



the Flathead Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

VOLUME 26

NUMBER 8

APRIL, 2002

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION IN THE FLATHEAD

Don't miss Celebrating Conservation in the Flathead, the spring festival and conservation fair that will take place Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the West Coast Kalispell Center Hotel.

The festival is sponsored by local conservation groups – including Flathead Audubon, as well as natural resource agencies and local businesses. Terry Trieweiler, Montana Supreme Court Justice, will deliver the keynote address. The celebration is free and open to the public.

Festivities will begin at 9 a.m. with the opening of display booths and hands-on activities celebrating conservation achievements in the Flathead Valley. Flathead Audubon's booth will feature pictures, maps and information about the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

Two panel discussions are planned. The first begins at 10 a.m. with opening remarks by Jan Metzmaker. The second starts at 2 p.m. Panelists will include Glacier Park naturalist Bill Schustrom; Randy Gaynor, owner of Glacier Wilderness Guides; U.S.G.S. Scientist and grizzly bear researcher Kate Kendall; Jack Stanford, Director of the Flathead Lake Biological Station; and Bob Munson, Co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Alliance.

A lunch buffet, \$10 per person, begins at noon. Seating will be limited so it is best to buy your tickets ahead of time. Send your name, address, phone number, number of tickets you want, and \$10 for each ticket to Celebrating Conservation, PO Box 2001, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Trieweiler's keynote speech is scheduled for 1 p.m., right after lunch.

Entertainment begins at 3:30 with music and slides by Dave Streeter.

Several raffle/give-aways will also be included. Watch your local newspapers for more details and a full schedule of events. For further information, contact Dave Hadden, 837-0783 or paddler@digisys.net. By Linda Winnie

FAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2002

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2002 The Flathead Audubon Society General Meeting will feature a slide presentation by Flathead photographer Chuck Haney titled "A Year in the Life of Outdoor Photographer". The meeting begins at 7:30PM at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Building at 490 Meridian Road in Kalispell. The Board of Directors will meet at 5:30PM just prior to the general meeting. Everyone is welcome, please join us.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2002 EARTH DAY

FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 SMITH LAKE BIRDING.

The Smith Lake Waterfowl Production Area this time of the year will have many varieties of ducks, including grebes, buffleheads, and ruddy ducks. We will search for sandhill cranes, Marsh Harriers, eagles, and osprey. We will certainly see and hear western meadowlarks and bluebirds. It will be an enjoyable morning of bird watching. Meet at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks building in Kalispell at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning. For more information please contact Leslie Kehoe at 837-4467 or likehoe@digisys.net

PLEASE SEE PAGE 7 FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETIES SPRING FIELD TRIPS.



CHICKADEE CHATTER

The days of late March always bring new and wonderful surprises. The first day of spring this year came as quite a shock to many of us. I, however, thought it was a wonderful surprise, it was great fun to watch the world turn white and fluffy. I love to watch the snow fall and on that snowy first day of spring there was somewhere between 14 and 20 inches in my yard when all was said and done. It was very cold but I had to wander outside for a bit. The world around me was filled with the quiet sounds of wind, snow and birds.

It had snowed most of the night and by morning everything was covered with snow and the tiny white flakes continued to fall. When there is so much snow on everything you can understand why so many writers have used the phrase 'covered like a blanket' to describe a snow covered landscape. I stepped out into a pristine world where the sounds of the daily world are muffled. It seemed so very peaceful. You could hear the hiss of tiny snowflakes as they slide through the needles on the fir trees that surround the yard and they made a different noise when they fell on the brown leaves that cling to the Red Oak in the yard. (It was a tree that my mother planted nearly 35 years ago to remind her of the east coast where she was born and raised.)

There were quiet sounds coming from the Flathead River beside the house, too. One could hear the odd quiet lap of water so laden with snow that it had become slushy. It would have frozen solid if the wind had not been blowing so briskly. The ducks and geese that had gathered there by the hundreds during the preceding week were squeezed into a small area of open water in the midst of the River. There were muffled honks and whistles and quacks of many varieties coming from that little bit of cold open water.

The ducks knew it was spring even if it was pouring snow down on them and me. The first of the Northern Pintails, Redheads and American Widgeon were swimming around in search of food. There have been Hooded and Common Mergansers, Mallards, Bufflehead, and Common and Barrow's Goldeneye and, of course, Canadian Geese here most of the winter.

