



# *The Pileated Post*

Volume 3, Number 4 \*\*\*\*\* September 1979

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday Sept. 5 7:30 p.m. Board meeting. Lillian Tubb will host this meeting at Otten's. Call Lillian (837-4323) for directions.

Monday Sept. 10 7:30 p.m. Regular meeting of Flathead Audubon Society at Bigfork School Cafeteria. Bring your 10 favorite slides for a home slide show. Lynn Kelly and Wanda Jamieson will talk about their trip to the National Convention.

Saturday Sept. 22 8:00 a.m. (Rescheduled from Sept 15). Field trip to Ninepipe, Pablo, and Kicking Horse for late sandpipers and waterfowl. Marcy Bishop will lead the trip. Meet at Sacajewea Park in Polson at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday Oct. 3 7:30 p.m. Board meeting. Place to be announced.

Saturday Oct. 6 All day. Montana State Audubon Council meeting in Bigfork at Bigfork School Cafeteria. All Flathead Audubon Society members are members of the state council and are invited to attend this meeting.

8:30 9:00 a.m. Social hour.

9:00 10:00 a.m. Business meeting begins.

12:00 noon. Lunch.

2:00 p.m. Delegate reports.

6:00 5:00 p.m. Dinner.

7:30 p.m. Program by Riley McClelland on cavity nesters.

Sunday Oct. 7 8:00 a.m. Field trip to Lower Valley. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the old Bigfork Grade School, or at 8:30 a.m. at New Covenant Christian School (formerly Rousselle).

There will be no regular monthly meeting in October. Instead, come to the State Council meeting Saturday October 6.

HOO'S HOO IN FLATHEAD AUDUBON: Vice President Cheri Seli and husband Rob are the proud parents of a daughter, Carole Leachet, born July 3.....Membership chairperson Darlene Solberg became Mrs. Steve Nardi May 26.....Lynn Kelly and Wanda Jamieson attended the National Audubon Convention June 29-July 1 in Estes Park, Colorado.....Marcy Bishop was busy this summer banding double-crested cormorants at Ninepipe NWR as part of her continuing research project.....Ladd Bjorneby will be completing requirements this fall for a degree in biology. He then would like to combine his talents and become a biology illustrator. A special THANK YOU to Ladd for contributing the illustrations for this newsletter.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY:

July 30, 1979

Dear Chapter President,

This letter is to inform you that at the July 1979 meeting of the Board of Directors, it was voted to establish the practice of raising the National Audubon Society's membership dues at regular intervals in line with inflation.

Currently, inflation is occurring at an annual rate in excess of 10 percent. This means that the real value of our dues is decreasing by more than 10 percent this year. As a result of inflation, we need to raise NAS total income in fiscal 1979-80 by at least \$1.3 million just to maintain our current program and activities.

NAS receives approximately one-half of its income from membership dues. If we don't raise the dues, I see no practical alternative but to reduce our already thin staff and our important programs. Accordingly, our Board of Directors unanimously voted to raise the dues effective October 1 in the Individual Category to \$20 and in the Family Category to \$25.

I hope that you understand the necessity for taking this action.

Please let me assure you that we on the National staff will do all we can to see that our dollars are used as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Russell W. Peterson  
President

FROM HELENA: As of July 1, the Montana State Department of Fish and Game became the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a name which more accurately represents the responsibilities of the agency.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has a toll-free REPORT LINE (1-800-332-6117) which is continuing to provide leads for fish and game wardens. The toll-free line was established solely to handle calls pertaining to fish and game law violations or trespassing or property damage complaints. Boating, camping, fishing and trespassing violation calls represent the majority of calls received this time of year.

HELP THE CONDORS: T-shirts with a picture of a California condor and the legend "Nothing is quite so final as total extinction" are being sold for the benefit of the California Condor Fund. They come in small, medium, or large sizes and may be purchased from the society's Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, California 94920. The price is \$6.95, plus \$1.25 for postage and handling. The profits go toward research to save the great birds.

# WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Bennetts, P. O. Box 559, Bigfork 59911  
 A. Barry Clark, Box 629, Bigfork 59911  
 G. Loberg, 936 Second Street, Whitefish 59937  
 Joe Potoczny, 315 S. Ferndale Drive, Bigfork 59911  
 Clara Knauss, Box 667, Whitefish 59937  
 Terry Werner, Junior High School, Columbia Falls 59912  
 Alanna and Jeff Bedford, Box 426, Hungry Horse 59919  
 J. W. Custer, Sylvanite R. S., Route 1, Troy 59935

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON SHOREBIRDS: In 1979, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing an extensive program of banding and color-marking shorebirds in James Bay, with the objective of defining migration routes used by shorebirds on their journeys between the Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas. Since 1974, over 38,500 shorebirds have been captured in southern James Bay, and have resulted in more than 1,700 'bird days' of sightings of dyed birds, in areas ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much new information is being obtained on migration routes and strategies, and your assistance in looking for and reporting color-marked birds would contribute very substantially to the success of the program.

