



# Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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## SIXTH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, BIRDWATCHERS TO HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S BIRDS AND HABITAT

**Pioneer Web-based Count Spotlights WatchList Birds and West Nile Virus**

**Ivyland, PA, Tuesday, January 21, 2003 -**

All across the Americas, our birds face survival challenges from loss of habitat to introduced predators and diseases like West Nile Virus. The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 14-17, will focus on the effects of these threats, tell participants what they can do about them, and add vital new information to our understanding of our birds and their environment.

Once again, the National Audubon Society and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology call on volunteers of every age and skill level to make the Count possible. "We need every birder to join us," said Audubon Senior Vice President of Science Frank Gill. "The Great Backyard Bird Count has become a vitally important means of gathering data to help birds, but it can't happen unless people take part. Whether you're a novice or an expert, we need you to take part and help us help birds."

Audubon and Cornell are asking participants to pay special attention to the more than 200 species on the Audubon 2002 WatchList, issued last autumn, which lists North American birds in danger or decline. "WatchList is an early-warning system designed to raise awareness of birds in trouble, before they become endangered or threatened," explained Audubon's Gill. "Think of it as preventative medicine, protecting our great natural heritage." The GBBC website [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) includes features on these birds and what participants can do to help them.

The GBBC will also focus on the effects of West Nile Virus on crows and jays, owls, raptors and other birds, and will educate participants about

the disease. "We need as many volunteer counters as possible to tell us what they see," said Sally Conyne, Audubon Director of Special Projects. "The GBBC can serve to educate people about the real effects of the disease, and will help our scientists reach a better understanding."

The GBBC combines high-tech web tools with an army of citizen-scientist bird observers. The Count asks families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days. Participants enter their sightings at BirdSource, [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc). The state-of-the-art website was developed by Audubon and the Cornell Lab. GBBC is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited stores.

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### FAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2003

**Monday, February 10, 2003 The FAS General Meeting** will feature one of our very own. Bruce Tannehill who is the FAS Treasurer will present a slide show and program about a 72 mile trip he and several friends made 30 years ago across the Arctic Divide by canoe. It should be a fascinating tale about a truly unique part of the world. Please join us at 7:30PM at the MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks Building in Kalispell. Please see page 3 for details.



## CHICKADEE CHATTER

Somehow getting up before the light of day on a Sunday morning in the middle of January is just not the easiest thing to do, even when the day ahead is going to be spent bird watching. Early mornings in May are a different thing entirely. For some reason I will spring out of my warm bed at 5:00AM in the spring and barely give it a second thought. I am always excited to spend a few hours much less an entire day watching birds regardless of the time of the year but bed seems more inviting in the midst of winter. Never the less I crawled out of bed and managed to be at the parking area at the appointed time on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January.

Snow was predicted and the day was overcast and a bit gloomy but a small band of intrepid birdwatchers and I set out for the Mission Valley in search of, what else, birds.

The focus of this Flathead Audubon Field Trip was to search for raptors and we were fortunate to see seven species of raptors this year.

There seemed to be a great many Red-tailed Hawks in the Valley this year in a myriad of color phases. They were dark and light and every color in between. We saw one truly beautiful Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, a wonderful bird that we see here only in the winter months. The Harlan's is a subspecies of the red-tail we are most familiar with and it migrates to Montana from the far north where it breeds. It is a very dark charcoal colored buteo with white streaks on the breast and a grayish tail. The aerial view of the bird is quite striking.

The raptor that the valley is best known for this time of the year is the Rough-legged Hawk. The Mission Valley is the winter home for hundreds of these Arctic hawks. At one point in our wanders along the back roads of the Mission Valley we came to a stop and there on fence posts, in the air, on telephone and power poles and on the ground in front of us we counted eight Rough-legged Hawks. Most of the Rough-legged Hawks that we see here in the Flathead and Mission Valleys are females and juveniles. The first ones show up in October and nearly all will be gone by the end of April, headed north to the tundra of northern Canada and Alaska to breed. They are another magnificent buteo, with a small beak and small feet adapted to eating moles, voles, mice and lemmings. They have feathers that extend all the way down their legs to their toes and this is what gives them the name: Rough-legged. These large hawks are relatively long of wing and we watched them soar over the

fields all day long in search of rodents. It is a delight to watch them fly.

