the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 15 | Number 9 | December, 1990

President's Corner

The team needs your help. What can you do for the team?

First of all, dig deep into your pocket and find 15¢ for a post card. Aha, you say, another write-in campaign to the legislature. Nope. This time we are looking for your ideas, comments, criticisms about Flathead Audubon. You're part of the "A" Team ("A" for Audubon, of course) and your board of directors is ready to take action on the ideas you provide. Most folks can't make it to every meeting, but many can write us a post card. Let me throw out a few subjects to get your attention:

Should Flathead Audubon support fish hatcheries?
Should we draft legislation to "tax" bird seed to provide funds for wildlife viewing areas?
Should we support delisting the grizzly?
Are you for "animal rights" or "animal welfare" and is there a difference?
Would you like the meetings moved to Whitefish or Kalispell next year?
Are the meetings too long?
Do you like the raffles?
Should hunting be stopped?
In what ways can we support the timber industry? the farming community?

Write your ideas down and send them to any one of us(address/phone numbers on the back of the newsletter) and we'll get the information to the rest of the board members.

Are you bashful about volunteering to help? Are you worried about getting "involved" in every environmental "worm wrestle" in Montana if you do get a little involved? Volunteer to help someone in Audubon that you know or would like to know. Help on one project (like the 15¢ post card idea project).

We have a wonderful bunch of people in Flathead Audubon Society. We've got political activists, loggers, artists, naturalists, gardeners and the like - and they could use your help. Perhaps you could help Sharon Bergman deliver the newsletters to the post office, or Elly Jones with the banding of hummingbirds, or Ferne Cohen in planning one Earth Day '91 activity; or you could learn bird calls from Jack Whitney while fishing with him.

Reach out and help someone with a common interest and you will be paid back tenfold in appreciation and knowledge. Be an Audubon volunteer just once this year!

Brent Mitchell

Mark Your Calendar

1990 DECEMBER 1990

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FM, 2 31	LQ 9	NM 17	FQ 25			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29

12/10/90 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER MEETING, 5 pm **at the Bigfork Inn** in Bigfork.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: United Methodist Church, Commerce & Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Open to all. Program: 8 p.m.

Program: Jean Robocker will give a presentation on the Christmas Bird Count, which will feature slides of species that are likely to be seen.

12/15/90 - Bigfork Bird Count. (See pages 6 and 7 of the Newsletter for details.)

12/22/90 - Bird Count for Polebridge and Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge. (See pages 6 and 7 of the Newsletter for details.)

Thru The Editor's Spotting Scope

If anyone had told me a year ago that I would find a certain grace in a brown pelican and that the bird would become one of my favorites, I'd have scoffed. I knew that "its beak can hold more than its belly can", and that it's an ungainly-looking bird, but I certainly wasn't interested enough to know more than the basics. A pelican a favorite? Forget that!

And then last spring I spent three months working in Tampa. Seizing the opportunity, my spare time and days off were filled with birding and many birds were added to my life list.

Brown pelicans were everywhere: sunning on docks, perched on pilings, waddling on beaches.

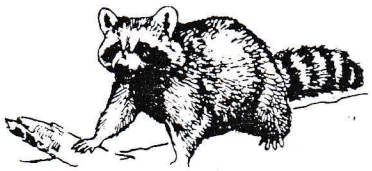
I got to know a pelican one day when I drove north to a Gulf town called Cedar Key. Cedar Key is an environmentalist's prime example. In the early days, the area was covered with cedar trees ... which were cut down and shipped to New Orleans and New York and other major cities until the trees were gone. The townspeople didn't want to move, so they looked around for some other means of support and became oyster fishermen, which worked fine until they depleted that natural resource also. Now Cedar Key is a tourist town; it has a nice dock and a few restaurants that one could describe as "quaint".

For me, out of the city, it was quite pleasant sitting on a bench on the dock, watching the pelicans waddle back and forth, hoping a fisherman would drop some bait or lose a fish. I photographed a few of the pelicans and then just sat, enjoying the atmosphere and the changing scene.

A pelican waddled by, looked at me and suddenly jumped on the bench beside me. I wanted to take a picture (a real closeup!) but thought the sudden movement would startle him. We both just sat there -- me barely breathing and the pelican ... well, heaven only knows what he was thinking.

I spent several weeks getting to know pelicans and this one spent a few minutes getting to know me. We shared the moment, and that's when the pelican became one of my favorite birds. When you really get to know someone, it breaks down the barriers.