I walked down to the icy shore of the river to see if I could spot the Killdeer I had heard and seen less than 24 hours before. It was nowhere to be seen but on a branch hanging over the water sat an Immature Bald Eagle. No doubt hoping one

of those numerous birds in the water would offer himself up as lunch.

There were several snowy, grumpy American Robins in the old apple tree in front of my house. They have been here the entire winter and I think that the past few weeks have been more than they bargained for with all the cold temperatures and many inches of snow. The ethereal and wondrous song of several Varied Thrushes wafts down from on high. These lovely birds, so much like our beloved robins, have been here for over a month now and much to my delight they have started singing. It was eerie to hear their songs mingled with the rush of the wind and the whispers of falling snow and all the other muffled sounds that occur at any given moment during a snow storm.

In the trees by the house came the bright spring songs of House Finches and Song Sparrows and chickadee's and nuthatches. Nothing seems to dampen the spirits of these energetic little birds. In fact, the three Pygmy Nuthatches that have spent the winter here were inspecting the top of an ancient birch tree whose top has long since died. This tree has been home in past years to hummingbirds and chickadees and woodpeckers and nuthatches, its top is pierced with many holes. The snow storm has not changed that eternal drive to find a home and mate and have baby nuthatches.

By late afternoon the snow had abated and the sun could be seen through breaks in the clouds. It was cold and as I shoveled the driveway out I could hear in the cottonwood trees along the river the spring songs of a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds. They have been back in the neighborhood for about two weeks. They only visit for a month in the early spring and then they will be on their way seeking a suitable patch of cattails to claim as their own. They know that Spring is on the way even if there it is 6F and there are two feet of snow on the ground.

Just four days after that wintry start to spring the sun is shining and the snow is melting fast. There are little water droplets falling from every surface. A Spotted Towhee was sitting in the thornapple bush on the river bank this morning. The buttercups are still a few weeks away this year but I can wait. Just the thought of Spring and all the wondrous days ahead of us is enough. I can wait.

Leslie Kehoe





APRIL PROGRAM

Flathead Audubon presents Whitefish outdoor photographer Chuck Haney for its April 8 program. Haney's slide program, titled "A Year in the Life of an Outdoor Photographer" will highlight images from his travels, including the North Woods of Minnesota, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the tall grass prairies of the Midwest and locally, from Waterton Park. Haney, an outdoor photographer for 10 years, has been published in National Geographic, Outside and is a frequent contributor to Montana Magazine. He has just published his fourth book, "Simply Beautiful-North Dakota." He will have copies of his books at the program. Please join us for what will be an entertaining and enjoyable evening. The public is invited. Bring a friend.



FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO XIII

Forestry Expo is a week long event held each May, since 1990, to educate area students and families about forest resource management.

The Family Forestry Expo is sponsored and created by a diversified group of organizations including: local service groups, resource users, professional societies, government agencies, conservation groups, forest industry, local businesses, and interested individuals.

Over 1,250 area fifth grade students attended the Monday to Friday portion of Expo XI and another 1,500 - 2,000 adults attended the weekend family portion of Expo. The program included a large range of topics: archaeology, fisheries, plant identification, forest management, wildlife, riparian areas, low impact camping, fire, mill tours, logging practices, ORV demonstrations, and a fun stop.

This year the student portion of the Family Forestry Expo will be Monday, May 6th through Friday, May 10th. The family weekend portion will be May 11th and May 12th. It takes place at the Stoltze Lumber Company's Trumble Creek

Experimental Forest. Go to the intersection of Hwy 40 and US 2 (at the Blue Moon Bar) and head north, it is off Tamarack Lane, just follow the signs.

About 1250 students from 56 area classes attended last year's Family Forestry Expo XII. If you missed the Expo last year you are invited to share the experience with us through the pages of this web site as we update it to show those events. **From the Flathead Forestry Expo website which can be found at www.digisys.net/ffe. There is a lot more information about the FFE to be found there and a map to the site.**

THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL.

The Flathead chapter of the MWA will once again host films from the International Wildlife Film Festival held in Missoula. This year the mini film festival will be held Friday the 3rd of May. The evening will include some of the best wildlife films shown at the week long 25th Film Festival held in Missoula. A raffle and bake sale will add to the party. The films will be shown at the Flathead High School and will begin at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. For more information please contact Karen Wills at 387-4011 (kwills@digisys.net) or Cesar Hernandez at 755-6304.

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING COMING UP

All meetings of the Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors are open to all who wish to attend.