We were also very fortunate to see two falcon species. The American Kestrel and the Prairie Falcon. The kestrel is only an occasional bird here in the winter in the northwest of Montana. We often will find one or two on our wanders but most of them migrate a bit further south. We saw four kestrels on that day in January, remarkable. I always enjoy seeing them and we enjoyed several very good looks as they perched on wires above our heads. We, also, saw two Prairie Falcons. Both of the birds were quite obliging and sat still on high power poles for some time. We watched one for some time until it took flight. The second one we found on the Bison Range and I was amazed at our good fortune of seeing two Prairie Falcons in one day. It too sat still high up on a power pole as we gazed at it, a pleasure to be sure.

Northern Harrier's were also present in large numbers. We gave up counting. Harriers were to be seen everywhere, gliding low over fields as they are wont to do, perched on the ground eating some hapless rodent, perched on fence posts and soaring through the air with what seems like no effort at all.

This year we only spotted four Bald Eagles, we often see quite a few more but four is enough. It is a true pleasure to see so many today as it was only a few short years ago that they were on the endangered species list and it was very unusual to see even one.

This year we also saw two Golden Eagles, perched on the high power poles at the Bison Range. We saw them late in the day but they were unmistakable. The golden feathers on the nape of the neck glowed in the late afternoon light. These splendid birds are not overly common in Mission Valley and it was a wonderful way to end the day.

We traveled up and down the back roads of the Mission Valley and spent a few hours at the Bison Range. We saw thirty eight different species of birds including several flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, we heard Townsend's Solitaire's calling and singing, we saw lovely little American Dippers dipping in frigid waters, there were two Western Meadowlark's sitting on fence posts brilliant yellow breasts shining, we found a flock of a dozen or so American Tree Sparrows flitting around a large bush beside the road, we saw Great Blue Herons lift into the sky and heard the call of Belted Kingfishers as they hunted beside streams, there were even a few American Robins in the trees and bushes in the picnic area at the Bison Range and had best of all had remarkable looks at eagles and hawks and falcons.

Leslie Kehoe





## FEBRUARY FAS PROGRAM: Across the Arctic Divide by Canoe: A Season in the Wilderness

More than 30 years ago, Flathead Audubon member and outdoor enthusiast Bruce Tannehill completed a 72-day canoe trip in the arctic that no-one has probably ever repeated. Tannehill and two friends set out in the summer of 1970 for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Their goal was to paddle up the Stewart River, portage their canoe over the Continental Divide and paddle down the Arctic Red River into the Arctic Ocean. During a slide show and discussion, Tannehill will tell the story of his epic adventure at the February 10 Flathead Audubon meeting.

Tannehill and his friends set out not only to complete the trip, but also to live as simply as possible. In their effort to live close to the wilderness as the early explorers did, they paddled with an old-style wood and canvas canoe, carried no life preservers and had only one set of clothing. They carried 450 pounds of food which they cooked on open fires with wood found along the way. Eating up to 10,000 calories per day, the men supplemented their provisions with wild food.

As part of the 700-mile trip, the men paddled and pulled their canoe upriver for 200 miles and portaged their canoe and gear 35 miles across the Continental Divide. The last stop along their adventure was at the Inuit Village of Tuktoyaktuk, where they indulged in a bit of modern technology and boarded a plane for home.

Also, Flathead Audubon Society is pleased to announce that we will be recognizing the Rails to Trails organization for their conservation achievements during the February general meeting. Please come on February 10, 2003 at 7:30 PM to hear a wonderful tale of adventure and help us recognize Rails to Trails for all of their achievements, everyone is welcome.

## BIGFORK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY IS GIVEN FAS CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Flathead Audubon Society's Conservation Achievement Award is given three times each year. It recognizes the efforts of individuals and organizations that enrich our lives by improving,

preserving or protecting the natural assets of the Flathead Community.

The first 2003 recipient of The Flathead Audubon Society's Conservation Award is The Bigfork Development Company for their leadership and support of the Swan River Corridor and of their maintenance of the Swan River Nature Trail in particular.

