20
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CANADA

"Every river I touch turns
to heartbreak...
Everything changes,
and nothing is more vulnerable
than the beautiful." Ed Abbey

ANNUAL MAY POTLUCK, Lonepine State Park, 5:30 PM. All members, guests and interested people welcome. Bring something good to eat and your own table service. We will provide beverages. This is always a fun time, usually accompanied by a beautiful sunset. Our program for the evening will be a special showing of landscape photography presented by **Roger Wade**, a professional commercial photographer who now makes the Swan Valley his home. In conjunction with his slides, Roger will give a landscape photography workshop--techniques for making better pictures, for all us budding shutterbugs. Do come. Bring a friend. Kids welcome too.

FIELD TRIP: Audubon's Birthday Walk. Hike up the Swan River Canyon with Ruth White. Meet at Kootenai Gallery in Bigfork at 2:00 PM. Easy, two mile walk up the road.

FIELD TRIP: Wild Horse Island. Boat ride to the island and walk where you wish. Depart from Rainbow Landing at Big Arm at 8:30 or 9:30 AM. Reservations required. Call Gail Leonard at 862-5807. Lots of wild flowers!

EDITOR'S DESK

Leo Keane

What's going on here? This newsletter tips the scales at 10 pages. And our membership chairwoman just called to tell me we've eclipsed the 500 mark on our membership roster. Two and a half years ago when I joined up with Flathead Audubon, and slipped into the editor's desk (goodness, it doesn't seem that long), we had just over 300 members and I struggled to complete a six page Pileated Post. So are we moving into the fast lane?

Actually, to find out what's going on I invite you to one of our Board of Directors dinner meetings. We'll be that large and noisy bunch way to the back of the restaurant. But if you've got a minute, and can adjust to the clamor, you'll notice something else--at least I often do. What you see here is a special combination of people, as diverse in age, occupation and upbringing as you could imagine, but each and every one holding a singular commitment. Birds. We all love birds. Our lives have been touched and probably changed by birds. Obviously changed, for we each devote a certain portion of our time to saving the birds. And as you know, if birds are the barometer of our environment, we have a big job ahead of us, nothing less than saving the planet.

Call it chemistry. Or call it a fortuitous combination of timing and talent, but this collection of personalities that is Flathead Audubon generates action. And that makes for a busy chapter. True, we will always first be a "bird club"--that's where we get our energy--but the times, this critical moment in history, demands more of us, and I think this is where Flathead Audubon excels. With the big picture in mind--saving the earth--we take on our environmental responsibilities close to home. Our colleagues in the state and national organization are of like mind, so we are in a fortunate position to make a difference.

It is an exciting time to be involved in Audubon. We'll be looking forward to seeing you back here at the Pileated Post in September!



Speaking of Trees:
A Fallible Dialogue

While it may seem somewhat far afield from this column's usual topics concerning wildlife habitat, wilderness, forest plans, oil spills or conservation politics, the subject this month arises from a recent lecture at the University of Montana on John Dewey's philosophy of pragmatism. One gathers from the lecture that pragmatism, or practicality, has gone out of style as a school of philosophy. However, the lecturer claimed many of its principals are of much value for modern society.

One of the guiding precepts of pragmatism is "fallible dialogue", a concept that ought to be taken to heart by all of us, on all sides, who debate the uses of public lands. Fallible dialogue refers to discussion or argument in which the involved parties agree that none of them have a monopoly on the truth, that, in other words, they are not infallible. They admit the possibility of error.

In light of the growing polarization of our Montana environmental debate, and of the dogmatic, even abusive tone of the participants, a little fallible dialogue would be a healthy change.

There have been some good signs lately that the dialogue could become more constructive. The negotiated settlement regarding the Deer Lodge National Forest Plan among timber industry, Forest Service and conservation representatives might provide a model for other forests in the region. Recent comments by Forest Service officials seem to indicate a growing commitment to a truly balanced management of the National Forests.