Sharon Bergman



FAST:
Flathead Area System of Trails

This "FAST" is no diet. Th goal is to promote the construction and designation of recreational trails throughout Flathead Valley.

Flathead Valley Bicycle Club intentions are to encourage and promote bicycle safety, riding, touring and racing in the area. FAST is an extension of the club's purpose with emphasis on recreational trails and routes.

The long term goal is an interconnecting system of trails and routes which provide a safe and high quality environment for non-motorized use. Users are like you and me; walkers, joggers, cyclists, skiers, skaters, school children, senior citizens, handicapped: all of us who enjoy the beauty of Flathead Valley. Whether it is the best way to commute to work or school, ride to Woodland Park, bypass downtown Kalispell, or access Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls or Bigfork; FAST's master plan will consider all of these aspects.

Current efforts are focused on a specific recreational trail proposal that would extend south from W. Reserve Drive on Whitefish Stage Road and Woodland Avenue to Lion Park on Highway 93 South. This one project would have many positive impacts involving safety, pollution, traffic congestion, tourism and recreation.

A presentation was made to the City of Kalispell requesting a recreational trails and routes coordinator. A similar presentation will be made to the County Commissioners. The city appointed Mike Baker to be the contact person.

There is still much to be done. All of us together can help broaden the base of this project. If anyone is interested, please join us: Flathead Valley Bicycle Club, P. O. Box 2725, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Richard D. Cohen
862-5711

Conservation Comments

Watchable Wildlife on the Move.

Watchable wildlife or, as we used to say, non-game species is finally getting increased and welcome recognition. In the past, as a society, we have devoted much of our attention to game species, huntable wildlife. Now Audubon is being joined by public agencies in a new emphasis upon a wider variety of species and habitats.

For years the Flathead Audubon Chapter and the Montana State Audubon Council have urged more attention to the totality of species and habitat. In fact, while game animals in some areas have been on the increase, alarming decreases among a variety of lesser known species, including some bird species, have been documented throughout the nation.

Several years ago, in a major breakthrough, Montana Audubon chapters, along with other conservation groups, were able to get the non-game income tax checkoff placed on the tax form. Also, a non-game biologist was added to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department.

Now, while funding for non-game species programs and habitat protection still falls behind private and government funding for game species, state and federal agencies have increased their efforts on behalf of non-game and for recreational wildlife observation opportunities.

Indeed, the new Flathead National Forest supervisor, Joel Holtrop, has made watchable wildlife programs one of his priorities. Holtrop has invited Flathead Audubon and its members to work with Flathead Forest biologists in developing those programs and opportunities.

On the funding side there is much room for improvement, but some imaginative money raising projects are being implemented by Fish, Wildlife and Parks watchable wildlife staff. Educational Officer Deborah Richie has announced that proceeds from a new poster by Monte Dolack, featuring the loons of Swan Valley, if purchased from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, will go to the wildlife program. To purchase the poster, call 1-800-582-2665.

Also, wildlife sculptor, Bill Ohrman, is devoting a series of wildlife bronzes to the department to raise funds for watchable wildlife.

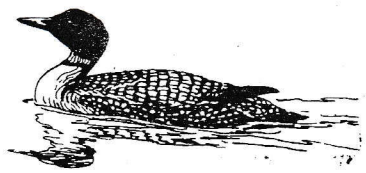
In addition, Montana Audubon chapters are increasing their efforts in behalf of wildlife, critical habitat research and education. The Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund, started two years ago to establish a permanent endowment to support Montana wildlife research and education, is engaged in a major fund raising effort toward its first goal of $20,000. When that amount is reached, the funds' directors will commence providing grants for wildlife projects.

Audubon chapters are now selling raffle tickets for some outstanding wildlife art pieces, including an original painting by well-known artist Joe Thornburgh. Raffle tickets are available at Flathead Audubon meetings in December, January and February or by calling chapter board members listed in this newsletter's directory. The drawing will be held in February.

The concept and reality of biodiversity is becoming the key to the survival of our wildlands and species. The watchable wildlife and non-game species program can make a vital contribution to saving that diversity.

Auduboners, do your duty.

Rod Ash



NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 21 - 27, 1991

Estes Park Center, YMCA of the Rockies
Estes Park, Colorado

Put the above dates on your calendar and plan to join fellow Auduboners from around the country. The ever popular, gorgeously situated, and reasonably priced YMCA of the Rockies will be our destination. The Convention theme will be "Audubon In The Americas", an in-depth hemispherical look at the interrelated wetland and forest management issues and their impact on wildlife and in fact civilization as a whole. Please alert your chapter members to these dates. We will be providing information in the next nine months as Convention plans further take shape. Lodging, program, and field trip details will be available after the first of the year. See you at Estes Park!