The FAS Board of Directors meets each month on the second Monday, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the FWP building in Kalispell (before the regularly scheduled FAS general meeting). In addition, longer quarterly Board meetings are held roughly every 3 months throughout the year.

The next quarterly meeting of the FAS Board of Directors will take place in late April or early May. The date and time have not yet been set. If you are interested in attending this upcoming quarterly meeting, please contact Linda Winnie, 755-1406 or lindawin@cyberport.net. She will notify you of the date, time and location once the meeting has been scheduled.



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JOHN ASHLEY

"O' Summer Where Art Thou?"



Before living in Montana, I believed in the theory that spring was actually *warmer* than winter. Now in the waning days of March, dry snow squeaks under my boots and my eyelashes freeze together when I blink. A driving wind shakes the windows and blurs our vision with horizontal snow. The drifts in our driveway are decorated with chunks of asphalt shingles. "Forest Green," same color as our roof. Hmmmm. There's only one thing to do in this kind of weather – go birding! We fill the kitty feeder, load the dogs into the car, and head into the wind to look for signs of summer, signs of hope.

It's six degrees as we pass Woodland Park, and a flock of bewildered Robins are puffed up like they spent the winter at a poodle parlor. The Clark Fork River is jammed with ice, and even the Canada Geese are huddled together. The snow begins melting away across central Washington, but not the wind. Northern Harriers dart back and forth, low and fast downwind over the freeway -- first the marbled brown female, then the sleek silver male. On the coast, small flocks of Tundra Swans stand perfectly white in fields of sloppy brown mud, dignity intact.

The wind is still with us, enough to rock and roll our five-story ferry and prompt a round of anti-nausea pills. After three successively smaller boats, and three successively smaller islands, we finally reach our destination.

Today's fashion statement is the plastic rainsuit, just right for that carefree look while sitting on slimy beach logs in the morning mist. Armed with a spotting scope and notepad, I've worked my way slowly and quietly to the rocky shoreline, thinking non-carnivorous thoughts, but the group of 30 Widgeon swam away anyway. Just as well, because now the petite Harlequin Ducks and I can see each other better. What the Harlequins see is a big plastic-looking critter in the logs, green and shiny wet -- they ignore Ameoba Man. What I see is Montana's most beautiful summer resident, preening in the blue dawn of a March morning.

Here on their wintering grounds, Harlequins fly out to open water at dusk, then fly back at dawn to haul out on rocks and preen their feathers before feeding in the shallows. Wavelets lap at the harlequins' feet this morning as the tide slowly pulls the sea away. As a group, these Harlequins have a sort-of tidal flow to them as well. When Bald Eagles fly in low to check out the menu, the Harlequins all surge towards the water. When a harbor seal surfaces nearby, the ducks push back on shore. Back and forth, back and forth. Closer to me, a river otter climbs ashore with his nose high in the air, trying to identify this big green thing that the tide brought in. He disappears into the logjam, and the Harlequins go back to preening.

Meanwhile, a hyperactive flock of Ruddy Turnstones pulses back and forth from one bed of exposed rockweed to another. A solitary Black Oyster Catcher probes under every blade of seaweed with its bright orange, six-inch bill. Six Cormorants stand on nearby boulders, unmoved by all of this commotion. A massive Loon patrols back and forth just offshore. She's wearing most of her stunning summer plumage -- just a couple of gray feathers left in her face. Later on, farther out in deep water, we watch as a small group of orcas peel away from the pod to feed on a teeming ball of herring. The herring have returned from the open ocean to color the beach turquoise with their spawn. The herring eggs in turn will fuel the Harlequins for the return trip to their summer breeding streams in Montana, and elsewhere.

Leading the way, we turn back downwind, across the water, and across the distance that seems to separate us from summer. More fresh snow on the passes. As we get closer to the Flathead Valley, the snow piles deeper and the wind pushes harder. In our neighborhood, the wild Turkeys are still hanging out on the leeward side of the neighbor's garage, and the Pheasants are still hunkered down in the snow wells under the big firs.

At our house, the bird feeder's empty and the kitty litter box is full. But we've seen the Harlequins again, and we know they'll bring summer back to the Flathead -- eventually. I fill the bird feeder and punch through the drifts to rehang it in our frozen pine tree. From our window, I watch the bulky feeder swaying in the wind, and I wait for summer to arrive.

