



the Flatheaded Post

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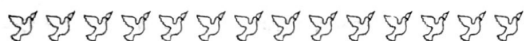
MAY, 2002

FLATHEAD VALLEY'S ORGANIC FARMERS RECOGNIZED BY FAS

Flathead Audubon's third Recognition of Outstanding Conservation Achievements was presented to Flathead Valley's six local organic farmers at our April meeting.

Five of the six farmers were able to be present at the meeting for the recognition; the sixth, Katherine Cross, was out of town.

The presentation was made by Lois Drobish, who has for many years served as Flathead Audubon's Welcome Hostess, and is the mother of one of the farmers honored. Below is the text that Lois read at the meeting.



Tonight we honor the six Certified Organic Farmers of our Flathead Valley for growing organically, providing us with food, preserving our soil, protecting our ground water, avoiding air pollution and safeguarding our environment, our habitat.

These Certified Organic Farmers are:

Katherine Cross/Whitefish
Julian Cunningham/Swallow Crest Farm
Kip Drobish/Raven Ridge Farm
Barry Flamm/Flamm Orchard
Judy Owsowitz/Terrapin Farm
John Sheldon/Creston Seed Inc.

Flathead Audubon's Mission Statement includes conservation of habitat and ecosystem diversity. Awareness and appreciation of the natural world is promoted through educational activities and advocacy programs. We work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues. We recognize these Certified Organic Farmers for their conservation activities.

These Certified Organic Farmers are members of the Organic Certification Association of Montana, a non-profit organization, composed of consumers, retailers, processors and growers. This

organization promotes local organic food and sustainable farming practices, and oversees the certification of organic farms in Western Montana. The cost to the farmer of certification is several hundred dollars. Certification is provided by the Organic Crop Improvement Association, an internationally recognized farmer owned and operated grassroots certification program, which is committed to an independent and neutral system of inspection.

There are innumerable benefits to growing food organically. Organic growing methods protect the long-term health of the land and result in wholesome foods.

Pests are controlled by building healthy soil, resulting in vibrant plants. Soil fertility is achieved through crop rotation, returning organic material to the soil through composting and growing a variety of crops. Inter-planting and cover cropping contribute to a healthy soil-building program.

Consumers are thus ensured nutritious foods from healthy plants without pesticides and other artificial additives. The health of farm workers is also protected. In addition, birds, insects and animals benefit from these practices.

Growing organically improves the ability of farmlands to withstand drought and other stresses. The environment is preserved by reducing soil erosion and the amount of chemicals in the ground water. Organic growing maintains a balance between providing for and receiving from the soil, thus attaining a long-term sustainable relationship.

Information about some Certified Organic Farmers and other Montana farmers is listed in AERO'S Directory for Sustainably Grown Montana Food: ABUNDANT Montana.

It is for these reasons we respect and cherish our Certified Organic Farmers. Flathead Audubon is pleased to present each with a membership in our chapter, which is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, and our state organization Montana Audubon. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the health of our community and our environment.

By Ferne Cohen

SEE PAGE THREE FOR MAY CALENDAR





CHICKADEE CHATTER

The days are lasting longer and the nights are not as cold, the robins chirrup into the dusk and the geese have made a nest on the old pier of the bridge that once spanned the Flathead River; it can only mean one thing... spring is well underway here in our beautiful valley. It will only be a matter of days until there are brilliant green leaves on the trees and more than just the cheerful yellow of buttercup blossoms will greet us from gardens and meadows. It is these next few weeks that I find so difficult. It is not easy to wait for the buds on the branches to become leaves of green or to wait until diminutive balls of feathers wing their way here so that I can hear the lilting song of a Yellow Warbler high in the trees above me.

Of course, there are hints of things to come every day. The wild honeysuckle vines in the yard are some of the first to spread their green leaves and I noticed them a few days ago. Just last week the delightful song of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet wafted down to my wondering ears. More and more American Robins drift into the yard as the days go by. They run around the yard looking for food and will soon be on their way farther north. There will be two or three pairs that stay and raise several broods apiece. What is more fun than watching baby robins learn the ways of the world...but alas I will have to wait for a bit to see them. For now they are only chirrups at dusk.

Spring is a time where memories are made and I would like to share some of my spring memories with you. These are some of my fondest memories of years gone by and few new ones:

✿ Just this year I had the good fortune to spend a day at the Freezeout Lake Wildlife Management Area near Choteau. There were tens of thousands of ducks of all kinds, geese and swans there and the entire experience is one that I will never forget for all the rest of my life but the memory that will stay near my heart is one of brilliant white geese strung like pearls high in the sky. Late in the afternoon with a brilliant sun shining to the west and dark gray clouds to the east the geese rose from the ponds by the thousands. As they flew higher they would follow one another in long strings and the sun would catch them. There were dazzling white geese in long lines against a gray horizon as far as the eye could see.

✿ Several years ago on a day in May I came across a shelter belt in the Mission Valley beside a pond. There were some interesting ducks in the pond and I spent many moments watching

the ducks swim in pairs around the pond and several Killdeer wandering around the shores. It was warm and I was content to stand there for a bit. Off in the distance a Bald Eagle flew in great circles in the sky and the first tiny insects were flying in small clouds to and fro. I look up into the willows beside the road and what do I see but four large golden eyes peering at me from fluffy faces. Two baby Great Horned Owls watched me. The slight breeze wafted the fluff around their faces and I almost laughed.