In a talk to Forest Service biologists, as reported in The Missoulian, a special assistant to the Chief of the Forest Service said the agency must become increasingly sophisticated in sorting out the collisions between conflicting values and urged the agency employees to become steeped in diplomatic and negotiating skills in order to cut through conflicts between competing pressure groups. In another recent talk before personnel of the Lolo National Forest, a leading authority on public lands policy urged the Forest Service to help heal the divisions between polarized groups.

Somehow we need to reduce the time and effort we spend on one-sided pronouncement type debates and actually argue in a manner that will lead to positive resolutions. As Orville Daniels, Supervisor of the Lolo National Forest, was quoted in a Missoulian feature, "Our love for the land and our willingness to get involved in decision making processes is the best I've seen. But I truly believe that often times our strengths become our weaknesses when they are overplayed. Sometimes we care too much".

I don't think we can care too much. But we do fail to listen carefully and we neglect to make an effort to understand other points of view. That effort might not lead to agreement, but perhaps sometimes it could lead to accommodation. Then we could get on with properly caring for our lands and resources rather than debating about their uses.

Libby, Montana members of National Audubon have now been officially accepted into the Flathead Chapter. Welcome Libby members. You are: Gary Lee Altman, Marilyn Bowden, Alan Bratkovich, Leslie Ferguson, Jay Forsyth, Mrs. A.E. Fraser, Jean Habeck, B. Hansen, Edna Hurd, Jennifer Ingraham, P.J. Jones, Sharon Wann Jurisich, Wayne Kasworm, Susan Morton, Jane Mullikin, A.J. Pajas, Gerald E. Reckin, Paul Schaumberg, Deb Strohmeyer, Marjorie Swanson, Carol Tonner, Mr/Mrs Don Whitson, and Madge Williams.

We also welcome the following who are new members: Don Alley, Barbara Clayton, Elizabeth Rogers, Ray B. Schenck, Joanne Snyder, Ann Speelman, Karen Stewart, C. Johnson, J. Nix, Mrs Mary Phillips, Deb Strohmeyer, L. Bordelon, Mindy Heinz, Neil Hyde, Robert Kemler, James Kline, Dorothy Krause, E.C.F. Prach. Transfers into our chapter are: Candice Hanson, Ronald Jenkins, Sharon Wann Jurisich, and Cynthia Nielsen. We are happy to have all these new members and transfers on board. Stay in touch! (June Ash)

BACKDOOR BIRDING

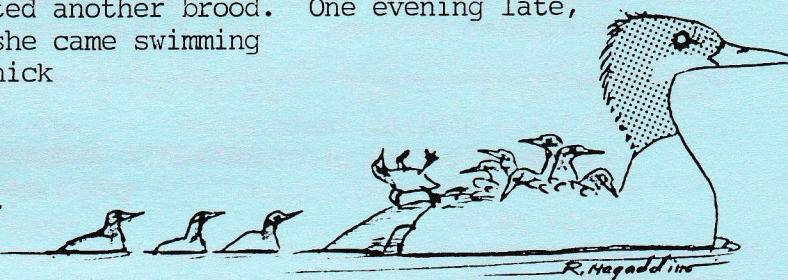
Larry Schwedes

I live on the Swan River above the Old Iron Bridge and see lots of bird and animal life right here in my own backyard, though I'm afraid every year it seems like less and less.



A big thrill for me this winter, just before the "Great Alaskan Deep Freeze", was the arrival of 34 Barrow's goldeneyes on the river below my house. They are a most beautiful bird and I was able to watch them perform their ritual mating "dance". I have never seen so many Barrow's goldeneyes, and this was my first sighting of the bird in this area.