The BDC is a non profit, volunteer organization that has installed gates at each end of the trail, has provided benches and stabilized erosion. They remove deadfall and battle knapweed. They have also worked in conjunction with the Trust For Public Lands, The Montana Land Reliance, The Nature Conservancy, American White Water, Flathead Lakers, The Bigfork Chamber of Commerce and the public at large to establish a permanent conservation easement along what is commonly called the 'Swan River Corridor'.

The Swan River Nature Trail is part of the corridor, utilizing two miles of abandoned roadbed perched above the Swan River. The trail starts at the end of Grand Avenue and continues to the Kearney Rapids Bridge. It is wide, level and free of litter. It is a non-motorized trail and perfect for a stroll, jog or bike ride. Flathead Audubon uses it for weekly fieldtrips each Tuesday in May and June and finds it ideal for beginning birders and experts alike.

BY NEAL BROWN

*Thank you Bigfork Development Company. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!*

## BEAUTY OF BIRDS, A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

Learn about local birds through a series of four workshops in March. Topics will include general bird anatomy, habitats, behavior and identification. We will concentrate on learning to identify the common birds of the Flathead through a series of slides and recordings. This is especially designed for beginning birders but if you are looking for a quick review before the spring, please feel welcome. The series will be led by local Audubon volunteers and the money earned will be returned to the Chapter.

The classes will be held every Wednesday evening in March (5, 12, 19, and 26<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30-8:30 pm. They will all take place at Flathead High School (644 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. West, Kalispell) in the Large Lecture Room on the first floor. The cost for the entire series is \$10 for School District #5 residents and \$20 for others. You can pre-register and pay at the Flathead High School main office from 8am-4pm on school days.





## FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR: BRENT MITCHELL



From the Flathead Audubon Society Mission Statement:

- We work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues

Flathead Audubon is one of the most diverse conservation groups in Montana. This diversity gives us wide support in our communities and a stability that few groups can match. Even after the Mission Mountain Audubon chapter (centered in Polson) was formed from a split of the southern part of our service area, Flathead Audubon still has 400+ members!

We seek common ground. We try to change projects and include our ideas, not just stop projects. As odd as it may sound, we can often agree with 90% of a project initiated by resource industry, because the impacts on the resources will not compromise the integrity of the environment. 10% of the project may need some changes to better accommodate wildlife and habitat. When dealing with agencies, that's when we work in the 10% area. It's not an "all or nothing" situation with natural resource issues.

For the last 12 years, we have slowly forged a cooperative, open relationship with many local area loggers. We communicate and try to find common ground and promote understanding. We share each others' organizations' newsletters. Individual members of our separate groups have worked on the Flathead Forestry Project (a collaborative forest stewardship group), not as members of the traditionally adversary groups. How can this be? Both interests are trying to conserve a resource, an economy, and our own unique perspective.

Most forward-thinking loggers and professional foresters nowadays are trying to promote healthy trees and forests, according to the philosophy "leave the best, thin the rest, focus on what's left." The loggers are trying to provide products and services for the rest of us (wood, fiber, fire resistant forests, etc.) Conservationists are trying to ensure that if we as a society are using the products from our forests, we don't use up the critical components of diversity that make a forest healthy. Often it seems that natural resource agencies, both state and federal, get caught in the middle of a natural resource issue that turns "political" (which, sadly, leaves science on the sidelines and relies more on who makes the most noise and who represents the largest "interest" group). Too often, agency leaders are more interested in a superficial "peace" than in what can be agreed upon by the various sides. Agencies are the last to change. They usually lag behind the resource product providers and the resource conservationists.

What's the point? The Legislature is back in session and nobody feels safe. We're back to the Loudest-and-Biggest scenario again. Politics vs science ... it's going to be a noisy several months. What can you do during all of this turmoil? You can educate yourself about all sides of an issue; try to get to the reason the "other side" is on the other side. How can you work towards this? When and if the opportunity arises, meet with a lumber mill manager, a mine owner, a logging contractor. In time, ask what has shaped his (or her) views; then listen. If you are sincere, the person will usually eventually ask you the same question. Do you have a thoughtful answer ready? Learn about others' values and needs and they may listen to your values and needs. Educate each other and understand why you both think the way you do. Work on the common values, traditions, beliefs, and sidestep the small percentage that gets in the way. In short order you will find the other guy is not an ignorant resource rapist, and you will be seen as someone other than an ignorant litigation-crazed "green nazi." It's worth your time and energy to explore that 90% that we have in common.