A Piece Of Mind

(This feature gives members the opportunity to get off their chest what's on their mind.)

I get upset with the letters I see in newspapers demanding access for handicapped in our wilderness areas. What these people seem to demand are paved paths, leveled of course, with vegetation and trees removed to allow ample room for the paving and the equipment to do the job.

For many of my 64 years I was able to hike in wild areas, both here in Montana and in the Sonoran Desert. Due to arthritis and other health problems I no longer can do hiking. However, I want the wilderness left wild for this and future generations to enjoy as I once did. I have many happy memories, aided by slides and snapshots, of my hiking days.

There are many areas that are accessible, such as the Trail of the Cedars in Glacier Park. When traveling, I take advantage of scenic overlooks, wildlife viewing areas, scenic highways and secondary roads. At home, I have my bird feed and suet feeders to attract the birds, peanuts to attract squirrels, wild flowers and native plants and, of course, my mountains to watch over.

Carla Prach

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Mail to:
Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 715
Bigfork, Montana 59911

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Payment enclosed Bill Me

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

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!

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 wide-ranging 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 environment.

Welcome To Those New Among Us

John Dunnigan, Jean Hagan, M/M Evan Mathews and Earl Sutton of Bigfork; Debi Doble of Eureka; Mrs. Ernest Birnell and Reba Rogers of Kalispell; Salish-Kootenae Tribes and Wildlife Management of Pablo; Anna Muldown of Whitefish; and transferees Beth Hagan and Jennifer Porter.

BOOKWORKS

The Nature Bookstore

110 CENTRAL AVE. WHITEFISH, MT 59937 PH (406) 862-4980

OPEN MON - SAT 9:30 - 6:00

A special offer has been made to the Flathead Audubon Society by Bob and Susan Zahrobsky, owners of Bookworks. Upon a member's request, the nature bookstore will donate 10% of the price of all books purchased by that member from Bookworks to the Flathead Audubon Society. Books may be ordered by mail(with check or charge card), by telephone with charge card - (406) 862-4980; or by visiting the bookstore in person. Just be sure and let them know that you're an Audubon member, in order for the chapter to receive credit for the donation.

The following are a few of the titles offered by this full-service bookstore.

The Expert's Guide to Backyard Birdfeeding by Bill Adler, Jr. and Heidi Hughes - $8.95

The Backyard Bird Watcher by George H. Harrison - $9.95

The Prectical Ornithologist by John Gooders - $14.95

Where the Birds Are: A Guide to all 50 States and Canada by John Oliver Jones - $15.95

Reader's Digest Book of North American Birds - $32.95

Bird Watch

The Missoulian reports that an abundance of earth-burrowing voles has sent the owl and hawk populations soaring at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Short-eared, long-eared and great horned owls have been spotted, as well as rough-legged, marsh and red-tailed hawks.

It is suggested that wildlife watchers drive the unpaved roadways that surround the Ninepipe reservoir. Hawks can be seen on fence posts and utility lines and the owls can best be seen in the evening. Some of the best owl and hawk watching will be from the road. ***

Migrating bald eagles have moved into the Helena area where the kokanee salmon are providing a bountiful food source. Birders can expect to see 10 or more eagles at a time from the designated viewing areas downstream of Canyon Ferry Dam. The Riverside Campground is the primary viewing site.

Volunteer naturalists will be at the campground each weekend through mid-December to provide information to eagle viewers. Of course, in our area, the migrating eagles fish below the turbines of Libby Dam on the Kootenai River as they make their migratory journey. The best time to see eagles is early in the day at the peak of feeding.

Bird Sightings

James Clairmont of Ronan writes that he saw a white and brown blackbird last spring, and this fall the bird returned as an albino. In November, for several weeks, there were some 1,000 blackbirds that came in around the house in the evening and left in the morning. The birds, many of them yellow-headed, finally moved out and the albino left at that time as well. The bird appeared to be golden or yellow, but due to the albinism, the color was very faded and hardly noticeable in the photo that was taken.

Member Of The Month

** Jean Robocker **

On introducing Jean Robocker at a Flathead Audubon meeting, Brent Mitchell put it quite simply: "If you ask yourself 'What bird is this?', then ask Jean for the answer."