✿ Four years ago my sister and I wandered up to Glacier National Park in the first part of May. The road was only open to Avalanche but you could walk for several miles past the closed gate. The drifts of snow were still very deep and even though the day was sunny and warm the breeze as it blew over the snow was chilly. We walked for some time listening to the quiet forest around us. Here and there were animal tracks in the snow banks. Occasionally, we would hear the songs of Varied Thrushes above us and Winter Wrens beside us. And, strange as it may seem, there were butterflies everywhere. Not just one or two but seemingly hundreds. The rich brown of the Mourning Cloak could be seen flitting about everywhere. At a little puddle in the road there were so many clustered about that we couldn't count them all.

✿ Early one morning in the midst of May last year just after the Red Sleep Mountain drive opened at the National Bison Range I found myself looking out over the Mission Valley. The day was clear and the early morning sun shone on the high peaks of the Missions still blanketed in snow. The songs of a multitude of Western Meadowlarks came to my ears from all directions. A beautiful little American Kestrel hovered magically in the air and dove into the grass as I watched coming up empty taloned. I drove further and dropped down into the valley on the backside. The grass was covered with sparkling dew drops and antelope and Mule deer were grazing here and there. In the willows beside the road I could see furtive movements and dozens of songs, Yellow Warblers and Song Sparrows and Willow Flycatchers and Common Yellowthroats to name a few. I could see flashes of blue everywhere as dozens of migrating Lazuli Buntings flew here and there. It was a wonderful morning, an unforgettable morning as so many are in the Spring.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope you will take time to make some special memories that will be with you all the rest of your life.

Leslie Kehoe





ANNUAL FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY MAY POTLUCK DINNER

The May meeting of the FAS will be held at Lone Pine State Park Visitor's Center on May 13, 2002. This will be our annual potluck dinner so please bring your favorite potluck dish and your own dinner service. Dinner will start around 6:00PM and the program will begin at 7:00PM. A short Board of Directors meeting will be held before the program begins. We will hold Board of Directors elections at this time and there is a by-law change that will be voted on.

The May program is entitled: "Space-Age Grizzly Bears". Grizzly bear researcher John Waller will discuss the findings of his research using satellite collars to track grizzly bears up the Middle Fork of the Flathead. Since 1998, Waller has been using the high-tech devices to follow bears, particularly trying to determine the bears' travel habits across the highway and railroad corridor between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It was one of the first times satellite collars were used to track large animals in the lower 48 states and offered unprecedented precision in following the bears.

Waller is currently completing his doctorate in wildlife biology from UM. His research on bears in the Middle Fork is the foundation of his PhD. Waller was previously a researcher on the South Fork grizzly bear study through the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Everyone is welcome to attend, please join us for our final meeting of the season and enjoy good food, good company and a great program.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Four positions are up for election this May. How fortunate that all four members who hold these positions have agreed to run for re-election. These positions are: Secretary: Gail Sullivan, Treasurer: Bruce Tannehill, Board Directors for the 2002-2005 term: Leslie Kehoe and Linda de Kort.

Bruce Tannehill has been Treasurer of the Flathead Audubon Society for four years. He is a retired high school science teacher with an interest in conservation, birding and recording of bird songs; he shares these interests generously on Audubon field trips.

Gail Sullivan as Secretary of FAS has provided the board with accurate minutes of the

meetings for many years. She also provides us much insight because of her work at Tally Lake Ranger District and her connection to conservation issues in the area.

Linda deKort has served as a Board director for the past three years. Now that she is retired from high school biology teaching, she has more time to devote to the Audubon education committee, when she is in the country that is.

Leslie Kehoe has served as our creative and eloquent Editor of the Pileated Post for the last four years and has been on the Board of Directors since 1999. We are still trying to figure out how she is able to devote so much energy to FAS (newsletter, field trip leader, refuge chair), maintain her successful business (Kehoe's Agate Shop), and keep us all abreast of her travels near and far.

A new name on the roster of nominations for the FAS Board is Karen Nichols. Another Director is needed on the Board and Karen graciously accepted the nomination for the third Board Director for the 2002-2005 term. She also kindly agreed to write a short biography for the newsletter; Karen writes:

I was introduced to Flathead Audubon and the 'life sport' of birding when I took Dan Casey's FVCC beginning birding class about 10 years ago. Since then, I have taken that beginning class a second time and Dan's advanced birding class two times. Each spring, I find that I have forgotten many of the birds I knew the previous year. I figure learning and 'relearning' will keep me interested in birding for decades.

I believe birding is a simple and accessible way for people to connect with the natural world in which we live. Flathead Audubon does a wonderful job of providing its members and the greater public with a variety of opportunities to enjoy the natural world and to better understand its complexities. I think Flathead Audubon is one of the more diverse, effective and just plain fun conservation organizations in the Flathead. The packed room during our monthly meetings is evidence of that.

I have worked as a photojournalist in the Flathead since 1990. I currently work at the Daily Inter Lake part-time and also do other freelance photography work. I have a journalism degree from the University of Montana, with a minor in environmental studies. In partnership with Jeannie Marcures, I have helped with Flathead Audubon's publicity for the past two years.

I live in Kalispell with my husband, Ben Long, who is also an avid student of the natural world.

Report by Linda deKort, Nominations Committee





FROM THE PRESIDENT: LINDA WINNIE



The Flathead Audubon Board of Directors had its last meeting for the 2001-2002 year this past Thursday (April 25). As we sat around the table in our usual meeting room at Fish, Wildlife and Parks – eating pizza, listening to Dwight Bergeron's plans for bird banding at Owen Sowerwine, struggling to balance next year's budget, making plans for the fall birdseed sale, forming a new committee to oversee the management of Owen Sowerwine, sharing news of recent bird sightings – I was reminded once again how fortunate I am to be part of such a dynamic and dedicated group.