BY BRENT MITCHELL



### BIRD SEED AVAILABLE

Need birdseed for your feeders?

FAS is selling 50-pound sacks of black, oil sunflower seed. Sale of this birdseed is Flathead Audubon's primary fund raising project. Your purchase will help fund local conservation and educational programs.

Sacks will be available at the FAS meeting. Or you may call one of the following: Bigfork – Neal Brown, 837-5018; Columbia Falls – Jim Swab, 387-4299; Kalispell – Karen Nichols, 756-5763; Whitefish – Jill Fanning, 862-8070; Condon – June and Rod Ash, 754-2289.



## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Begun in 1998, the GBBC has engaged more than a quarter-million Americans of all ages and backgrounds, and united them in the effort to keep common birds common. In 2002, more than 47,000 participants counted millions of birds throughout North America, helping reveal information on Evening Grosbeaks, Snowy Owls, Collared Doves, and many other birds.

"When the last Ivory-billed Woodpecker was seen in the 1930s, there was no concrete way for citizens to help professional ornithologists monitor bird populations," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology Director John Fitzpatrick, who this past year led an expedition to rediscover the Ivory Bill, possibly North America's rarest bird. "We cannot allow other species to face the same fate as the Ivory-bill. The Great Backyard Bird Count provides a way for citizens to help us determine which birds are where and in what numbers, so we can take steps to protect those that need protecting."

The GBBC site invites beginners and experts alike to participate, providing useful information to make participation easy and enjoyable. There is a vocabulary section, bird-watching and bird-feeding tips, bird vocalizations, and more, including information about House Finch eye disease. Educators will find the bibliography and geography sections especially handy; as well as suggestions on how to conduct the Count with groups of children. For those tired of winter and ready for spring, there will be tips about planning and preparing for the spring bird garden. Instructions can be found at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). There's no fee or registration.

Those who would like to participate but aren't online can send their information to FAS Membership Chair, Mike Fanning, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, MT 59937. Mike will enter your data online for you.

Be sure to provide Mike with the following information: your bird counting site, when you counted, for how long, weather conditions (approximate temperature, precipitation while you counted, depth of snow at your site and whether ground more than 50% covered), the species you saw, and the largest number of individual birds of each species that you could see at one time. For example, if early on in your count you saw 2 Black-capped Chickadees, and then later saw 3 more – your number for Black-caps will be 3. If later you see one more, your number for Black-caps will still be 3, since that was the largest number you saw at one time.

*The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.*

*Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences.*

The preceeding article is from a press release from National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



## THE 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HAS BEGUN!

An important role local Audubon chapters play during the session is to participate in statewide legislative alerts. When crucial issues are at stake, Audubon will contact interested members by phone or email, explain the issue and why we need to take action on it, and then ask members to contact their legislators.

Alerts will only be sent out a few times during the session, but it is a powerful way to lobby legislators on crucial bills and issues, and a good way to make sure that your voice is heard on important conservation issues. By signing up, you will be one of the first to know what's going on at the legislature. You'll also receive periodic reports during the session (no more than once a month).

It is important to sign up early in the session. Signup sheets will be at the next monthly chapter meeting, or you can call the Montana Audubon office in Helena at (406) 443-3949. Thank you! By Sarah McCullough, Montana Audubon



## FLATHEAD AUDUBON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Welcome Packet Hostess or Host** Prepare packets of information for first-time visitors to the Flathead Audubon meetings, and present these packets to visitors at the meetings. Materials for the packets (Audubon magazine, Hotspots brochure, latest Pileated Post, and other informational brochures) are provided to you by FAS.

*Time required:* at most 1 hour a month plus attendance at the FAS meetings. FAS provides a substitute Hostess or host if you aren't able to attend a meeting.

*To volunteer, contact:* Linda Winnie, 755-1406 or lindawin@cyberport.net.

**Community Seed Source** Serve as contact for people in your community who wish to buy birdseed from Flathead Audubon. You will keep several sacks of FAS birdseed at your home. Your phone number will be listed in the Pileated Post as a Seed Source, so that people can call you and arrange to pick up a sack from you at your convenience.