About the same time, six mergansers showed up. They will be here in the early summer when it's so much fun to watch them with their babies. Mom is always the bossy sergeant. Last summer, one of these mommy mergansers had 21 chicks she ordered around, though by late summer she only had 14 left. I saw one chick disappear when an otter pulled it under, and an eagle swooped down on another. Actually, I can't believe she hatched all 21 of the chicks. They were all the same size, but I think she must have inherited another brood. One evening late, when I was sitting down by the river, she came swimming along with 19 babies on her back! A chick in the middle of her back stood up and flapped his wings and knocked another little guy off into the water. Mommy never looked around or slowed up. The little one swam like heck, and in about 40 feet caught up and hopped back on. Off she swam, oblivious to all the commotion going on behind her. It was such a funny sight.



On March 9th I had three migration flights go over my house within minutes of each other, flying low, directly over the roof-top. The first were 45 or so tundra swans heading northward. There were four super big ones that might have been the trumpeters seen occasionally this winter in the valley. Shortly, a flight of 37 white-fronted geese flew the same pattern, heading north toward Glacier. These were followed by 60 or so Canadian honkers which circled and landed on the river downstream from my house.

Yes, it is quietly turning toward spring here on the Swan River and there is, as always, lots of birdlife to see looking out from my own backyard.

(Besides watching the river go by, Larry Schwedes enjoys his retirement traveling to distant birding hotspots and writing about what he sees. Last year Larry did an article for us about his trip to the Platte River and the sandhill cranes.)

APRIL BIRDS

Yellow-rumped warblers (formerly Audubon's) have been in the trees around Somers since the 16th of April. **Rough-winged swallows** joined the **tree** and **violet-greens** on the 20th. **Barn swallows** moved in on April 24, which is when I saw the first real SWARM of mixed swallows scooping up midges over the ponds. I saw my first **Vaux's swifts** of the season on April 22. (Dan Casey)

Up in Whitefish where I live a **robin** began nest building (in the shovel of my skis hung up by the back door!) the morning of April 26. Moments later I saw a **white-crowned sparrow** eyeballing the dog from a brush-pile perch. Striking fellow. **Ruby-crowned kinglets**, overflowing with song, arrived on April 15.

My brother, Matt Keane of White Pine (near Thompson Falls), called this morning to tell us about six **wood ducks** visiting the pond below their home. We put up a wood duck box last spring and are keeping our fingers crossed that a pair will move in this spring. We'd love to see their fluffy ducklings. (Leo Keane)

Miles City Highlights

We're back from our spring Audubon State Council meeting held this year in Miles City. Here are a few of the things I've brought home.

The Audubon State Office is a "go": The first Audubon chapter in the state began in Billings 35 years ago. Today--nine chapters later--we are opening a state office. From this past January until May 1, a temporary office has been maintained by Janet Ellis, our legislative lobbyist. From now until October 1 the office will consist of a telephone answering machine, and volunteer staffers from the Last Chance Audubon Chapter in Helena. Then, October 1, assuming we have \$9,000 in grants, pledges and cash, our office will open officially with Janet Ellis as director. Janet's duties will include: 1) administrative functions involved with maintaining the office, 2) serving as staff to State Council officers, providing them with information and sometimes assisting with duties, 3) liaison between chapters--coordinating field trips, fund raising, and information dissemination, 4) developing membership and chapter effectiveness, 5) disseminating public information, and 6) lobbying the legislature. During the three summer months, the Audubon State Office will remain closed except for the telephone answering machine.

Legislative Wrap-up: Janet Ellis reported that of the 50 bills she lobbied on in this legislative session all but eight were passed in Audubon's favor. Not a bad performance I'd say. Some of the bills Janet lobbied for concern:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| -wildlife habitat restoration | -in-stream flows and water leasing |
| -nongame wildlife programs | -Forestry Practices Act (funding and education) |
| -exotic weeds eradication | -recycling/hazardous wastes |
| -state parks | -good government bill (political appointments) |

Janet continues to be one of the most respected lobbyists in Helena. Legislators frequently mention her impressive grasp of the facts surrounding conservation issues and her effectiveness in communicating Audubon's concerns. We're lucky to have her.