Each of our fifteen Board members contributes a crucial piece to the mosaic of information and activities that make Flathead Audubon function so successfully. To give you an idea of the time and energy that go into these contributions, and also by way of recognizing and thanking some of our most active Board members, let me tell you about the primary contributions of five of our very active Board members.

Leslie Kehoe produces the information-packed Pileated Post. This means that each month she gathers information, writes articles, reminds other article-writers of their approaching deadline, crafts Chickadee Chatter, spends hours at the computer on layout and editing, chooses and arranges the decorative bird pictures (according to Leslie, this is the fun part), and finally getting the master to the printer in Whitefish.

Bruce Tannehill puts in many hours keeping careful track of our income and expenditures, paying our bills, and monitoring our standing accounts. Each month Bruce and his wife, Gail, work in cooperation with Jill and Mike Fanning to put address labels on the printed copies of the newsletter, prepare the resulting stacks of newsletters for mailing, and get them to the metered-mail center in Kalispell. In addition, Bruce has taken on the big job of organizing this year's Birdathon, overseeing publicity efforts, recording pledges, and also leading field trips at Owen Sowerwine to help Birdathon birders get acquainted with this Natural Area.

Linda deKort once again organized the Beauty of Birds adult education class – making arrangements with Flathead High School, organizing publicity, recruiting and scheduling guest teachers, and doing much of the class teaching herself. In addition, Linda has been helping several local teachers do units on birds in their classrooms, and spent several weeks preparing a group of after-school kids for the Great Backyard Bird Count, then helped them participate in the GBBC on a birding fieldtrip. Linda also chairs the Nominating Committee, and writes many articles for the Pileated Post.

Sonja Hartmann is Flathead Audubon's Volunteer Naturalist Coordinator. She keeps local teachers who want to do bird units and field trips volunteer naturalists, and keeps both materials available to them. This survey of the teachers and improve this program. As Chair of administers Flathead Audubon's lending of our educational materials, is of our bird skins, and works with the out our educational projects. In addition, Sonja site in our fall birdseed sale. Sonja also helps Linda deKort with the Beauty of Birds class and these two are working together on Flathead Audubon's informational station for the upcoming Family Forestry Expo.



connected with Flathead Audubon's groups informed of opportunities and year she formulated and carried out a naturalists to find out how we can the Education Committee, she also scholarship program, monitors the overseeing the licensing and housing Education Committee to plan and carry

coordinates the Columbia Falls distribution

Brent Mitchell is tireless in his role as Conservation Chair. He tracks the wide variety of agency projects being proposed for the Flathead Valley, provides the Board with the information available on these projects when comment periods are opened, gathers the thoughts and opinions of Board members through an interactive and sometimes very lively email interchange, and then fashions this input into the Flathead Audubon comment letters. Brent is also one of Flathead Audubon's delegates to the Montana Audubon Board of Directors, so attends and actively participates in that Board's meetings. Just recently he drove all the way to Billings and back in order to carry Flathead Audubon's position on a critical issue scheduled to be raised at the Montana Audubon Board meeting. Brent is also active in a variety of collaborative efforts being pursued in the Valley, carrying the Flathead Audubon viewpoint into these arenas. In addition, he has for many years been a crucial part of the Kalispell site birdseed distribution team. Besides working each year at the Kalispell site on distribution Saturday, then lugging some of the "extra" sacks home to store until they can be sold later in the season, Brent also delivers each year large numbers of 50-pound sacks of sunflower seed to Flathead Audubon customers all over the Valley.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

While it is a pleasure to be able to detail these contributions of five Board members, I am sorry that I do not have the space to also tell about the numerous and various contributions of the other ten. These contributions range all the way from making sure the Board remembers what it did (and what it forgot to do!) -- the task performed by our "keeper of the minutes", Gail Sullivan, to interjecting into Board deliberations a reminder of the framework set for us by the Flathead Audubon mission statement -- the valuable function played by Dan Casey's frequent "philosophical comments." But details will have to wait for some future column, as will acknowledgement of the contributions of the many others not on the Board who also tend to the operation and needs of this organization.

The members of Flathead Audubon are extremely fortunate to have such a group of dedicated, informed and talented folks working for them. I am proud of their efforts and accomplishments. But I am also concerned that so much time and effort is being put in by such a small number of individuals. Carrying out the work of Flathead Audubon is a privilege and a challenge, and it is an opportunity to work with a great group of people. It should also be fun and not a heavy burden. One of my goals for next year is to enlist more of Flathead Audubon's members to help with the exciting and satisfying work of Flathead Audubon. If more people will come forward to do small tasks, then our work can still get done, but it will be easier for each and more enjoyable for all.

Speaking of fun and enjoyment, remember that our final meeting of the season is our May potluck. Please come and share a meal and good conversation and some laughs with your fellow Flathead Auduboners. After the potluck, everyone will have an opportunity to tell about their recent bird sightings, we will do a little business (elections and vote on a bylaw change), then settle in for a great program on local bear research. Hope you can make it!

By Linda Winnie, FAS President

MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGE AT MAY MEETING

The Flathead Audubon membership will be asked to vote on a proposed change in the Flathead Audubon Society Bylaws during the business portion of the May 2002 meeting.



The proposed change reflects a change that has been made in the Chapter Policy of the National Audubon Society. We are required to make this change in order to remain chartered as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

The substance of the change is this. Previously the relationship between a local Chapter and National Audubon could be terminated by either party upon six months written notice. National Audubon has altered their Chapter Policy so that now only a 60-day written notice of discontinuance (whether initiated by the Chapter or by National) is required.