BY JOHN ASHLEY



BIRDING FIELD OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND – COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

Come and join us!! Montana Audubon has received funding to conduct bird censuses in several different habitats across Montana. The purpose of the project is to establish a model citizen science program for bird conservation, with the goals of engaging citizens in bird research while collecting important associated habitat information. The data that we gather from these field activities will become part of the Montana Bird Distribution (MBD) database, which is now readily accessible to land managers and the general public (see <http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us/mbd>). Now, anyone may get online and view the records entered into MBD.

Understanding bird population trends and habitat needs is central to affecting meaningful bird conservation. Our projects will be focused on five priority habitats: mixed-grass prairie, riparian deciduous, prairie potholes, burned forest, and sagebrush/shrubsteppe. Work done on each habitat type will generally be focused in a particular area of the state. The field work in the burned forests will be conducted in the Bitterroot National Forest; riparian deciduous, along the Missouri, Madison, and/or Yellowstone Rivers; prairie potholes, east and north of Great Falls; and the sagebrush/shrubsteppe, in eastern and southwestern Montana.



If you would like to volunteer, and we'd love you to!, we will need to know your level of skill at identifying birds by sight and/or sound, the habitats in which you would like to work, and the amount of time (and when) you might be able to volunteer. Training will be organized for each portion of the projects. Participants will be reimbursed for mileage expenses. Volunteers will be asked to participate in at least three or four census days (this will depend, somewhat, on the total number of volunteers) throughout late May/June. For more information, questions, or to sign up!, please contact Susan Lenard at the office (443-3949; slenard@audubon.org).

BIRDING IN THE GAMBIA 2-16 NOVEMBER 2001

A group of 12 intrepid travelers, including seven Montanans, recently returned from a 15-day birding expedition to a tiny West African country, The Gambia. The trip was co-sponsored by Montana Audubon and Five Valleys Audubon and served as a fund raiser for the Missoula chapter. We also made our first donation to the West African Bird Study Association to aid in their efforts to conserve forest habitat for birds and to educate Gambian schoolchildren about conservation.

What The Gambia lacks in physical stature, it more than makes up for in numbers of interesting birds. We detected 275 species, thanks in large part to the excellent local guides who assisted tour leader Jeff Marks of Missoula. Among the highlights were the highly secretive White-backed Night-Heron, the exquisitely plumaged African Pygmy-Goose, close-up views of several Egyptian Plovers and a colony of Red-throated Bee-eaters, and two stunning Verreaux's Eagle-Owls. We also saw 31 species of raptors and the "usual" assortment of turacos, woodhoopoes, hornbills, bee-eaters, rollers, kingfishers, doves, sunbirds, weavers, and Palearctic migrants. Check the Montana Audubon website (<http://www.mtaudubon.org/>) for a complete list of birds encountered. In addition to the numerous birds, we saw four species of primates (including the world's fastest primate, the Patas Monkey) and some interesting insects, herps, and bats.

Our next visit to The Gambia will occur from 1-15 November 2002. The trip is limited to 12 participants, so make your reservation early! Contact Jeff Marks (phone: 406-721-7511; e-mail: jmarks@selway.umt.edu) or Montana Audubon for additional information.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE BOX FOR WILDLIFE

It is time to file our taxes and on your 2001 Montana Income Tax Return you will find a box with an eagle in it, it is the Watchable Wildlife Checkoff. Please consider making a contribution to the State Fish & Wildlife non-game program, and it is tax deductible.

The money raised from the non-game tax check-off on our Montana tax form assists in the funding of programs for birds and other non-game wildlife. We can do our small part on April 15th by putting a check in the box.



THE 2002 OWEN SOWERWINE BIRDATHON

The Owen Sowerwine Natural Area south of Kalispell is the location for the 2002 Birdathon for the Flathead Chapter. One of our goals is to raise money for the Owen Sowerwine. The money raised will be split between Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon. Flathead Audubon's part will go to support the Owen Sowerwine license as well as allowing us to invest in projects such as better parking and the building of a kiosk. Montana Audubon also supports this license, so the Birdathon is essentially for the support of the Owen Sowerwine.

For this year's Birdathon we will count the total number of different species seen on the Owen Sowerwine by all participants during the period May 14-June 16. We are hoping that novices as well as expert birders will participate. We want to encourage the membership to enjoy this remarkable environment. Imagine a beautiful May or June morning as you watch warblers and flycatchers flit through the trees on the banks of the Flathead River. To make it better, you know that every species you see is important and helps to raise money for the license on this property.