Voting Records: Speaking of Audubon concerns, Janet has tabulated the voting records of NW Montana legislators for this past session on key environmental issues. A 100% voting record indicates a legislator voted with Audubon on all issues, while a 0% record shows no favorable votes. How did your legislators do?

In the Senate (overall)	In the House (on three key issues only)		
Bob Brown	67%	Wlm Boharski	33%
Ethel Harding	0%	Ben Cohen	100%
Matt Himsl	14%	Mary Connelly	100%
Dick Pinsoneault	43%	Irving Davis	33%
John Harp	29%	Thomas Lee	33%
		John Mercer	33%

The Non-game Raffle sponsored by the Montana Audubon Council and featuring an eagle print and a walnut table has raised about \$1,000 which will be donated directly to the state non-game program.

Regional Rep. Election: Thankyou to everyone who took the time to vote for our regional representative as explained in the past two newsletters. One candidate, Randall Gray of Arizona, has accepted a job on the East Coast so he has withdrawn his nomination, leaving Harriet Marble of Chester, Montana with the position. You will be called upon in the future to vote again, so we appreciate those of you who were committed enough to vote this time.

Harriet Marble will hold a meeting early this summer with Flathead Chapter members to discuss actions of the National Board of Directors: what they do, implications for local chapters and performance in achieving Audubon goals. All members are welcome. You may call me, Robin, at 837-4294 for the meeting time and place.

A TOAST... Let's give a hearty three cheers (Hip, hip, Hurray!) for our outgoing Secretary of Flathead Audubon, **Barbara Baxter**. Barb's wit and enthusiasm, dished out from her throne beside the president at our monthly meetings, always added a good bit of fun and kept us from taking ourselves too seriously. **We'll miss ya sweetheart! Aha!** And three cheers for **Jack White**, our retiring Vice-President who has contributed his knowledge and commitment to this position for two years. We especially appreciate Jack's smooth handling of the past two meetings in President Robin Magaddino's absence. **Good job Jack!**

AND ELECTIONS... Meanwhile, nominations and election of Flathead Audubon Chapter Officers for the 1989-90 term will take place at our May Potluck meeting on May 8, Lone Pine State Park, Kalispell. Nominating committee chairwoman June Ash reported that the committee would put into nomination: **Robin Magaddino** for president, **Brent Mitchell** for vice-president, **Gail Leonard** for secretary and **Tommie Clark** for treasurer. Nominated for the board of directors are **Dick Fretheim** and **Jack White**. Continuing members of the board are **Bob Shennum**, **Bob Ballou** and **Lynn Kelly**. The full roster of Officers and Directors will be published in the September newsletter.



We have selected the date for our annual BIRDATHON, and urge as many members and non-members as possible to get involved! Either go searching the woods and fields for birds, or make a pledge to one of us who's crazy enough to get up at 3:30, go all day, and collapse after the sun has long since given way to the owls. We have selected Saturday, June 3rd as the date for this year's effort.

What is the BIRDATHON? It's a fundraiser for our chapter and for National Audubon's regional office. The money goes to important environmental issues: wetlands, old growth forests, education and research, sanctuaries, etc., etc. We as a chapter can decide where the money is spent, and I would like your input at the May meeting.

How does BIRDATHON work? Participating birders collect pledges from donors, either in lump sum or on a per species basis. They then try to identify as many species as possible in the one day we have selected, collect the pledges, and turn the funds over to the chapter. If we send at least 50% of the money raised to the National Audubon program of our choice, we are eligible to receive prizes such as binoculars, field guides, feeders, tapes, trips, books, outdoor gear and much more.