In order to reflect this alteration of the National Policy, the Board of Directors recommends that the **current Article VII** of the Bylaws of the Flathead Audubon Society (see statement below) be deleted and be replaced by the **proposed Article VII** as stated below.

The members of the Flathead Audubon Society will be asked to approve this recommendation at their general meeting on May 13, 2002.

Note that in the following wording, "this SOCIETY" refers to the Flathead Audubon Society, and "NATIONAL SOCIETY" refers to the National Audubon Society.

Article VIII – Discontinuance (Flathead Audubon Society Bylaws) (current)

This SOCIETY may terminate its status as a Chapter of the NATIONAL SOCIETY upon six months' notice in writing to the NATIONAL SOCIETY, and the NATIONAL SOCIETY may terminate the status of the SOCIETY as a Chapter of the NATIONAL SOCIETY upon six months' notice, in writing, to this SOCIETY. In the event of such notice of termination by either this SOCIETY or the NATIONAL SOCIETY, the allocation of dues by the NATIONAL SOCIETY to this SOCIETY shall cease on expiration of the six months' period. However, members of this SOCIETY shall remain members of the NATIONAL SOCIETY for the balance of the term for which dues have been paid.

Article VIII – Discontinuance (Flathead Audubon Society Bylaws) (proposed)

This SOCIETY may terminate its status as a Chapter of the NATIONAL SOCIETY, and the NATIONAL SOCIETY may terminate the status of this SOCIETY as a Chapter of the NATIONAL SOCIETY, pursuant to procedures set forth in the 2001 Audubon Chapter Policy adopted by the NATIONAL SOCIETY'S Board of Directors on December 8, 2001.

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BYLAW CHANGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The "procedures" referred to in this proposed replacement are found in **SECTION I.G. of the 2001 Audubon Chapter Policy** adopted by the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors on December 8, 2001. Much of this Section outlines the administrative procedures required of the National and State Offices of Audubon before the charter of a local Chapter can be terminated – who has to notify whom, who makes recommendations to whom, who has to approve, etc. These are briefly indicated in the statement of Section I.G. below in square brackets. (If you would like to see the full wording of this portion of the SECTION I.G., please contact Linda Winnie).

SECTION I.G. – Change of Chapter Status (National Audubon Society 2001 Chapter Policy)

Circumstances may arise under which either a Chapter or National may choose to reconsider their relationship. These situations include but are not limited to: (i) a Chapter becoming inactive or ceasing operations, (ii) a Chapter choosing to adopt policies or pursue activities that are in conflict with or do not fulfill this Chapter Policy, and (iii) a Chapter deciding to terminate its certification as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

In such situations [the State Director must work with the Chapter to try to correct the problems causing the situation.]

If the Chapter is not able or willing to return to full activity or to compliance, then [after specific officers of National and State Audubon consult, recommend and approve], the Senior Vice President for Field Operations will provide sixty (60) days written notice of the de-certification to the Chapter President.

Any Chapter, by vote of its Board, may revoke its charter and cease to be a Chapter of National by providing sixty (60) days written notice of such decision to its State Director or the Chapter Services Office (for Chapters in states without a State Office).

In any case, each member of the Chapter will remain a member of National for as long as their Audubon membership is current.

Prepared by Linda Winnie



BIRD-BANDING STATION

We are exploring the possibility of forming a bird banding station on the Owen-Sowerwine Natural Area. Volunteers are needed to help set up and maintain nets, remove birds from nets and assist in banding. This year would be experimental and our goal would be to train individual in handling birds and nets. We would also locate the net sites and do any preparations necessary for next years sampling.

The banding site will be a MAPS station (monitoring avian production and survivorship) and would consist of ten nets. The nets will be actively trapping birds for a six hour period once within each ten day interval between late May and August. We would be looking for

two or more
volunteers for
each day.
People could
volunteer for
one day or
more than one
day but should
plan on being
at the net site
for six or more
hours at a time.



We will try to do most of the banding on weekends. Trapping begins at dawn (very early morning) so it helps if volunteers enjoy getting up before the sun. Nets are about 75 meters apart and require some walking in order to check nets. Early spring sampling can be difficult because of inclement weather.

If you are interested, please contact Dwight Bergeron at MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks (406-751-4587). If there is enough interest, we will organize a day for people to get together and discuss procedures and begin training.

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION IN THE FLATHEAD

April 20 a group of about 150 people gathered in Kalispell to celebrate the successes of conservation in the Flathead. Over 25 local organizations participated in the conference. Organizations ranging from The Loon Society to Rocky Mountain Outfitters had displays. Information was available on a wide range of topics from Canadian National Park expansion to Kerilian bear dogs (one of which was in residence). Flathead Audubon was represented with a display describing The Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Morning and afternoon sessions were held in which various speakers showed just what a treasure this area is and how much has been done to preserve its splendor.

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CELEBRATING CONSERVATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The keynote speech by Justice Terry Trieweiler focused on the environmental protection clauses in Montana's constitution. No other state has provisions like Montana for environmental protection. Here, both private entities and government agencies must not only maintain but also improve the environment they impact. Delegates to the constitutional convention 30 years ago, he said, recognized the treasure Montana still has and the need to fight harder to preserve it for the future.

Though recent political winds have been blowing against environmental causes, Trieweiler felt the Constitution supplies strong defense against environmental degradation. "There's been a lot of exploitation in Montana," he said. "Unfortunately, political education occurs in 30-second sound bites. But the language in the Constitution is pretty wholesome. Just ask people to weigh their actions against that".