In order to participate you must get at least one pledge. We are hoping many pledges. Throughout most of the year, the majority of our money comes from the generous donations of Audubon members. This Birdathon is a special opportunity to involve other community individuals and businesses in a fundraising effort that benefits a unique natural area right here in the Flathead. Therefore, we are hoping that you will get most of the pledges from people outside of our membership. Pledges should be an amount per the total number species that will be seen during the month by all participants. We expect to see about 75 species. We will supply pledge forms in the May newsletter. The pledge forms need to be returned to Bruce Tannehill.

The participants will take trips to Owen Sowerwine, keeping track of the number of different species seen on each trip. The visits can be for 15 minutes or all day. They will send this list to Bruce as soon as possible by mail or email. He will keep a total list and share that information with all participants so they will know what species we still need to find.

At the end of the Birdathon we will send a list of the species seen with a pledge follow-up form to everyone that made a pledge. You don't need to collect the pledge! What we need from you is to participate, find pledges or pledge

yourself and enjoy birding in a wonderful protected riparian natural area.

If you have suggestions questions or want to help, please contact: Bruce Tannehill

239 Deer Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-4548
tanne@digsys.net



FLATHEAD AUDUBON'S 'CELEBRATING CONSERVATION' FIELD TRIP

When: May 25

Where: Meet in the parking lot of Montessori School at 309 Willow Glen Dr.

Time: Four Sessions: 6AM-8AM, 8AM-10AM, 10AM-Noon, & Noon-2PM

Participants are welcome to attend as many sessions as they please.

This quiet day of birding will be a excellent opportunity to Celebrate Conservation in the Flathead Valley.

The rich riparian habitat of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (ONSA) provides some of the best birding in the Flathead basin. Although ONSA is located on the edge of Kalispell it has retained a sense of wilderness. Keep in mind that OSNA is undeveloped, lacking trails or sanitary facilities. It will be our goal to have a great day of birding and leave no trace of our event.

Neal Brown will lead four, two hour sessions starting and beginning at the Montessori School. 6-8am 8-10am 10-noon noon-2pm. The guided trips will be on the mainland portion of OSNA only.

This field trip takes place during the Flathead Audubon Birdathon. A canoe and life-jackets will be provided for those wishing to extend their Birdathon efforts to the island portion of the OSNA. The island forays will also be in two hour blocks. The island forays will NOT be guided.

What to bring:

- Binoculars
- A Montana State Land Use Permit.
- Food and water.
- Dress in clothing suitable for battling brush, (long pants, long sleeve shirt).
- Foot gear suitable for wading will be required!
- Rain gear.
- Those exploring the island, must have a whistle.

Contact: Neal Brown at 837-5018.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY 2002 SPRING FIELD TRIPS & OTHER EVENTS

The public is invited to all trips.



Standard equipment for ALL trips includes comfortable SHOES, BINOCULARS, FIELD GUIDES, FOUL WEATHER GEAR, and a SACK LUNCH or SNACK. Special requirements for some trips are noted below.

When possible, car pooling for trips will be arranged at the meeting site.

MAY & JUNE. BIGFORK WILD MILE CORRIDOR WILDFLOWER & BIRD WALKS. Each Tuesday of May and June, 10 AM to Noon (May 7, 14, 21, 28 & June 4, 11, 18, 25). Join Anne Morley (Montana Native Plant Society) and Neal Brown (Flathead Audubon Society) for a gentle morning of wildflower and bird identification along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme Restaurant in downtown Bigfork. Contact: Neal Brown at 837-5018 or nealpatt@cyberport.net

SUNDAY, MAY 5. HARLEQUIN DUCKS AND AMERICAN DIPPERS. See first hand the amazing adaptations of Harlequin Ducks, one of Montana's rarest birds. We will watch them courting in the rapids alongside the American Dipper, a hearty year-round resident. Easy, all morning trip with short level walks. Glacier National Park entrance fee or pass required. The number of participants is limited to minimize disturbance to these shy ducks. Please contact John Ashley at 892-3825 or ashley@bigsky.net to register and for the meeting time and place.

SATURDAY, MAY 11. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT THE BISON RANGE. The birds brought spring back, and here's your chance to enjoy it by celebrating International Migratory Bird Day at the National Bison Range. A variety of bird activities are planned, including an advanced birding hike and a beginning bird walk (space is limited, so pre-registration is required). There will also be a variety of other activities, including a talk about bluebird habitat and houses, information on backyard bird feeding, special bird video showings, giveaways, contests, coloring pages, and a book sale. The National Bison Range is also planning to open the 19-mile Red Sleep Mountain Drive in time for this celebration (fees are charged for the drive). The Range will open at 7:00 a.m. Please call the National Bison Range at (406) 644-2211, extension 207 to register for activities.