1989 BIRDATHON SCHEDULED Dan Casey

Since we are so far north, we have typically scheduled our BIRDATHON late in the spring and near the end of the national deadline for submitting results. So it is essential that we collect all pledges by the end of the week following the event. That means June 9th! I have easy-to-use forms and sign-up sheets for anyone who wishes to participate. You can pick them up at the May Potluck, or call me, Dan Casey, at 857-3143 (evenings). If you can't or don't want to spend the day birding, please make a pledge to another member who is! Which leads me to a personal request: My wife Susannah, Jim Rogers, Sherry Jones and I will attempt again to set a Montana "Big Day" record in conjunction with the BIRDATHON. We will be everywhere from Freezeout Lake to Logan Pass to Lawrence Park, hoping to see 156 or more species. Visit with one of us at the meeting, or call, if you would like to pledge 5¢ per species, or any amount, to our effort.

P.S. You don't have to get up at 3:30 to participate in BIRDATHON. Only a few of us are that crazy! You can spend as much time, at whatever location, to see those birds and gather those pledges. Let's raise enough to win some prizes for our first meeting in the fall!

SPORT

Shots

4H Club Completes Bluebird Project...

The B&F Livestock 4H Club as their annual community service project, built 44 bluebird houses, according to Kris and John Bruninga of Kalispell reporting for the club. On Saturday, April 8, the boxes were hung up in the West Valley area. There have been many bluebirds moving through the West Valley this year according to residents of the area, so the benefits of this project should be readily apparent as more of these favorite birds stay to nest and rear young.

Mrs. Bruninga reports: "As part of the project the kids learned some interesting facts about bluebirds, thanks to Jean Robocker of the Flathead Audubon Society who was very helpful. Also, in calling around for permission to hang the bluebird boxes we discovered we could have easily hung twice as many!"

We at Flathead Audubon are glad the B&F Livestock 4H Club tackled a project that will enhance the nesting possibilities for bluebirds in the Flathead. And we are real excited to see the fruits of your labor.

Hazardous Waste Symposium Announced...

The Montana Environmental Information Center in conjunction with the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Hazardous Waste Symposium on Monday, May 15 at 7:30PM at the Kalispell Elks Lodge. Please attend if you'd like to find out "what's happening in Flathead County with hazardous wastes". For more information call Diane Thompson at 257-2806 or Gail Bissell at 752-5744.

Forest Service Initiates Loon Protection...

Protecting loons has become a priority of the Seeley Lake Ranger District on the Lolo National Forest. Seeley Lake district ranger Dennis Johnson has announced an effort to provide nesting loons some protection against human destruction. Johnson noted that a significant portion of Montana's loon population is found in the Seeley District.

The loon protection program will include a public education effort, warning signs near loon nests, temporary floating rope barriers near shoreline nests, and artificial nesting platforms in water adjacent to sites where predation, nest destruction and human shoreline activities are a problem.

Lynn Kelly, a director of Flathead Audubon and a Montana State University loon researcher, praised the Forest Service for its experimental program.

(Rod Ash)

Audubon Journalism Awards Announced...

Dick Manning, a reporter for The Missoulian newspaper, and Bill Cunningham, a noted Monatan conservationist, are the recipients of this years Montana Audubon Council's Journalism Awards. The Council's Journalism Awards are given annually in recognition of journalistic accomplishment in news reporting and magazine article writing concerning environmental matters. The Council, representing the nine Audubon chapters of Montana and a membership of about 4,000 Montanan's, seeks by the journalism awards and other activities to foster public awareness of Montana's natural heritage and the issues relating to its preservation.

Dick Manning, writing for The Missoulian, brought attention to the manner in which the private timberlands in Montana are being currently managed. This series of articles, written in a cogent and effective style, revealed the rapid liquidation of these private timber lands is causing damage to natural communities and to water quality. The long-term economic and employment stability of the timber industry was brought into question. The series was thoroughly researched and enlightening.

Bill Cunningham has brought his wealth of wilderness experience to a series of articles in Montana Magazine. Each article focuses on a particular area, provides information on the natural history, terrain, recreation opportunities and relevant conservation issues. This continuing series is providing an outstanding education to the readers about Montana's wildlands.

