



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 15

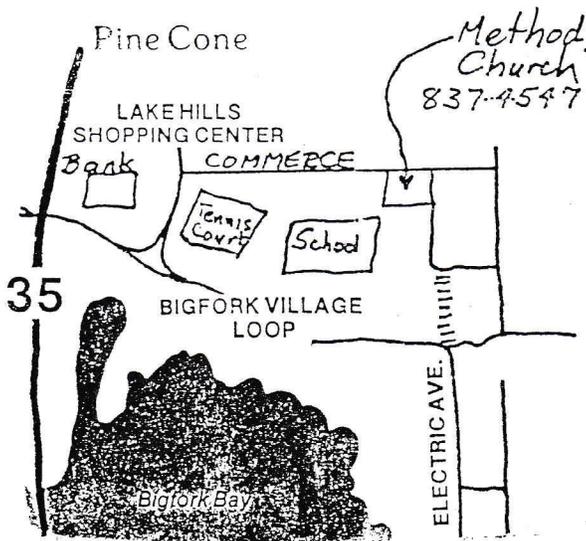
NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER, 1990

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER MEETING, 5 pm at the Korner Kitchen in Bigfork. Open to all interested members.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: (***) Note the Change!) United Methodist Church, Commerce & Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Open to all. Program: 8 pm. Christine Paige, who is earning her Master's degree in wildlife biology at the University of Montana, will present "Population Changes in Western Songbirds." Most recently Christine worked for the Flathead National Forest on old-growth indicator species.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brent Mitchell

Welcome back to another season of Audubon in the Flathead. What a terrific summer!

We have a great executive board again this year and members have been at work arranging a new place to meet; the fund raisers and field trips (Birdathon and sunflower seed sale) are in progress or recently finished and several fine programs have already been lined up.

Again this year we need your input on the direction you'd like to see Audubon go. We will have a voice on the Hungry Horse and Flathead mitigation consultation group. The group will handle problems of power generation, water quality and wildlife values. Also, we are making efforts to increase dialogue with the timber industry. The Kootenai and Lolo Accords have shown that citizens, environmentalists and timber people can work together for mutual benefit. Audubon will also have a voice in the Flathead Lake Protection Ass'n., a group dedicated to maintaining Flathead Lake and tributaries in sound ecological condition.

When you have ideas or comments about what Flathead Audubon is doing, or should be doing, call a board member or come to a board meeting with your comments. I hope you had a great summer and that you will have a great time at the first Audubon activities this season. *****

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Help is needed in mapping the old growth of the 4th District, which is the Hungry Horse area. No field work is required. This is primarily a mapping job. The need is urgent for someone who has the time to devote the next few weeks to the project. For more details, contact Robin Magaddino, 837-4294, Bigfork, or Rosalind Yanishevsky, 756-4794, Polebridge.



Thru
THE
EDITOR'S
SPOTTING
SCOPE

It's a peaceful spot, nestled in the mountains above Lake Mary Ronan. At various times of the year the spring-fed mountain pond is a watering hole for deer and moose; a haven for moulting mallards and a special school for fledglings learning to use their wings. Ospreys fly overhead and occasionally you can spot turtles sunning themselves on fallen logs in the water. If you're quiet and stay in the shadows as you approach, the squirrels won't give you away and you can while away an hour or so with binoculars or spotting scope, renewing yourself with the serenity of the place.

Not long ago I went to the pond in anticipation and was instantly angry. There was a fire ring of stones and charred wood at the base of three fir trees. (Idiots!) Off to the side was a litter of beer and soda pop cans that led to a mound of more empty cans. (#*&?!*) Whatever happened to Pack It In - Pack It Out! What became of the time-worn lesson taught by mothers: "Clean up your mess!" I fumed -- I fussed -- and finally recognized it was too late to teach anyone in that particular group any sort of lesson. But there was positive action I could take.

Resolute, I walked out, found a trash bag and returned to the pond. I picked up each of those aluminum cans (all 76 of them) and hauled them out of the mountains. A few days later the cans were donated to the local museum which recycles aluminum cans to help defray expenses.

It just goes to show: someone's lack of couth and consideration can be of benefit to someone else, but sometimes you have to look for it.

Sharon Bergman

EARTH DAY.....

.....CONTINUED

Earth Day is everyday and the Flathead Audubon area is no exception.

Recycling efforts are continuing in Bigfork, Condon, Kalispell and Whitefish! Several attended the July meeting of the Flathead Valley Solid Waste District in Kalispell. There was testimony regarding hazardous waste disposal, contamination of groundwater, the increase in rates from \$19 to \$30.50 and recycling. A request was made for expansion of the landfill to include greenbelts and recycling. Some of those attending were recruited for the Landfill Options Committee, which is chaired by Roger Hopkins.