MAY 14-JUNE 16. THE 2002 BIRDATHON. Visit the beautiful Owen Sowerwine and report the number of species that you observe. Pledge forms will be provided by Audubon. See the PILEATED POST for more information on this exciting event or contact Bruce Tannehill at 862-4548 or tanne@digisys.net

SATURDAY, MAY 18. BIRDS, WILDFLOWERS, AND JOURNALING with Cristina Eisenberg and Pattie Brown. We will hike the 3 mile Estes Lake Trail on Crane Mountain near Bigfork. This will be a slow hike with the emphasis on observation and listening. Bring lunch, water, field notebook, plant and bird field guides, hand lens, drawing pen or pencils. Meet at the Raven in Woodsbay at 8 a.m. to arrange car-pooling for this one-way hike. Call for reservations: Pattie at 837-5018.

SATURDAY, MAY 18. SPRING LOON CENSUS DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group will need volunteers to help look for and count loons on the lakes in northwest Montana on this day. The need is especially great for people to help in the North and Middle Fork areas, the Thompson Chain of Lakes, and the Troy and Libby areas. If you can help, please contact one of the following: for north and west of Kalispell or the Swan Valley, Jane Ingebretson, 837-5081, or Gael Bissell, 752-3874; for Glacier Park, Steve Gniadek, 888-7833; for the Libby/Troy area, Joni Manning, 295-7495.

SATURDAY, MAY 18. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER DAY. Join members of GNP for their annual Volunteer Day in Glacier National Park. Volunteers will meet with park officials at 9:15 a.m. in front of the GNP Community Center to select from a list of work projects ranging from trail clearing (bird watching opportunities) to working in the park nursery. For additional information, contact Jim Swab at 387-4299 or suejim@bigsky.net.



SUNDAY, MAY 19. LOST TRAIL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP. Join us for a trip to the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge in the Pleasant Valley near Marion. This is a very exciting time to visit this wonderful place. The fields and marshes and woodlands are alive with bird song not to mention birds. The habitat is very diverse, and we will have a chance to see everything from shore birds to ducks to warblers to raptors. We will meet at 7AM at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Building in Kalispell. To sign up, please contact Leslie Kehoe at (406) 837-4467 or lkehoe@digisys.net

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 18-19. GLACIER INSTITUTE WORK WEEKEND. Join the staff at the Glacier Institute's annual Work Party! Volunteers of all skills and abilities are needed to help get the Big Creek Outdoor Education Center and the Glacier Park Field Camp ready for the busy summer season. Please call the Glacier Institute at (406) 755-1211 to sign up, or for more information.

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 31-JUNE 2. MONTANA BIRD FESTIVAL IN PARADISE. Don't forget about this year's big birding festival! For information about this annual event, see the March PILEATED POST, the Montana Audubon web site, or contact Loren Flynn at Montana Audubon's western field office, 406-777-0780. In addition, the Montana Audubon web site (www.mtaudubon.org) will, beginning in early April, contain a summary of the full program and registration information.



COFFEE, BIRDS, AND HUMANS

Umm! The aroma of freshly brewed coffee delights the early morning riser and gives a nudge to get going, or it brings a pleasant respite for many people. The popularity of coffee drinking has skyrocketed, and coffee growers have responded by clearing more land in Central and South America to "modernize" coffee growing to maximize production. Intensive modern techniques destroy the canopy forests where coffee has been grown traditionally for years so that the sun, along with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, can speed production of beans. Because more coffee beans mature faster under these modern techniques, more coffee is available at cheaper costs to the consumer. As we enjoy the spring and celebrate the joys of our Earth, we must think about the true costs to coffee produced under "modern" techniques.

As human population increases and demands for intensive agriculture methods threaten more and more areas of the world, habitat losses for birds and other wildlife become more critical too. In the case of coffee, the appetites of a growing population have affected the habitat for wintering songbirds in drastic ways. Scientific studies show that as many as 150 bird species inhabit shaded coffee plantations, while the number drops to half that in cleared fields. In some non-shaded coffee groves no birds reside at all. Is that important? Songbirds, such as warblers, thrushes, and orioles rely on the forest canopy of the coffee groves themselves as well as the tropical rainforest canopy for winter habitat. Without that habitat, those species are diminished. We celebrate the return of those beautiful and bright birds each spring, but in fewer numbers and variety.