Feather dyes (yellow/orange) and colored leg bands (yellow or light blue) will be used to mark the birds according to age and date and place of capture. If you see a marked shorebird, please record details of: species, place, date, color-marks and, if possible, numbers of other shorebirds present. For color-dyed birds, please record the color and area of the bird that was dyed (e.g. entire breast, upper breast only, belly from legs to tail only, etc.). For color bands and standard metal leg bands please record which leg the bands were on, the colors involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on the leg (e.g. right leg, blue over metal, etc.). A note should also be made whether the bands were below or above the "knee" of the birds.



Brewer's blackbird.

All reports will be fully acknowledged and should be sent to: Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3Z7.

For more information on Dr. Morrison's color-marking program, see "Mysteries of Bird Migration," NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, August 1979.

QUIZ: The name of the newsletter was changed from ACCIPITER EXPRESS to PILEATED POST because

- very few people know what an accipiter is
- very few people can pronounce accipiter
- we couldn't find someone to draw an accipiter
- Cheri came up with the new name
- all of the above

Answer on page 6.

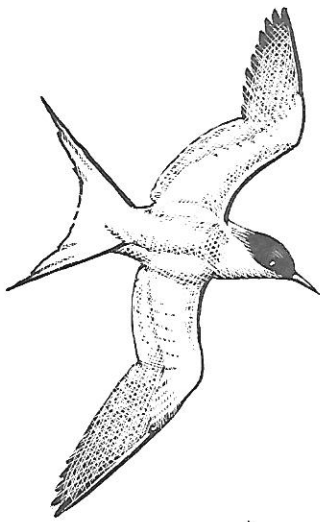
OUT AND ABOUT: Dan DeJong at Island Lake near Marion reported seeing a peregrine falcon in mid-July. It was the fourth that he has ever seen, the third for that area. He also observed a "pair" of sandhill cranes but decided they must not have nested as there were still only 2 of them at the end of July. Dan also saw barred owls in July. "Two barred owl nests, one located, the other close and the young flying." The barred owl nests are a first for that area.

On a Flathead Audubon Society field trip July 7, a least sandpiper and a stilt sandpiper were observed at Pablo NWR, and a marbled godwit at the Polson lagoon. Field trip leader Marcy Bishop noted the abundance of shore birds and thought it was very early for these birds to be showing fall plumage and to be in the area at that time of year.

At Ninepipe NWR this summer 96 adult double-crested cormorants made 42 nests and produced 99 young.

Mae Sudan saw an olive-sided flycatcher July 3 in the Porcupine Creek area south of Swan Lake.

Highlight of a field trip to Jewel Basin July 14 was a hermit thrush bathing in a creek (and all those beautiful wildflowers).



Arctic tern.

An Arctic tern was seen June 5, 7, 8 and 11 in Lower Valley near Somers by Flathead Audubon Society member Mae Sudan, and Stan Sudan and Chellie Campbell from Los Angeles. Mae describes her first sighting June 5 of the Arctic tern as follows: "A very windy but sunny day. At first the tern was seen flying over the pond very near the car. (The road goes through the middle of the pond). Then the tern landed on the road behind us. We were able to walk up within 15 feet from it. It was a very light gray with black cap, orange beak and orange legs. The legs appeared very short. As we walked closer it flew up and circled 10-20 feet above before it landed again. The undersides of the wings had a small edging of black near the wing tips. The tail was deeply forked."

Her son Stan also described the bird: "Observed June 5 a tern soaring approximately 60 feet above the water 20-25 yards away with 10 x 50 binoculars. It approached to within 10 yards and 10-15 feet overhead, dived twice while feeding. I watched the bird for about 1 minute, then it landed on the road where the three of us walked to within 15-20 feet of it. Noted: deeply forked tail with gray outside border and gray back. Bill and feet orange-red with no black visible on bill; black cap; thin black strip on trailing edge of wing. We returned on June 7 and observed the tern sitting on a post. I approached to about 20 feet and this time noted its very short legs and also that its wing and tail were the exact same length."

Arctic terns migrate in the spring from the Antarctic to breeding sites at the Arctic Circle, usually following eastern Pacific and eastern Atlantic coastlines. Wind gusts were measured at 21-22 mph when Mae, Stan and Chellie saw the Arctic tern in Lower Valley. It is possible that strong winds aloft carried the tern so far inland.