The judge for the awards is Ruth Norris, a former Montana resident, who has extensive journalistic experience as a past senior editor for Audubon Magazine and currently as director of communications for the Nature Conservancy's International Program.

The awards are hand-carved western meadowlarks done by Cliff Davis, retired professor of ornithology at Montana State University.

(Cary Lund)

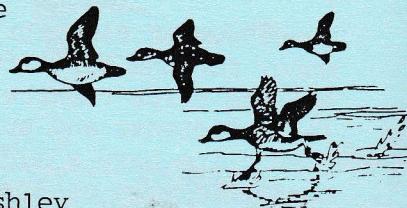
Journal of Creative Natural History Published

PETROGLYPH is a new literary journal "devoted to creative prose and poetry based on nature and experiences in nature". The issue that has crossed my desk (Volume 1, Number 1) is quite handsome artistically and enjoyable reading. The cost for PETROGLYPH is \$8.00 for two issues published in the spring and fall. Write PETROGLYPH, PO Box 3433, Logan, Utah 84321 (Leo Keane)

7

We held our annual spring waterfowl field trip through the Lower Valley as planned on Saturday, April 15th. Seventeen of us, led by myself, took a tour which included Somers Bay, Weaver's Slough, the Blasdel Waterfowl Production Area, Church Slough and the other roadside potholes which can be so productive this time of year. A total of 45 species were seen, with the highlights being a pair of wood ducks on Ashley Creek, greater scaup at Church Slough, and the immature bald eagle which couldn't believe the size of our group and had to come in for a closer look! Swans were still here to be admired, and a wild turkey strutted his stuff for us in a distant field. Here is a complete list of the species which were seen (or heard) during the morning:

Tundra Swan	Bufflehead	California Gull
Canada Goose	Common Merganser	Killdeer
Mallard	Ruddy Duck	Pileated Woodpecker
Gadwall	Osprey	Northern Flicker
American Wigeon	Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker
Green-winged Teal	Rough-legged Hawk	Tree Swallow
Cinnamon Teal	Red-tailed Hawk	Violet-green Swallow
Northern Shoveler	Northern Harrier	Marsh Wren
Wood Duck	American Kestrel	Black-billed Magpie
Redhead	Wild Turkey	European Starling
Canvasback	Ring-necked Pheasant	Song Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Greater Scaup	Rock Dove	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	American Coot	Western Meadowlark
Common Goldeneye	Ring-billed Gull	House Sparrow



Audubon Specials Return to PBS This Summer

PBS will be airing eight Audubon Television Specials this summer on **Sunday nights at 8:00**. Check your local listings for details.

- July 9 Greed, Guns, and Wildlife
- July 16 Grizzly and Man: Uneasy Truce*
- July 23 Whales
- July 30 Crane River
- Aug. 6 Wood Stork: Barometer of the Everglades
- Aug. 13 Messages from the Birds
- Aug. 20 Sharks
- Aug. 27 Sea Turtles

*First place winner, 1989 North American Outdoor Film/Video Awards, Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Audubon Television now keeps you up-to-date on all its programs, videos, computer software, and myriad other educational and environmental projects with its new **Audubon TV News Bulletin**. The Spring 1989 issue is now available. To be placed on the mailing list to receive this quarterly newsletter, simply drop a note with your name and address to Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.

1989 AUDUBON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

MAINE

July 1 - 7, 1989 \$895

AUDUBON Magazine and the Audubon Camp staff combine to provide the best in natural history and photo techniques on beautiful Hog Island, one of Audubon's most spectacular sanctuaries.