*Time required:* 1 or 2 hours a month.

*To volunteer, contact:* Linda Winnie, 755-1406 or lindawin@cyberport.net.

**Donate old Audubon Magazines** These are used for the Welcome Packets that are presented to first-time visitors to the Flathead Audubon meetings. Bring magazines to the FAS meeting or get them to one of the FAS Board members.

**Newsletter Editor** This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who wish to exercise your creative side and serve Flathead Audubon. The newsletter is published nine times per year starting with the September issue and ending with the May issue. The editor makes content and style decisions and puts the newsletter together. The writing of an editor's column is optional.

*Time required:* Depending on the number of pages in the newsletter it can take anywhere from 6 to 10 hours per month.

**Newsletter Committee** FAS is also looking for people to serve on a newsletter committee. This committee will assist the editor by writing articles, searching the internet and making recommendations on style and content. The

time required can be as little as an hour per month to several.

*To volunteer for the newsletter editor position or the newsletter committee please call:* Leslie Kehoe at 837-4467 or ljkehoe@digisys.net



## OWEN SOWERWINE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED

The State Land Board has now officially adopted the new management plan for Owen Sowerwine. The Board took this action at their January 21 meeting in Helena.

The new plan was drafted cooperatively by Janet Ellis of Montana Audubon and the Flathead Audubon Owen Sowerwine Committee, headed by Brent Mitchell and Neal Brown. It is basically an update of the original Master Plan under which Owen Sowerwine has been managed since it was created in 1976. After carefully reviewing the old plan, Janet and the Committee introduced a variety of changes which 1) clarify portions of the original plan and update factual information about Owen Sowerwine, 2) address new possibilities for educational and research uses arising from the fact that Audubon has a strong tradition of pursuing such activities; and 3) take into account the possibilities of new types of intrusive activities that were not foreseen when the original Plan was written.

With the adoption of this new plan, Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon can now move forward to implement some of the most urgent management needs at Owen Sowerwine. The first step will be to install appropriate fencing and boundary sign, and to erect a new sign at the Treasure Lane entrance.

THANK YOU Janet Ellis and the FAS Owen Sowerwine Committee for all the time and hard work you put into drafting this new management plan.

BY LINDA WINNIE

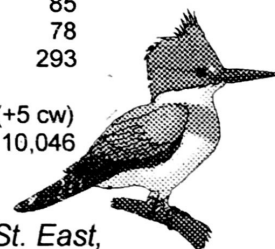


## Bigfork Christmas Bird Count Results

Saturday, 14 December 2002

The 27 participants in Flathead Audubon's 29th annual Bigfork Christmas Bird Count enjoyed a balmy but rainy count day. We ended up with 10,046 birds of 83 species, plus another 5 during count week. In general, the numbers of songbirds, particularly "winter" finches, were down from normal. The number and variety of waterbirds was quite high. We tied or set new high count totals for 11 species: Green-winged Teal (10), Northern Shoveler (7), American Wigeon (71), Red-breasted Merganser (17), Ring-billed Gull (440), Mew Gull (2), Barred Owl (1), Long-eared Owl (1), Belted Kingfisher (21), Winter Wren (4) and House Finch (324). In addition, we found two species new to the count, a Long-tailed Duck at the Lakeside sewer ponds north of Somers, and a Franklin's Gull on the Flathead River at Holt. This brings our 29-yr cumulative list to 140 species seen. This was only the third time we have had a Sandhill Crane on the count. A Gyrfalcon and a Peregrine Falcon were count week highlights.