By Mike Fanning

FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO

A summary of the Forestry Family Expo written by Ken Bartlett appears on their home page. Excerpts of it appear here: "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.

The program includes 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.

Flathead Audubon will have a station at the family weekend portion; cavity nesting birds and the value of snags in a forest habitat will be the central theme of the Audubon station. Sally Snag will be enticing youngsters with puppets, calls of cavity nesters will be heard and much information will be available. Please stop by.

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.

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.

SEEING THROUGH NATIVE EYES

Last summer some members of Flathead Audubon had the pleasure of expanding their love of birds and the natural world by attending a weekend workshop, 'Language of the Birds', lead by Jon Young, founder of the non-profit Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, Washington. Anyone who missed this rare opportunity to see Jon so close to home will have another chance this August 3rd and 4th, when he presents his 'Tracking and Awareness' workshop. As last year, attendees will be flocking (yes, flocking) from all across the U.S. While Jon's delivery and personal style appear casual, his uniquely rich background as a naturalist results in presentations that convey his passion and humor in a way that can captivate anyone from pre-teens to elders.

Jon grew up with the type of naturalist mentoring that would be the envy of anyone who appreciates the miracles of the natural world. From the age of 10, Jon was mentored for the next 8 years by Tom Brown, Jr., who was in his twenties at that time. Tom passed on to Jon as much as he could from his own intensive mentoring from age 8 to 18 at the hands of an old Apache Scout who was 82 when they met. Tom has gone on to author over a dozen books since publication of 'The Tracker' brought his amazing story to the public. Thousands of people, me included, travel each year from around the world to his trainings in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey.

During the awards ceremony at the April Audubon meeting it was pointed out that we all owe our current existence to our ancestors who had thrived by growing and eating organically produced foods. Just as the local organic growers that we honored are trying to preserve or re-discover age-old secrets of providing food in ways harmonious with the entire natural world, Tom Brown, Jr. and Jon Young are treasure houses of similar knowledge and wisdom that were once common among our ancestors but are now in danger of being lost to future generations.

While last year's participants learned there's a lot more going on in bird vocalizations than one might suspect, this year's attendees will learn there's a lot more to tracking than being able to tell a deer track from a raven track. To see Tom Brown, Jr. in person you'll have to go to New Jersey, but Jon Young will only require a trip to Bigfork where great meals from organically produced foods will also be served.

For more information contact Wilderness Awareness School at 425-788-1301 or www.wildernessawareness.org

By Jim Fiddler 837-2456





MARCH AND APRIL BOARD ACTIVITIES

Birdathon has been a major topic of discussion. Bruce Tannehill has led the effort to focus on the birds at Owen Sowerwine this year. Birdathon is one of our major fundraisers and, under Bruce's leadership, also seems to be developing into a major fun raiser. Thanks Bruce.

Conservation Recognition awards have triggered much enthusiasm among board members. We are beginning to consider awards for next year all ready. If you wish to suggest an individual or organization for this award please contact a board member.

Jill Fanning offered to organize the FAS booth for the Conservation Celebration; the display focused on Owen Sowerwine. This was no easy feat since her right arm was in a cast; it is lucky that Mike Fanning served so willingly as Jill's right-arm man. The display was beautiful and informational--maps, riparian plants and birds, bird calls. Thanks Fannings for doing us proud.

Jeannie Marcure put together a new Flathead Audubon brochure complete with beautiful photo and membership information. Thank you Jeannie. Jim Swab put together the field trip list for the summer..such an array. Thanks Jim. Dan Casey, Linda Winnie and others have been working hard on a Hotspots for Birding in the Flathead Brochure. It is coming out soon and promises to be hot.

Ferne Cohen sent positive comments about the new land acquisition at Lone Pine Center which will be used for parking and new trail design. Brent Mitchell responded to the Moose Fire Salvage Logging Plan. Brent Mitchell and Jane Adams recommended alternative #3 which will cut 912 acres and not include old growth. Brent also provided fact sheets regarding the Moose Fire to the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. Thanks for such scholarly efforts.

The guests at our March board meeting were Ray Johnson, Executive Director of Montana Audubon and Bob Petty, Director of Centers and Education. They discussed National Audubon's "2020 Vision" which includes establishing 1000 Audubon conservation centers around the United States within the next 20 years. The state plan is to have 2 centers in the next five years. A conservation coordinator has all ready been hired for the Bitterroot by Montana Audubon. Ray also advised the nominations committee that the optimum board size is 15-25 members. The nominations committee has increased the number

of board members for each three year term from two to three.

The guest at our April Quarterly meeting was Dwight Bergeron from Fish Wildlife and Parks who presented his plan for banding birds in the area. He hopes to enlist the help of Audubon volunteers; with such interesting plans, he should have no trouble.



The education committee reported that the Beauty of Birds class has been very well attended despite the blizzard conditions in March. Thanks to our instructors and field trip leader, John Ashley, Pattie and Neal Brown, Dan Casey, Linda de Kort, Sonja Hartman. Thanks also to John and Melodee Haynes and Linnea Faber for providing valuable information to the students. This looks like it will be an annual event. If you have suggestions for next year or would like to help lead a class please contact Linda de Kort. The education committee is concerned that few students apply for the scholarships which FAS offers for summer camps and bird classes. If you know of a teacher or student who could benefit from such assistance please contact Sonja Hartman. The Board as a whole voted to discontinue sending Audubon Adventure class sets to teachers unless they specifically ask for them. If you are an educator who would like to continue to use this resource in your class room next year, please contact a board member.