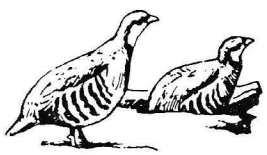
Jean was born in Milwaukie, Oregon, and as a little girl she was taught the names of birds by her mother, so birding has always been second nature to her. She moved to the Kalispell area in 1950 and met her future husband, Doug Robocker, in church. After marriage, some 38 years ago, the couple operated a dairy farm and raised three daughters. The entire family was into birding and it is being passed along to the three in the next generation. Professionally, Jean was a Girl Scout leader for a number of years.

"Birding is one activity you can do alone or with a large group," Jean commented. And added, with a smile, "You can even do it in bed. Birding doesn't cost a dime -- you don't even have to have binoculars, and you can bird everywhere you go."

She was a member of the Bigfork Bird Club before it became affiliated with the National Audubon Society as the Flathead Audubon Society. Her birding mother was an Audubon member and introduced Jean to the Audubon magazines. Her own great interest in birding prompted her to become a very active member of the newly-organized group and she's proud of the fact that she hasn't missed a bird count.

There are five bird feeders and five suet hangers around the Robocker farm, and Jean remarked that 15 different species can be seen on any given day. However, birds are not the only creatures that hold Jean's interest. She raises Welch Cob ponies as well as Dutch Bantam chickens.

Jean Robocker: a very versatile lady; knowledgeable. Her natural teaching ability has been a boon to the Flathead chapter and its members, and her enthusiasm for birding has inspired those whose lives she's touched.



Watch For The Swans!

The Idaho Audubon Council has accepted a major challenge of monitoring the Trumpeter Swan situation in the eastern Idaho region near Yellowstone Park.

A non-migratory group of over 2,000 birds is becoming a scientific challenge. Since the birds do not migrate, there is a problem because of limited feeding grounds. Plans are being formulated to haze away the majority of the birds to warmer climates with open water.

When field managers attempt to disperse the swans from their primary wintering sites, **the trumpeters could wander extensively as they seek out more suitable wintering sites.**

Captured swans will be neck-banded and may be color-dyed prior to release. Birders are asked by the Fish & Wildlife Service to make note of any marked and/or unmarked trumpeters that are observed in unusual locations so that the population dispersal can be monitored.

If a marked swan is observed, make note of and report the code (if possible), the color of the neck-band and the location of the dyed plumage (right wing, left wing, etc.). Record the date, location, observer's name, address and phone number, in addition to details regarding both marked and unmarked trumpeters.

Christmas Bird Counters are asked to make a specific effort to closely observe any swans in the area, in order to distinguish between trumpeters and tundra swans.

The tundra swan usually has a black bill with a yellow spot of varying size in front of the eye (the spot may be absent on some tundras). **The trumpeter swan has a black bill with a red border on the lower mandible.**

Any observations of trumpeters should be mailed to: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1246 Yellowstone, A-4; Pocatello, ID 83201. Telephone: (208) 237-6616.

1990 Christmas Bird Count

The annual Bigfork Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 15. Part of the 91st annual nationwide CBC effort, the count comprises a one-day attempt to count all birds within a 7½-mile radius circle, centered on the little brown church north of Bigfork. Bigfork perennially has the highest species total of all Montana counts and set an all-time high last year with 84 species.

We are hoping to have 40 people in about 15 parties afield for this year's count. Dan Casey, the compiler, will be calling last year's participants to arrange area coverage. Arrangements will be finalized at the December meeting, so if you plan to participate, come to the meeting or give Dan a call at 857-3143 (evenings) or 752-5501 (days). As in previous years, there will be a potluck compilation dinner at the Bigfork Senior Center starting at 5 p.m. (or half-past dark) on the day of the count.

The Polebridge Count will be held on December 22. The count circle runs five miles south of the Canadian line and is into Glacier Park to Bowman Lake. Contact Rosalind Yanishevsky at 756-4794 if you can participate.

The Ninepipe Count will also be held on December 22. Participants are to meet at Ruby's Cafe, just south of Ronan, at 7:30 A.M. Contact Jim Rogers at 883-3611, evenings.

There is a mandatory $5 participation fee, to cover the expense of producing the annual CBC issue of American Birds.

Plan to take part in this traditional highlight of the Audubon calendar, regardless of your birding skill level. Feeder watchers and half-day helpers are more than welcome and much appreciated.