Pied-billed Grebe	1	Peregrine Falcon	cw	Mountain Chickadee	83
Horned Grebe	6	Gyrfalcon	cw	Chestnut-b. Chickadee	54
Red-necked Grebe	1	Gray Partridge	13	Red-br. Nuthatch	92
Eared Grebe	1	Ring-necked Pheasant	65	White-br. Nuthatch	4
Western Grebe	2	Ruffed Grouse	15	Pygmy Nuthatch	28
Great Blue Heron	6	Wild Turkey	653	Brown Creeper	18
Tundra Swan	238	American Coot	430	Winter Wren	4
Canada Goose	1977	Sandhill Crane	1	American Dipper	4
Mallard	1100	Ring-billed Gull	440	Golden-cr. Kinglet	145
Northern Pintail	6	California Gull	22	Townsend's Solitaire	7
American Wigeon	71	Herring Gull	25	American Robin	8
Redhead	424	Mew Gull	2	Bohemian Waxwing	49
Ring-necked Duck	30	Franklin's Gull	1	Cedar Waxwing	114
Lesser Scaup	9	gull, sp.	146	Northern Shrike	1
Greater Scaup	296	Rock Dove	186	European Starling	178
scaup, sp.	16	Mourning Dove	80	Am. Tree Sparrow	94
Common Goldeneye	409	Great Horned Owl	1	Song Sparrow	22
Barrow's Goldeneye	19	Barred Owl	1	Dark-eyed Junco	18
Bufflehead	123	Long-eared Owl	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Hooded Merganser	59	Belted Kingfisher	21	Brewer's Blackbird	108
Common Merganser	130	Downy Woodpecker	20	Pine Grosbeak	cw
Red-br. Merganser	17	Hairy Woodpecker	7	House Finch	324
merganser, sp.	2	Northern Flicker	74	Red Crossbill	cw
Bald Eagle	33	Pileated Woodpecker	16	Pine Siskin	5
Northern Harrier	7	Gray Jay	7	American Goldfinch	85
Cooper's Hawk	1	Steller's Jay	6	Evening Grosbeak	78
Northern Goshawk	cw	Clark's Nutcracker	8	House Sparrow	293
Red-tailed Hawk	6	Black-billed Magpie	164		
Red-t. (Harlan's) Hawk	2	American Crow	240		
Rough-legged Hawk	15	Common Raven	96		
Buteo, sp.	1	Black-cap. Chickadee	413		
				Total Species	83 (+5 cw)
				Total Ind.:	10,046



For more information, contact: Dan Casey, American Bird Conservancy, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406)756-2681; (406)756-2682(fax); [dancasey\\_abc@centurytel.net](mailto:dancasey_abc@centurytel.net)

"This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls."

John Muir

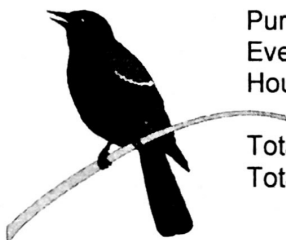


## Kalispell Christmas Bird Count Results

Sunday, 29 December 2002

An intrepid 29 participants braved the blizzard-like morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Kalispell Christmas Bird Count. The weather improved, but we still had our lowest species total, with 10,046 birds of 59 species recorded. Since it's a newer count, it's not surprising we set or tied high counts for 15 species (see Mourning Dove!), and found 4 new species for the count (bringing our cumulative total to 94 spp). The "best" of these is the 18 Purple Finches reported by Brent Mitchell near Kila. Other good finds included 1 Barrow's Goldeneye; 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 3 Merlins; 53 Gray Partridges; 5 Blue Jays; and an apparent hybrid (B-c x Mtn) chickadee (the second on this count). What was missing? We saw no siskins, goldfinches, crossbills or redpolls, and just 1 Evening Grosbeak.

Pied-billed Grebe	1	Blue Jay	5
Great Blue Heron	2	Black-billed Magpie	219
Canada Goose	2439	American Crow	153
Mallard	2044	Common Raven	165
Common Goldeneye	27	Black-cap. Chickadee	406
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	Mountain Chickadee	41
Bufflehead	13	Hybrid (B-c x Mtn) Chickadee	1
Common Merganser	2	chickadee, sp.	9
duck, sp.	13	Red-br. Nuthatch	55
Bald Eagle	33	Pygmy Nuthatch	70
Northern Harrier	5	Brown Creeper	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	American Dipper	2
large Accipiter, sp.	1	Golden-cr. Kinglet	19
Red-tailed Hawk	15	Townsend's Solitaire	5
Red-t. (Harlan's) Hawk	1	American Robin	8
Rough-legged Hawk	24	Bohemian Waxwing	186
hawk, sp.	3	Cedar Waxwing	118
Golden Eagle	1	Northern Shrike	3
American Kestrel	1	European Starling	297
Merlin	3	Am. Tree Sparrow	45
Prairie Falcon	1	Song Sparrow	46
Gray Partridge	53	Harris's Sparrow	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	41	sparrow, sp.	3
Ruffed Grouse	1	Dark-eyed Junco	100
Wild Turkey	85	Snow Bunting	250
Ring-billed Gull	7	Red-winged Blackbird	25
gull, sp.	5	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Rock Dove	553	House Finch	1054
Mourning Dove	495	Cassin's Finch	23
Belted Kingfisher	5	Purple Finch	18
Downy Woodpecker	26	Evening Grosbeak	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	House Sparrow	820
Northern Flicker	113	Total Species:	59
Pileated Woodpecker	13	Total Ind.:	10187
woodpecker, sp.	3		