The board meetings have been active and productive and have included chuckles and good pizza. Please know that all members are welcome to attend.

Compiled by Linda deKort





FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY 2002 SUMMER 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 a.m. 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.

SATURDAY, MAY 11. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Glacier National Park will be celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with displays, presentations, and bird walks. Activities will originate at the Apgar Visitor Center, open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at the visitor center at 9 a.m. for a guided walk to the lower McDonald Creek oxbow to observe a variety of waterfowl, early migrant songbirds, and hardy resident birds. Additional birding trips may be available to other areas. After plans are finalized, additional information will be provided to the local media, or you may call West Lakes District Naturalist Joe Decker at 888-7942.

MAY 14-JUNE 16. THE 2002 BIRDATHON (cosponsored with Montana Audubon). Visit the beautiful Owen Sowerwine and report the number of species you observe. Pledge forms will be provided by Audubon. For more information on this exciting event see the PILEATED POST or contact Bruce Tannehill, 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 GNPA 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 sucjim@bigsky.net.

SUNDAY, MAY 19. LOST TRAIL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRIP. Join us for a trip to the new 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 7 a.m. 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.

SATURDAY MAY 25. CELEBRATING CONSERVATION AT OWEN SOWERWINE (cosponsored with Montana Audubon). This quiet day of birding will be an excellent opportunity to Celebrate Conservation in the Flathead Valley. The rich riparian habitat of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (OSNA) provides some of the best birding in the Flathead basin. Although OSNA 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. The guided trips will be on the mainland portion of OSNA only. Dress in clothing suitable for battling brush, (long pants, long sleeve shirt); footwear suitable for wading will be required! Those exploring the island must have a whistle.

This field trip occurs 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.

There will be four, 2-hour sessions, 6-8, 8-10 a.m., 10-Noon, Noon-2 p.m., each starting at the Montessori School, 309 Willow Glen Dr., Kalispell. Participants may attend as many sessions as they please. The island forays will also be in 2-hour blocks. Island forays will NOT be guided. Contact Neal Brown, 837-5018.



SATURDAY, MAY 25. MOOSE FIRE HIKE. Join Nikki Barton on a short hike on the Huckleberry Nature Trail in Glacier National Park. This 2 mile hike into the semi-burnt area will offer an opportunity to view near growth and search for woodpeckers that feed on beetles following a fire. Call Nikki at 387-5081 to sign up for the hike, arrange a meeting location, and to get an update on the trail status. Hike will start at 9:00 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 27. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES HIKE TO AVALANCHE LAKE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. Join Jim Swab on this easy 6-mile hike to the head of Avalanche Lake in search of ducks and eagles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Avalanche Creek parking lot. Contact Jim at 387-4299 or suejim@bigsky.net

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 PLEATED 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) contains a summary of the full program and registration information.



SATURDAY, JUNE 8. WARBLER WALK & SWAN RIVER REFUGE. Join Neal and Pattie Brown for a walk in the woods to find and identify some of the neo-tropical migrants that fly here to Montana (warblers, thrushes, vireos, and tanagers, just to name a few). We will work on identifying birds by song. This will be a guided birding trip into the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Swan Lake Campground (north of Swan Lake town site) at 8:30 a.m. Please contact Neal & Pattie Brown at 837-5018 or nealpatt@cyberport.net for directions or more information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9. EXPLORING OWEN SOWERWINE (cosponsored with Montana Audubon). This is an introduction to the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Field trips will be lead by Bruce Tannehill from the end of Treasure Lane at 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m., 12, and 1 p.m. Bring Binoculars and a bird book if you can. Contact Bruce Tannehill 862-4548 or tanne@digisys.net

SATURDAY, JUNE 15. PEAKS TO PRAIRIES: BIRDING GLACIER'S EASTSIDE. Join Glacier Institute in searching for white pelicans, American avocets, and black terns on the east side of Glacier National Park and on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Contact Lou Bruno at the Glacier Institute, 755-1211. Fee is \$50.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16. SONGBIRDS, SWALLOWS, AND SWIFTS: BIRDING GLACIER'S WESTSIDE. "Rich diversity of bird habitat on the west side provides a dramatic setting for birding. As we explore lakeshore, meadow, forest, and stream habitats, we will highlight behavioral aspects of resident birds and learn how to identify them through field observation and song." Lou Bruno will lead this Glacier Institute fieldtrip. Fee is \$50. Call 755-1211 to sign up.



SUNDAY, JUNE 16. OWEN SOWERWINE CANOE TRIP (cosponsored with Montana Audubon). Join Susannah & Dan Casey for a half-day exploration of an island park in the Flathead River near Kalispell. Canoe to the island (easy flat-water paddling) and bushwhack through the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Features breeding birds and a close-up look at the diversity of endangered cottonwood communities. This is the last day of Flathead Audubon's 2002 Birdathon—a great chance to help find a few more species to add to the Birdathon list! Bring canoe and life jackets (one jacket for each person). Contact Susannah and Dan Casey at (406) 857-3143 or caseys4@centurytel.net to sign up for this trip.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22. LOONS OF THE THOMPSON LAKE CHAIN. Lynn Kelly, President of the Montana Loon Society conducts this tour of known and potential loon nesting lakes in the Thompson Chain of Lakes and other loon spots along Highway 2 west of Kalispell. We should be able to see loon families with 1 or 2 chicks. This tour will last about 5 hours, including driving time. Meet at the parking lot of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Building (Meridian Rd, Kalispell) at 8:30 a.m. to car pool. For more information contact Lynn Kelly, 883-5797 or loonmont@hotmail.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 22. DANNY ON TRAIL BIRD-WATCHING HIKE. This is a leisurely 2-3 hour hike UP the mountain (we'll ride the chair lift back down). Participants need to be in good hiking condition. This is a good chance to learn some of the forest bird songs, including Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler and MacGillivray's Warbler. Contact Bruce & Gail Tannehill at (406) 862-4548 or tanne@digisys.net for more information. We will start at the bottom of the quad lift at 8:30a a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29. JEWEL BASIN HIKE. Birds, flowers, and awesome views of the Flathead Valley—three good reasons to revive this field trip! Meet at the Swan River School at 7:00 a.m. to carpool to the Jewel Basin parking lot for this 4 mile loop hike. Sign up by calling Ely Jones, 837-1080.