The Flathead Valley Earth Day Coalition completed Earth Day 1990 activities with a financial surplus, which will provide seed money for ongoing programs. Proposed plans are to return to the Kalispell Center Mall with exhibits for Earth Day 1991. If you have ideas or suggestions for other activities, just send your comments to the Earth Day Coordinator.

Down to Earth, the membership publication of the Montana Environmental Information Center, Summer, 1990, features recycling and Earth Week Celebrated in Montana. Included in the issue were three photographs that were used in the exhibits at the Kalispell Center Mall.

This Earth Day column will be used as a means of communication for those organizations that participated in Earth Day. Newsworthy contributions should be sent to your Earth Day Coordinator

Ferne Cohen



Welcome, Martina!

Past president Robin Magaddino reports that daughter Martina came into the world on July 22, joining the other Magaddino's, Joe and Angelina.



The Monitoring Avian Productivity project on the Swan Oxbow Preserve is done for this year. We banded black-capped chickadees, common yellowthroat, pine siskin, MacGillivray's warbler, chipping sparrow, robin, Lincoln's sparrow, red-naped sapsucker, northern waterthrush, golden-crowned kinglet, western tanager, Swainson's thrush, brown creeper and red-eyed vireo. A pileated woodpecker left a big hole in one net. Dan Casey spotted a LeConte's sparrow in the area -- an uncommon species here.

Thanks are extended to all the wonderful helpers. This has been an exciting, addicting project. Two more nets will be added, and a simpler design for a double-stacked net is being worked on. Banding will continue through September.

Hummingbirds are thinning down. It's a good thing, as I'm just two cups short of serving 35 lbs. of sugar this season. So far, 350 birds have been banded. Of these, 95 are hatch-year birds (babies) as of August 19. This is down compared to 135 in 1988 and 117 in 1989, and shows the affect of the cold, wet weather during nesting. Hummers concentrated in the valleys and there were more calliopes and many more male rufous. There was also a black-chinned hummer -- my first.



Soon the Western Bird Banding Ass'n. will meet in Edmonton, Alberta. Being a snoopy bander, I now have enough information to present a paper on color change in maturing rufous males. They start to change from green to rufous and grow a few red throat feathers before they leave us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Flathead Audubon for the scholarship to the Glacier Institute. The class was well worth the time and effort put forth. We learned about the diversity and ecology of plants in Glacier Park, both above and below the timberline. Again, my sincere thanks.

Elly Jones

What is it?

It's not a trip to a national park, although we did go thru Rocky Mountain National Park going down and Yellowstone Park on the way home. It's not a week with an old friend, although Ron Batchelor was like one after riding with him from Bozeman to Bailey, CO and back. It wasn't a day at a place like Woodland Park with your grandchildren, although most of the 20 participants were young at heart and everyone had a lot of fun. It's not a week of summer school, although there were over ten instructors and you could get credit for C.S.U.

It was like all of those things at once. Everyone learned a lot and was exposed to a vast array of interesting subjects.

A week of experiences in June-- from learning riparian plant names and identification, and catching aquatic insects and other stream life, to discussing environmental ethics and the impact of projects like the proposed Two Forks Dam.

Water law and the history of water development were presented in a way that caused you to really think about how crucial water is to society's growth and how complex the solutions will probably be. This leads you to a higher appreciation of our seemingly abundant water resource here in Montana, and a clue to the predicted growth, especially in the Flathead Valley.

With a field trip each day, time to get to know new friends, even a square dance one night, a delightful and energetic director, Susan Foster, and being very well fed by Donna and Lyle Hetterly, it was really all worthwhile. Watching birds and other wildlife was top priority on the agenda. A warbling vireo or an indigo bunting would stop any other event.

Watch for the notice of the 1991 Institute of River Ecology. It would be very worth your while.

Malcolm Thompson

IT'S AUDUBON'S ANNUAL Sunflower Seed Sale

SUNFLOWER SEED ORDER FORM

(Please Print)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Number of sacks _____ BLACK, OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS Amt. enclosed _____
 _____ 50 lb sack at \$15 _____

I will pick up my seeds on Saturday, October 13 in

Bigfork__ Kalispell__ Columbia Falls__ Whitefish__ Polson__ Condon__

Send check and order to: FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
 (due October 6) P.O. BOX 715
 BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911



Are you a member__ or a non-member__ ?



DON'T KEEP THE BIRDS WAITING

Get your winter supply of sunflower seeds and help Flathead Audubon fund its conservation and education programs.