WYOMING

June 16 - 25, 1989 \$750

Audubon's Camp in the West, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons make up the setting for this highly successful workshop that concentrates on dramatic mountain scenery and wildlife

**Audubon Ecology Camps
& Workshops**
National Audubon Society
613-D Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831

MONTANA AUDUBON WILDLIFE FUND FIELD TRIPS: 1989

These summer field trips are sponsored by the Audubon chapters of Montana to raise money for the Wildlife Fund. A minimum donation of \$5.00 per person is requested. All the trips require that you provide your own binoculars, food, water, bug repellent, footwear and sunscreen. Contact your leader in advance to make reservations. Some trips have a minimum and/or maximum number. These trips will offer an opportunity to meet other Montana Audubon friends and to learn the natural history of a new area. ENJOY A HIKE WITH AUDUBON AND HELP MONTANA'S WILDLIFE!

May 21 (June 10th in case of bad weather). Wildhorse Island. A boat trip and self-guided walk. Leave from Rainbow Landing in Big Arm at 8:30 AM or 9:30 AM for a day on Wildhorse Island. Cost is \$12.00 which includes the boat ride over and a \$5.00 donation to the Wildlife Fund. (Children under 5 are free, children under 12, \$6.00) Contact Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937. 862-5807. Flathead Audubon.

June 3. East Fork of the Bitterroot. Four mile round trip hike into the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. Meet at Safeway parking lot in Hamilton at 8:30 AM. Contact Wendel Hann, 3635 St. Mary Road, Stevensville, MT 59870. 777-2840. Bitterroot Audubon.

June 17. Bear Paw Mountains. Car drive through Bear Paws with stops for birds and flowers. Meet at front of Cowan Hall, Northern Montana College at 8:30 AM. Contact Margaret Adams, PO Box 2362, Great Falls, MT 59403. 761-8329. Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon.

June 24. Pryor Mountains. Car drive through the Pryors with stops for archaeological sites, ice caves, old railroad tunnel and more. Breakfast at 7:00 AM at 519 Highland Park Drive, Billings. Leader is Georgia Frazier. Contact Virginia Atkins, 122 Foster Lane, Billings, MT 59101. 244-3449. Yellowstone Valley Audubon.

July 14 & 15. Red Rock Lakes NWR. Camp out at Upper Lake Campground or stay at motel at Red Rock Lakes headquarters. Meet the 14th. On 15th is an all day car tour of refuge. Contact Jack Kirkley, 930 E. Reeder, Dillon, MT 59725. 683-4729. Or Don Stoecker, Georgetown Lake, Anaconda, MT 59711. 563-3113. Pintlar Audubon.

July 22. Yellowstone National Park. Meet at Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs at 9:00 AM for a close look at Yellowstone--the year after the fires. Leader is ranger/naturalist Janet Ellis, Box 513, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190.

August 12. Freeze-Out Lake. Meet at 10:00 AM at headquarters building for an extensive walking trip to identify shorebirds and waterfowl. Scope is highly recommended. Contact David Ewer, 1016 5th, Helena, MT 59601. 443-4599. Last-Chance Audubon.

FLATHEAD CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS: UPDATE
(check April Newsletter for complete field trips schedule)

June 17. Red Bench Fire. A park naturalist and a hydrologist will lead this tour of the Red Bench Fire around Polebridge. Good opportunity to find morels too! Easy walking. Meet at the Polebridge Ranger Station at 10:00 AM. Check road conditions--888-5441. If the new bridge is not in yet, you may drive up the "Inside Road". Also, overnight camping is available at Bowman Lake for people who wish to come early or stay late. Call Gail Leonard at 862-5807 for more information.

June 24. The Swan Valley/Raptor Room. Meet at 8:30 AM at Lake Hills Shopping Center in Bigfork or at 9:30 at the Condon Community Hall, 1/2 mile south of the Condon Ranger Station. Exceptional songbird habitat along the Swan Highway. Finish at Ken Wolfe's bird rehabilitation center. The trip leader is Rod Ash, 754-2289.