SATURDAY, JULY 20. MONTANA LOON DAY. The Montana Loon Society and the Montana Common Loon Working Group will need volunteers to help look for the count loons on the lakes in northwest Montana. 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 Ingebreton, 837-5081, or Gael Bissell, 752-3874; for Glacier Park, Steve Gniadek, 888-7833; for the Libby/Troy area, Joni Manning, 295-7495.

SUNDAY, JULY 21. FLATHEAD RIVER FLOAT. Join Susannah & Dan Casey for a canoe trip from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island in Kalispell. This beginner level float is an easy six hours on the river (no whitewater) through a variety of riparian habitats. Bring canoe, lifejackets (one jacket for each person), lunch, and raingear. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Kalispell K-Mart parking lot. Please RSVP to Susannah or Dan at (406) 857-3143 or caseys4@centurytel.net.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10. PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE PULL AT NINEPIPE. Come join Flathead and Mission Mountain Audubon in our 11th annual joyous effort to control the wetland invasive weed, Purple Loosestrife. This field trip requires shoes that can get wet, gloves, lunch, and water. Times: 8:00 a.m. for a birding tour of the Ninepipe wetland complex, 10:00 a.m. for the Purple Loosestrife pull, Noon for gourmet desserts! Meet at Ninepipes Lodge (six miles south of Ronan on U.S. Highway 93). Contact Neal or Pattie Brown at 837-5018 or nealpatt@cyberport.net

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17. MIGRANT SHOREBIRDS. This trip will highlight the shorebirds of the Flathead Valley, and will offer you a chance to see dowitchers, phalaropes, yellowlegs and sandpipers -- up to 15 species may be seen! Dan Casey will lead this trip to various locations around the Valley. Meet at the west end of the Tidyman's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Please RSVP with Dan at (406) 857-3143 or caseys4@centurytel.net.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21. LUBECK-AUTUMN CREEK TRAIL. Meet at Belton Train Station at 1:00 p.m. This is an easy to moderate 4-mile hike. Bring food and water and flashlight. We will look for fall migrants and listen for elk bugles. September 21 is a full moon, giving us an option of staying out after dusk. It is a beautiful time of year to appreciate this trail. Contact Neal and Pattie at 837-5018 or nealpatt@cyberport.net.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY IS SATURDAY MAY 11

Activities celebrating this day will be taking place at both the National Bison Range and at Glacier National Park this year.

IMBD 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.

IMBD at Glacier Park. Glacier National Park will be celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with displays, presentations, and bird walks. Activities will originate at the Apgar Visitor Center, open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meet at the visitor center at 9 a.m. for a guided walk to the lower McDonald Creek oxbow to observe a variety of waterfowl, early migrant songbirds, and hardy resident birds. Additional birding trips may be available to other areas. After plans are finalized, additional information will be provided to the local media, or you may call West Lakes District Naturalist Joe Decker at 888-7942.

AUDUBON PRESIDENT JOHN FLICKER STATEMENT ON ARCTIC VOTE IN THE US SENATE

Washington DC, April 18, 2002 -- This vote to protect the Arctic is the drill bit in the coffin for drilling in the Arctic Refuge. This is a tremendous victory for the American people. We have won an epic battle to protect one of the country's last truly wild places. I applaud the U.S. Senate for standing up to the pro-oil drilling special interests and doing the right thing on behalf of wildlife and conservation.

This is one of the most important votes cast on the environment this Congress. Every crisis and excuse imaginable was used as a reason to drill the Arctic Refuge. Common sense prevailed and the summer home of millions of migratory birds will be there for them in the years to come.

Not every American can go to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. But we can all go there spiritually as we often do with America's other great places, the Everglades, California redwood country, and the Grand Canyon. Press release from the National Audubon Society website at audubon.org



Mission Mountain Audubon Meeting To Be Held May 14, 2002

"Saving Asian Elephants: Buddhism and Deep Ecology" by Dr. Daniel Henning will be Mission Mountain Audubon's evening program on Tuesday, 14 May at 7:30 pm in the Polson City Library Meeting Room. Everyone is welcome.

Dr. Henning will talk about protecting Asian wild elephants through Buddhist philosophy and deep ecology. Over the last 13 years, Daniel has worked as a biodiversity consultant and trainer for the United Nations throughout Asia. This experience included studying and working with Buddhism and tropical forests while often living in Buddhist Monasteries. His discussion will focus on ecological and conservation issues related to the protection of wild elephants using the values and spiritual approach of Buddhism.

Daniel Henning is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Environmental Affairs and Distinguished Scholar Professor, Montana State University, Billings. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Flathead Lake Biological Research Station, University of Montana. With degrees in Biology, Forestry, Conservation, and Public Administration, Dr. Henning's academic credentials are equalled only by his extensive field expertise, which in addition to his work in Asia, includes working as a park ranger naturalist in several National Parks and as a wilderness ranger in western National Forests.