Statistically Speaking

The following summary lists the 126 species recorded during Bigfork Christmas Counts since 1974, including three species (marked with an *) seen during count weeks, but not on count day. An additional six species considered "hypothetical" or rejected by American Birds are listed. Also included are the number of years each species was seen during the last ten (1980-89), the average number seen per year during that period and the 10-year maximum count for each species. Immediately following are the 80's counts data.

Year	Species	Individual	Year	Species	Individual	Year	Species	Individual
1980	66	3894	1984	68	7305	1987	80	8622
1981	74	4307	1985	66	4992	1988	80	14580
1982	59	4630	1986	72	4745	1989	84	8432
1983	58	4892						

Dan Casey

SPECIES	YEARS	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Common Loon	3	< 1	2
Pied-billed Grebe	3	< 1	2
Horned Grebe	2	1	10
Red-necked Grebe	2	< 1	2
Western Grebe	1	< 1	2
Double-crested Cormorant *	0	0	0
Great Blue Heron	9	5	20
Tundra Swan	9	70	214
Trumpeter Swan	1	< 1	1
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	< 1	1
Snow Goose	2	< 1	1
Canada Goose	10	1192	2608
Wood Duck	0	0	0
Green-winged Teal	1	< 1	1
Mallard	10	751	1561
Northern Pintail	4	2	16
Blue-winged Teal	1	< 1	1
Northern Shoveler	1	1	5
Gadwall	2	1	7
American Wigeon	4	2	7
Canvasback	4	30	150
Redhead	7	71	466
Ring-necked Duck	3	1	6
Greater Scaup	1	< 1	4
Lesser Scaup	8	82	398
White-winged Scoter	1	< 1	1
Common Goldeneye	10	399	1303
Barrow's Goldeneye	7	13	42
Bufflehead	9	30	100
Hooded Merganser	8	9	20
Common Merganser	10	202	476
Red-breasted Merganser	5	3	14
Ruddy Duck	2	1	3
Bald Eagle	10	22	40
Northern Harrier	7	3	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	2	5
Cooper's Hawk	1	< 1	1
Northern Goshawk	7	2	4
Red-tailed Hawk	7	3	9
Rough-legged Hawk	10	8	16
Golden Eagle	3	< 1	1
American Kestrel	4	< 1	1
Merlin	2	< 1	1
Gyrfalcon	1	< 1	1
Prairie Falcon	0	0	0
Gray Partridge	6	8	37
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	43	76
Spruce Grouse	2	< 1	2
Blue Grouse	3	< 1	2
Ruffed Grouse	10	10	19
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	1	9
Wild Turkey	10	321	475
Northern Bobwhite (feral)	1	1	6
American Coot	8	845	4238
Killdeer	5	2	5
Common Snipe	1	< 1	1
Ring-billed Gull	10	56	110
California Gull	5	7	24
Herring Gull	4	2	15
Rock Dove	9	70	153
Mourning Dove	9	24	81
(Western?) Screech Owl *	0	0	0
Great Horned Owl	9	3	6

SPECIES	YEARS	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Northern Pygmy-Owl	7	1	4
Barred Owl	2	< 1	1
Great Grey Owl	1	< 1	1
Long-eared Owl	1	< 1	1
Short-eared Owl	3	1	10
Belted Kingfisher	10	7	15
Downy Woodpecker	10	24	38
Hairy Woodpecker	10	19	30
Three-toed Woodpecker	0	0	0
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	10	29	35
Pileated Woodpecker	10	9	23
Horned Lark	2	< 1	1
Gray Jay	7	2	7
Steller's Jay	8	16	50
Blue Jay	3	1	5
Clark's Nutcracker	7	15	96
Black-billed Magpie	10	67	98
American Crow	10	41	138
Common Raven	10	88	171
Black-capped Chickadee	10	321	515
Mountain Chickadee	10	73	135
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	9	16	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	65	102
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	2	4
Pygmy Nuthatch	10	18	43
Brown Creeper	10	9	23
Winter Wren	4	1	1
Marsh Wren	5	1	2
American Dipper	10	6	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	55	95
Townsend's Solitaire	7	3	10
American Robin	5	1	2
Gray Catbird	1	< 1	1
Bohemian Waxwing	9	276	1024
Cedar Waxwing	5	16	50
Northern Shrike	8	4	8
European Starling	10	121	304
Yellow-rumped Warbler *	0	0	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	< 1	1
Ammerican Tree Sparrow	9	20	65
Fox Sparrow	2	< 1	1
Song Sparrow	10	15	26
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	0
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	5
Harris' Sparrow	5	1	2
Dark-eyed Junco	10	92	128
Lapland Longspur	3	1	8
Snow Bunting	6	12	32
Red-winged Blackbird	10	137	283
Western Meadowlark	1	< 1	4
Brewer's Blackbird	3	2	18
Rosy Finch	1	< 1	1
Pine Grosbeak	9	21	84
Cassin's Finch	2	1	5
House Finch	2	2	17
Red Crossbill	7	35	208
White-winged Crossbill	1	18	179
Common Redpoll	7	148	476
Hoary Redpoll	2	< 1	2
Pine Siskin	9	50	182
American Goldfinch	9	29	90
Evening Grosbeak	10	284	718
House Sparrow	10	114	203