What can we do? Seek out shade-grown or organic coffees. Shade-grown/organic coffees mature more slowly, usually taste better and require little or no pesticides and fertilizer. They usually require less moisture to grow and the birds naturally assist in clearing the area of unwanted pests. They are available in a variety of roasts, both caffeinated and decaffeinated and are typically not the supermarket brands commonly

found. They may cost a bit more from a dollars point of view, but they are far less expensive of our universe and its inhabitants. Here in the Flathead Valley we can find songbird coffee at any of the Montana Coffee Traders. Look and ask for Good Migrations coffee. After all it's for the birds!

Author Ruth Vanderhorst is a member of Montana Audubon's Population and Habitat Campaign and an active member of Yellowstone Audubon. She is Co-President of the Board of a fair trade cooperative in Billings, called Global Village, that carries songbird-safe coffees. This article was originally published in April of 2000.



EARTHDAY 2002 WHAT CAN WE DO THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- PLANT A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN, REDUCE PESTICIDE USE AND USE COMPOST TO RENEW THE SOIL
- PLANT AND CARE FOR A TREE
- ADOPT A STREAM
- WEAR A SWEATER AND TURN THE THERMOSTAT DOWN
- LOOK FOR THE ENERGY STAR LABEL ON HOME AND OFFICE APPLIANCES
- WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME
- HAVE AN ENERGY AUDIT DONE TO SEE WHERE THE ENERGY YOU USE IS GOING
- REPLACE LIGHT BULBS WITH LONG LASTING AND ENERGY EFFICIENT FLOURESCENT BULBS
- TURN THE LIGHTS OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE A ROOM
- REPLACE YOUR CURRENT SHOWERHEAD WITH A LOW FLOW ENERGY EFFICIENT ONE
- DISPOSE OF TOXIC HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS RESPONSIBLY
- SKIP ONE TRIP IN YOUR CAR PER WEEK—WALK OR CARPOOL

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9...



EARTHDAY 2002

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

- TAKE YOUR NAME OFF OF JUNK MAILERS LISTS
- TAKE A CLOTH BAG TO THE GROCERY STORE INSTEAD OF USING THE PAPER OR PLASTIC ONES SUPPLIED BY THE STORE
- BUY RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS
- RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE—VALLEY RECYCLING HERE IN KALISPELL WILL TAKE MOST RECYCLABLES AND FLATHEAD AUDUBON WILL BENEFIT IF YOU ASK FOR THE PROCEEDS TO GO TO FAS.

For more information take a look at the earthday network's website at www.earthday.com. They have lots of great suggestions on how to reduce our footprints on the Earth. You can find out what your energy footprint is by taking a energy audit and there are good downloads for teachers and parents discussing ways to save our precious natural resources.

Compiled by Leslie Kehoe

FUN WITH BIRD NAMES:

Speaking of lists, a quick check through the Clement's Checklist of Birds of the World shows the following interesting possibilities for the motivated lister:

Star Wars Characters?: *Chaco Nothura, Tylas Vanga, Rufous Potoo, Andaman Drongo*

Nominated to an Audubon Board Near You: *Hazel Grouse, Cliff Parakeet, Charles Mockingbird, Buffy Fish-Owl*

A Little Alliteration: *Chaco Chachalaca, Toco Toucan, Comechingones Cinclodes, Stark's Lark*



Gesundheit!: *Waldrapp, Puaiohi, Tui, Oahu Oo*

Department of Redundancy Department: *Invisible Rail, Peaceful Dove, Beautiful Hummingbird, Cryptic Warbler*

They Haven't Found a Cure Yet: *Crimson Rosella, Rattling Cisticola, Vogelkop Melidectes, Arfak Astrapia*

Weren't They in "Lord of the Rings"?: *Grandala, Timor Friarbird, Sweet Waxbill, Bagobo Babbler*

Isn't That An Oxymoron?: *Tiny Hawk, Giant Hummingbird, Noble Snipe, Modest Tiger-Parrot*

On Everybody's Wish List: *Shy Albatross, Inaccessible Island Rail, Scarce Swift, Obscure Honeyeater*

Look for Their Large Heads: *Magnificent Frigatebird, Elegant Quail, Empress Brilliant, Resplendant Quetzal*