As busy as he is, Dr. Henning has found the time to write numerous articles and books including "Buddhism and Deep Ecology," and "Tree Talk and Tales." Recently, Daniel completed a United Nations study on the ecological and environmental teachings of Buddha, and was invited by the Dalai Lama to participate in the Ecological Responsibility Conference in India.

This unique and entertaining program should appeal to a wide spectrum of people that are interested in tropical forests, wildlife, spirituality, and conservation. For more information contact Jim Rogers at 883- 6351 ext. 247.



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Western Montana Office
Board President

Ray Johnson, P.O. Box 596, Helena, MT 59624
Loren Flynn, PO Box 831, Stevensville MT 59870
Jim Brown, 1504 Woods Gulch Road, Missoula MT 59802

443-3949
777-0780
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:

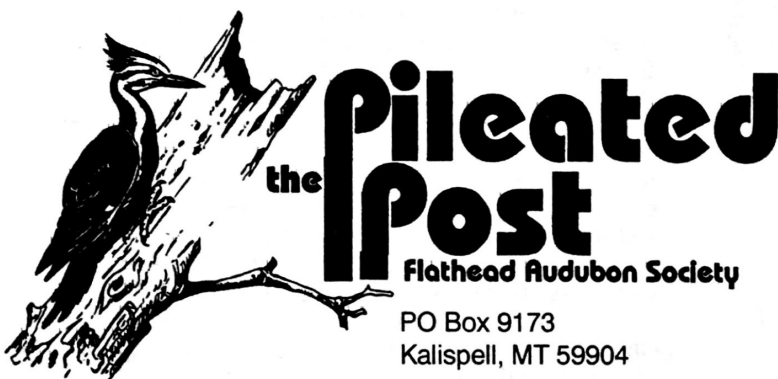
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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

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MAY, 2002

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THE OWEN SOWERWINE BIRDATHON

Our portion of the pledges for this birdathon will be dedicated to the Owen Sowerwine fund. This fund will be used to pay for the license and management of this area.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR THE BIRDATHON?

The "count" will be the total number of bird species seen by all the participants during the time May 14 – June 16. The birding trips, however, are restricted to the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the count. They may take any number of trips. This "count" times the pledge amount per species gives the amount of a pledge. You do not need a State Land Use Permit for an Audubon sanctioned activity i.e. field trips and birdathon.

HOW DO I BECOME A PARTICIPANT IN THE BIRDATHON?

1. Use the Participant form to get pledges. Be sure that we have the person's name, address, and pledge amount. We prefer a pledge that is an amount per species but will accept fixed amounts. A sample of the Participant form is on the back of this sheet. If you do not get a regular form at a meeting, you can make your own or contact Bruce.
2. Go to the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (see map on back) during the time period of May 14 – June 16 and write down the names of all the species of birds that you see. Please include the date and the beginning and end time of your bird trip. Be sure to use the complete name of species. Remember that every species that is seen helps to pay the license for the Owen Sowerwine. If you are a novice birder, there will be field trip opportunities. Send your list ASAP after each trip via mail or email to

Bruce Tannehill
239 Deer Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937
tanne@digisys.net
406-862-4548



If you have email and write the address on the list, I will try to keep you informed as to the total amount per species pledged, how many species we have seen and what species we are still looking for.

HOW DO I MAKE A PLEDGE TO THE BIRDATHON?

(A \$20 gift will give you an Audubon membership – new or renewal)

1. Find a Participant and give them your name, address and pledge amount. We expect to see about 75 different species. If you can't find a participant, mail or email your pledge to Bruce at the above address. There is a form on the back of this sheet.
2. If you are interested in what species have been seen, send me an email asking to be included. Use the address above.
3. You will get a pledge follow-up from Flathead Audubon with a species list and a calculation of your pledge amount after June 16. Return this with your check. Remember, this is for support of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area.

FIELD TRIPS TO OWEN SOWERWINE NATURAL AREA THIS SPRING



May 25 – Leader is Neal Brown 837-5018 nealpatt@cyberport.net, meet at the Montessori School at 6, 8, 10 AM, 12, or 2 PM. Canoe access to island. No signup is necessary.

June 9 – Leader is Bruce Tannehill 862-4548 tanne@digisys.net, meet at end of Treasure Lane 8, 9, 10, 11 AM, 12 or 1 PM. No signup is necessary.

June 16 – Leader is Dan Casey 857-3143 caseys4@centuryel.net, half day canoe trip to Owen Sowerwine
(over)



FORM FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE OWEN SOWERWINE BIRDATHON
(This is a sample. Create your own or contact Bruce to get an official one.)

BIRDER NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ **EMAIL FOR SPECIES UPDATE** _____
PLEDGES MAY BE AN AMOUNT PER SPECIES OR A FIX AMOUNT.

| PLEDGER'S NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE | PLEDGE |
|----------------|---------|-------|--------|
|----------------|---------|-------|--------|

ETC.

-----cut-----to mail-----cut-----

FORM FOR PEOPLE PLEDGING THE OWEN SOWERWINE BIRDATHON

Please mail to Flathead Audubon, PO box 9173, Kalispell, MT 59904

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
TELEPHONE OR EMAIL (OPTIONAL) _____
PLEDGE (PER SPECIES OR FIXED AMOUNT) _____
-----cut-----to mail-----cut-----

The easiest access to the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area is at the end of Treasure Lane off of Willow Glen Drive. There is room for 2 or 3 cars at this point, a small sign and the start of a trail.