Hypothetical/Rejected Species:

Osprey
Mew Gull
Black Tern
Empidonax sp.
Chipping Sparrow
Purple Finch

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Northern Harrier	7	3	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	2	5
Cooper's Hawk	1	< 1	1
Northern Goshawk	7	2	4
Red-tailed Hawk	7	3	9
Rough-legged Hawk	10	8	16
Golden Eagle	3	< 1	1
American Kestrel	4	< 1	1
Merlin	2	< 1	1
Gyrfalcon	1	< 1	1
Prairie Falcon	0	0	0
Gray Partridge	6	8	37
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	43	76
Spruce Grouse	2	< 1	2
Blue Grouse	3	< 1	2
Ruffed Grouse	10	10	19
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1	1	9
Wild Turkey	10	321	475
Northern Bobwhite (feral)	1	1	6
American Coot	8	845	4238
Killdeer	5	2	5
Common Snipe	1	< 1	1
Ring-billed Gull	10	56	110
California Gull	5	7	24
Herring Gull	4	2	15
Rock Dove	9	70	153
Mourning Dove	9	24	81
(Western?) Screech Owl *	0	0	0
Great Horned Owl	9	3	6

SPECIES	YEARS	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Northern Pygmy-Owl	7	1	4
Barred Owl	2	< 1	1
Great Grey Owl	1	< 1	1
Long-eared Owl	1	< 1	1
Short-eared Owl	3	1	10
Belted Kingfisher	10	7	15
Downy Woodpecker	10	24	38
Hairy Woodpecker	10	19	30
Three-toed Woodpecker	0	0	0
Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	10	29	35
Pileated Woodpecker	10	9	23
Horned Lark	2	< 1	1
Gray Jay	7	2	7
Steller's Jay	8	16	50
Blue Jay	3	1	5
Clark's Nutcracker	7	15	96
Black-billed Magpie	10	67	98
American Crow	10	41	138
Common Raven	10	88	171
Black-capped Chickadee	10	321	515
Mountain Chickadee	10	73	135
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	9	16	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	65	102
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	2	4
Pygmy Nuthatch	10	18	43
Brown Creeper	10	9	23
Winter Wren	4	1	1
Marsh Wren	5	1	2
American Dipper	10	6	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	55	95
Townsend's Solitaire	7	3	10
American Robin	5	1	2
Gray Catbird	1	< 1	1
Bohemian Waxwing	9	276	1024
Cedar Waxwing	5	16	50
Northern Shrike	8	4	8
European Starling	10	121	304
Yellow-rumped Warbler *	0	0	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	< 1	1
Ammerican Tree Sparrow	9	20	65
Fox Sparrow	2	< 1	1
Song Sparrow	10	15	26
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	0
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	5
Harris' Sparrow	5	1	2
Dark-eyed Junco	10	92	128
Lapland Longspur	3	1	8
Snow Bunting	6	12	32
Red-winged Blackbird	10	137	283
Western Meadowlark	1	< 1	4
Brewer's Blackbird	3	2	18
Rosy Finch	1	< 1	1
Pine Grosbeak	9	21	84
Cassin's Finch	2	1	5
House Finch	2	2	17
Red Crossbill	7	35	208
White-winged Crossbill	1	18	179
Common Redpoll	7	148	476
Hoary Redpoll	2	< 1	2
Pine Siskin	9	50	182
American Goldfinch	9	29	90
Evening Grosbeak	10	284	718
House Sparrow	10	114	203

Hypothetical/Rejected Species:

Osprey
Mew Gull
Black Tern
Empidonax sp.
Chipping Sparrow
Purple Finch

1990 Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS		
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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 to all interested people.

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