What Did You call Me?: *Rough-faced Shag, Little Bustard, Dull Flycatcher, Strange Weaver*

BY DAN CASEY

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY
OFFICERS

President	Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920	755-1406
Vice-President	Sonja Hartmann, P.O. Box 316, West Glacier, MT 59936	250-7885
Secretary	Gail Sullivan, 932 Columbia Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Bruce Tannehill, 239 Deer Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-4548
Past-President	Neal Brown, 670 Wolf Creek Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

DIRECTORS

1999-2002	Linda deKort, 1290 Lost Creek Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-3704
1999-2002	Leslie Kehoe, 1020 Holt Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4467
2000-2003	John Ashley, 3151 Columbia Falls Stage Rd., Col. Falls MT 59912	892-3825
2001-2002	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish MT 59937	862-5807
2001-2002	Jill Fanning, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, 59937	862-8070
2001-2002	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
2001-2003	Bob Lopp, 52 West View Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-6886
2001-2004	Dan Casey, P.O. Box 355, Somers MT 59932	857-3143
2001-2004	Jane Adams, 229 Edgewood Dr., Kalispell MT 59901	257-4527
2002-2003	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 55537	862-2028

CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1311
Birdseed Sales	June and Rod Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon MT 59826	754-2289
Christmas Bird Count	Dan Casey, P.O. Box 355, Somers MT 59932	857-3143
Conservation	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
Education	Sonja Hartmann, P.O. Box 316, West Glacier, MT 59936	250-7885
Field Trips	Jim Swab, 988 Lake Drive, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	387-4299
Hospitality	Lois Drobish, 324 Helena Flats Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901	756-7405
	Judy Spence, Box 239, Lakeside MT 59922	857-2599
	Pattie Brown, 760 Wolf Creek Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
Librarian	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Membership	Jill and Mike Fanning, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, 59937	862-8070
Newsletter	Leslie Kehoe, 1020 Holt Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4467
Program	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Publicity	Jeannie Marcure, 300 Shelter Valley Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1808
	Karen Nichols, 920 6 th Ave. E, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-5763
Refuge Projects	Leslie Kehoe, 1020 Holt Dr., Bigfork MT 59911	837-4467
Wetland/Waterfowl	Neal Brown, 670 Wolf Creek Rd., Bigfork, MT 59911	867-5018

MONTANA AUDUBON

State Office	Ray Johnson, P.O. Box 596, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
Western Montana Office	Loren Flynn, PO Box 831, Stevensville MT 59870	777-0780
Board President	Jim Brown, 1504 Woods Gulch Road, Missoula MT 59802	549-8052

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. The regular meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a featured guest who will present a conservation or nature program. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

THE PILEATED POST is published September through May and is sent to members of the Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10.00 per year.

Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month. Newsletter e-mail ljkehoe@digisys.net

**National Audubon Society
Membership Application**


Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits and AUDUBON magazine, as well as PILEATED POST newsletter.

Check your category rate from the following:

First-time Applicant	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Renewal	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$38	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$1500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dual Life	\$2000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Send this application and your check to:

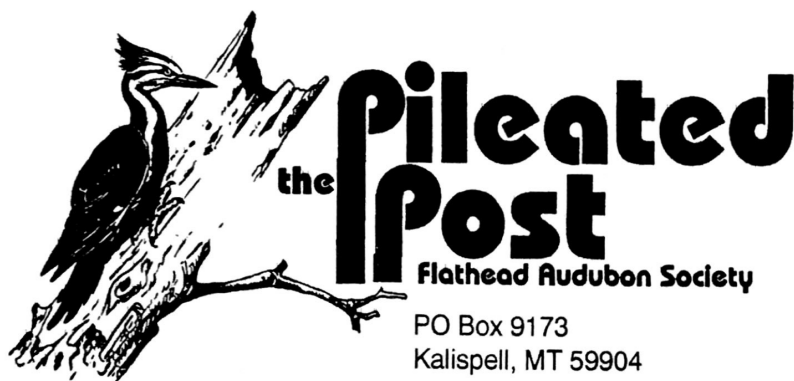
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

For Newsletter Only Send \$10 ☐

to: Flathead Audubon Society Membership
380 Tally Lake Rd.,
Whitefish, MT 59937

For address change, call 1-800-274-4201

N54 7XCHA



PO Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904



APRIL, 2002

Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit No. 115
Kalispell, MT
59901-9173

N54
SEP02

LESLIE KEHOE
1020 HOLT DR
BIGFORK

MT 59911-6230