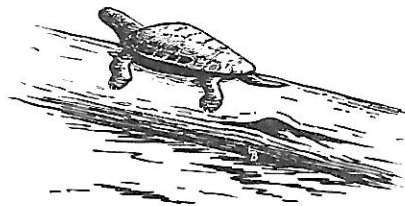


ATTENDING A NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION IS....getting your sister to babysit your kids for 10 days....sharing a ride with another Flathead Audubon Society delegate and becoming friends....keeping the top half of the gas tank filled....leaving your binoculars in the car when you walk up to the entrance of the Lewis and Clark Caverns and wondering what all the little birds are....seeing sandhill cranes in Yellowstone Park and having people stop to ask if those are turkeys....arriving at Old Faithful just as it is erupting and not having time to wait an hour to see it erupt again to take pictures....seeing the magnificent Grand Tetons for the first time....finding a camera in Grand Teton National Park and trying to figure out a way to locate its owner....taking turns driving....avoiding all the prairie dogs on the highway....stopping to identify that hawk before it gets away....visiting a tiny museum in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado and marveling at the work of an unknown artist....spending the night in the ski resort town of Steamboat Springs and being able to afford their off-season rates....getting more excited about attending a national convention the closer you get to your destination....patiently waiting while your partner identifies and photographs every tundra flower in Rocky Mountain National Park....having the park ranger tell you not to stop in the middle of the highway while your partner is chasing down a bird only to discover it's just another mountain bluebird....finally arriving in Estes Park....having Bob Turner call out across the room "Hi, Wanda" just as you walk through the door of the administration building to register....wondering who your roommate(s) will be....hearing the metallic whirring of the broad-tailed hummingbird and then seeing it....having a roommate from Houston Audubon Society....wondering how they can feed 1000 people in a room for 300....having dinner with the delegates from Los Angeles....finding out they ask those who have finished eating would they please leave the dining hall so others can be seated....going on a field trip to the Pawnee National Grassland with 5 busloads of people and learning about grassland ecology....watching 200 people watching McCown's longspurs....talking with the New York and New Jersey delegates seated behind you on the bus....being one of 139 chapter presidents attending the convention....discussing problems at delegates meeting of presidents and finding all chapters have the same problems....discussing (arguing) over lunch the merits of a film you just saw with Audubon's chief accountant....hearing Oregon's former governor, Tom McCall, deliver a fantastic speech....packing and saying good-bye to roommate....going home by a different route....getting anxious to see your kids....and husband....and wanting to attend the next biennial convention.

Thank you, Flathead Audubon Society, for sending me as your delegate.

Wanda Jamieson

WETLANDS REPORT: As much as 40 percent of the original wetland acreage of the lower 48 states has been irreversibly altered or destroyed, and losses are continuing at the rate of about 300,000 acres per year, according to an interagency report that has been released by the President's Council on Environmental Quality. The report, OUR NATION'S WETLANDS, explains the value of these areas, describes the problems they are facing, and tells about steps being taken to protect them. Copies are available without charge from the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Printing and Management (PM-215), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C.; enclose a self-addressed mailing label.



Painted turtle, sunning.

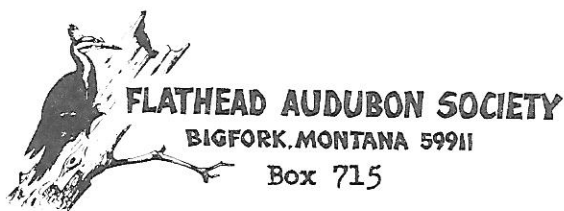
**BITS 'N' PIECES:** Contrary to the article published in the May newsletter, Flathead Audubon Society has not been granted a permit to collect dead birds. We are still working on the application.....Lincoln County has been added to our chapter territory.....The field trip to Wildhorse Island was cancelled because of extreme fire danger. The float trip on Swan River was cancelled due to lack of interest... ..Slides of the following birds are needed for the slide file: all grebes, all ducks, all mergansers, pheasant, magpie, crow, mountain chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, meadowlark, and all vireos, warblers and sparrows. The chapter will pay to have your slides duplicated. Please see Elmer Sprunger if you have slides we can use.....Don't forget Saturday December 15 is our Christmas Bird Count. Start making plans to participate.

**CLASSIFIED AD:** Newsletter editor wanted. Apply in person at September 10 meeting of Flathead Audubon Society or write P.O. Box 715, Bigfork, Montana 59911.

Answer to quiz; e.

# FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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 Vice-President: Cheri Seli, P.O. Box 151, Bigfork 59911.....837-6916  
 Secretary: Betty Rose, 1066 Steel Bridge Road, Kalispell 59901.....755-0852  
 Treasurer: Lillian Tubb, P. O. Box 215, Bigfork 59911.....837-4323  
 Director: Marcy Bishop, West Shore, Polson 59860.....883-4146  
 Director: Elmer Sprunger, P.O. Box 145, Bigfork 59911.....837-6613  
 Director: Jack Whitney, P.O. Box 236, Bigfork 59911.....837-4459  
 Conservation & Program: Rick Trembath, Eastshore, Bigfork 59911.....837-6298  
 Education: Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd., Kalispell 59901.....755-2751  
 Field trip: Marcy Bishop, West shore, Polson 59860.....883-4146  
 Hospitality: Cheri Seli, P. O. Box 151, Bigfork 59911.....837-6916  
 Librarian: Helen Dresen, P. O. Box 90, Lakeside 59922.....844-3559  
 Membership: Darlene Nardi, 1511 S. Woodland Drive, Kalispell 59901.....257-8077  
 Publicity: Sue Buchel, Box 102, West Glacier 59936.....no phone  
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