The following convenient locations will be used for delivery on October 13:

- Bigfork: Lakehills Shopping Center
9 - 11 am
- Columbia Falls: First Federal Savings
10 - 12 am
- Condon: Call June Ash, 754-2289
for arrangements
- Kalispell: Kalispell Center Mall west
parking lot, 10 - 12 am
- Polson: Super 1 parking lot
11 am - 1 pm
- Whitefish: Train Depot parking lot
10 - 12 am

After filling out the order form, be sure to make note of where you want to take delivery and mark your calendar accordingly, so you won't forget the time and place.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits—and AUDUBON magazine—at a special new-member rate of \$20.

Local Chapter:

Join today and receive:

A YEAR — 6 BIMONTHLY ISSUES — of the stunning photography and absorbing articles in AUDUBON magazine.

MEMBERSHIP in one of the 500 local Audubon chapters nationwide (if there is one in your area), with access to field-trips and other activities.

FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION to Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.

INVITATIONS to Audubon's ecology camps and workshops

ELIGIBILITY for wolf-ranger, Audubon tours.

DISCOUNTS on nature books collectibles, and gifts. And with your membership you're supporting the National Audubon Society's vital efforts at protecting wildlife and the environment

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Payment enclosed Bill me

7XCH8

Allow 4-6 weeks for first issue of AUDUBON
 Membership dues include \$20 for AUDUBON magazine

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!

ACCORDS REPRESENT CRITICAL BREAKTHROUGH



One of the most exciting and positive conservation breakthroughs in recent years took place this summer in Northwest Montana with the signing of Wilderness Accords between local wilderness advocates on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests. Those agreements, which accepted 680,000 acres of wilderness on the two forests, destroyed the effectiveness of the myth that wilderness was at the expense of jobs.

Unhappily, the magnitude of the achievement accomplished by these local workers and conservationists does not seem to have been realized by the media. Even though there was widespread editorial support for the Accords, the tenor of reporting the events still seemed to emphasize the various, to be expected, critics rather than the historic nature of the agreements. In my opinion, the Accords deserve national attention. In all of the raging conflict over forest issues, nowhere else have local people, frequently in opposition over such issues, been able to reach such fundamental agreement.

The folks who hammered out the Accords deserve great credit for their spirit of conciliation, their patience and their willingness to overcome all of the hostility which has surrounded the wilderness issue in Montana. In the past, many of us in Montana Audubon chapters have urged that more effort be placed in finding areas of agreement between local interests instead of focusing on conflict in discussing public land issues. Our best hopes have been vindicated by the process leading to the Accords.

What is disheartening about the furor surrounding the Accords is the nature of the opposition to the agreements by a few environmental groups or individuals. Rather than oppose the Accords honestly on their merits, or to openly state their apparent opposition to the release of any further roadless areas, some of the critics have resorted to demagoguery, mud-slinging and personal attack on the groups and persons involved in the negotiations. In my opinion, in so doing, the credibility of such criticism is vastly diminished. Future cooperation by us with such groups should be seriously questioned.

Due to the murky partisan politics that have effected any logical approach to the wilderness issue, the signers of the Accords recently decided to refrain from their efforts to push legislation on the Accords before the November elections.

However, the good work and critical breakthrough they have accomplished should be supported and built upon. When the elections are over, the push for enacting the Accords into law should be vigorously pursued. In the meantime, those of us who support the Accords, and the process which led to them, should publicly express that support and should write or call our Congressmen and Senators in favor of the Kootenai and Lolo Accords and the process which led to them.

Rod Ash

MONTANA'S FIRST WHIP-POOR-WILL SIGHTED

Marjorie Swanson of Libby documented the state's first whip-poor-will when it answered her tape of an Arizona whip-poor-will. This tape has the call of the southwestern whip-poor-will which is quite distinct from the call of the eastern birds. Don Skaar sighted the unusual bird just above Libby Dam on June 28. Nine birders from the area, including Helen Carlson, Georgia Frazier and Don Stoeker, joined many local folks trying to see the elusive bird, but Don Skaar had the only clear sighting. Everyone else was lucky just to hear its unique call.

1990 FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
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Secretary	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Ln, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

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Dick Fretheim, 904 Woodland Ave, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-5768
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Refuge Projects	Bob Ballou, Rt 1, Box 11881, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Schools/Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344

THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May at the United Methodist Church in Bigfork. The business meeting is held at 7:30 pm followed by a special program at 8 pm. The regular monthly meetings are preceded by an Executive Board meeting, the time and place of which are published in the preceding newsletter. These meetings are open and all interested people are welcome to attend.

THE PILEATED POST is published nine times a year, September through May, and is sent to Flathead Audubon Society members as a membership benefit. The cost is \$5 per year for non-members who would like to receive the newsletter. The address for The Flathead Audubon Society is: P. O. Box 715, Bigfork, MT 59911. Deadline for newsletter copy: the 21st of each month.



Flathead Audubon Society

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BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

SUNFLOWER SEED ORDER FORM
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