News from NAS

EPA Decision Breaks Two Forks Dam

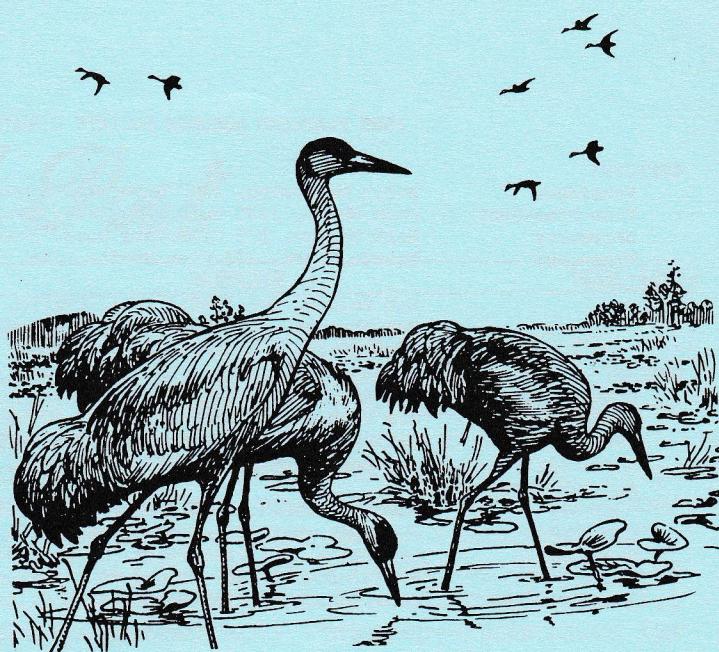
by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

The Platte River, which flows from high in the Rocky Mountains through central Nebraska to the Missouri River, remains a river under siege. But one major cloud has lifted from the Platte's future. On March 24, EPA Administrator William Reilly announced his decision to start proceedings that could lead to a veto of the proposed Two Forks dam, an environmental and economic monstrosity that threatens to degrade internationally known wildlife habitat on the river.

Saving the Platte has been a National Audubon Society High-Priority Campaign for more than two years, and your commitment as members and activists played a key role in this latest victory. Your letters, in concert with my pleas and those of many environmental organizations, convinced Reilly to take a personal interest in Two Forks and to make it an issue of national importance. Credit must especially go to the people of Colorado and Nebraska, who responded in overwhelming numbers during the past two years with informed, articulate, and impassioned opposition to Two Forks.

I applaud Administrator Reilly's wise and courageous decision. This was the first major environmental test for President Bush and his administration, and they have passed with flying colors. This action demonstrates that the new President is serious about establishing himself as an "environmental President." Under the process begun by Bill Reilly, the unacceptable adverse effects of Two Forks will become clear, making a veto of this project the only reasonable course of action.



I wish I could say that the possible demise of Two Forks means the Platte River is "saved" forever, but I cannot. Two major water projects remain very much on the drawing boards—Prairie Bend in Nebraska and Deer Creek in Wyoming. Together they pose the most imminent threats to the river and its wildlife. In addition, there is an opportunity, through the relicensing of Nebraska's Kingsley Dam, to improve on existing seasonal flows and better serve wildlife needs downstream. This action, pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is crucial to a river that has lost 70 percent of its original flow.

Far from encouraging complacency, EPA's decision on Two Forks energizes National Audubon and its grassroots activists for the long-term battle to protect the Platte.

TEAR HERE AND MAIL YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON PLEDGE CARD

I am happy to pledge \$_____ per species in support of your Birdathon

My tax-deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed, payable to National Audubon or local chapter

FROM: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PLEDGE OR DONATION!

Every dollar you give will go toward
Audubon field work, sanctuaries, camps and classroom
projects in our region. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Please clip and mail to:

Dan Casey, Birdathon Chairman,
Flathead Audubon, PO Box 715, Bigfork MT 59911

1989 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY



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National Audubon Society

CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

FLATHEAD AUDUBON N 54 TXCHB

Mail to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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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) 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 \$5.00 per year. Our address is Flathead Audubon Society, P.O. Box 715, Bigfork, Montana 59911.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
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