For more information, contact: Dan Casey, American Bird Conservancy, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406)756-2681; (406)756-2682(fax); [dancasey\\_abc@centurytel.net](mailto:dancasey_abc@centurytel.net)



## BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 - 2003

	BUDGETED 7/1/02-6/30/03	UP THROUGH 6-Jan-03
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
DUES	\$1,700	\$1,421
NEWSLETTER	\$100	\$70
BEAUTY OF BIRDS CLASS	\$180	\$185
RAFFLE AT MEETINGS	\$400	\$178
SALES (BIRD SEED ETC.)	\$6,710	\$5,308
HOT SPOTS BROCHURE	\$1,395	\$1,452
COFFEE	\$300	
OTHER	\$1,280	\$63
DONATIONS	\$1,500	\$350
INCOME FROM OPERATING FUND	\$420	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$13,985</b>	<b>\$9,027</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b>DONATIONS OUT</b>		
EDUCATION	\$420	\$69
GRANTS	\$550	\$550
MT AUDUBON	\$1,000	
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$500	\$150
CBC	\$125	
HOT SPOTS BROCHURE	\$1,895	\$1,895
TRANSFER TO OSNA BUDGET	\$195	
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$4,685</b>	<b>\$2,664</b>
<b>FEES</b>		
PERMITS	\$125	
SPEAKER	\$300	\$150
FEES-OTHER	\$150	
INSURANCE	\$100	\$116
<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	<b>\$675</b>	<b>\$266</b>
<b>OFFICE</b>		
ADVERTISING	\$200	\$159
COPIES AND POSTAGE	\$100	\$90
WEB PAGE	\$200	
OFFICE - OTHER	\$200	\$10
<b>TOTAL OFFICE</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$260</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
POSTAGE	\$800	\$285
PRINTING	\$2,900	\$1,231
<b>TOTAL NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>	<b>\$1,516</b>
<b>TRAVEL</b>		
	\$200	
<b>INVENTORY</b>		
	\$4,025	\$4,026
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,985</b>	<b>\$8,732</b>

## **ASSETS**

<b>OPERATING FUND</b>	
LIQUID	\$6,916
NOT LIQUID	\$6,032
BIRD SEED	\$1,445
<b>BARB BAXTER ACTION FUND</b>	<b>\$4,682</b>
<b>CONSERVATION FUND</b>	<b>\$21,217</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$40,292</b>





## 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	387-4150
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

2000-2003	John Ashley, 3151 Columbia Falls Stage Rd., Col. Falls MT 59912	892-3825
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	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish MT 59937	862-5807
2002-2003	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
2002-2003	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
2002-2003	Mike Fanning, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, 59937	862-8070
2002-2005	Linda deKort, 1290 Lost Creek Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-3704
2002-2005	Leslie Kehoe, 1020 Holt Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4467
2002-2005	Karen Nichols, 920 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. E, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-5763

## 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
Community Naturalist Program	Sonja Hartmann P.O. Box 316, West Glacier, MT 59936	387-4150
Conservation	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
Education	Linda deKort, 1290 Lost Creek Dr., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-3704
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
Librarian	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Membership	Jill and Mike Fanning, 380 Tally Lake Rd., Whitefish, 59937	862-8070
Owen Sowerwine NA	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
	Neal Brown, 670 Wolf Creek Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
Western Montana Office	Bob Petty, P.O. Box 821, Stevensville MT 59770	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 [likehoe@digisys.net](mailto:likehoe@digisys.net)

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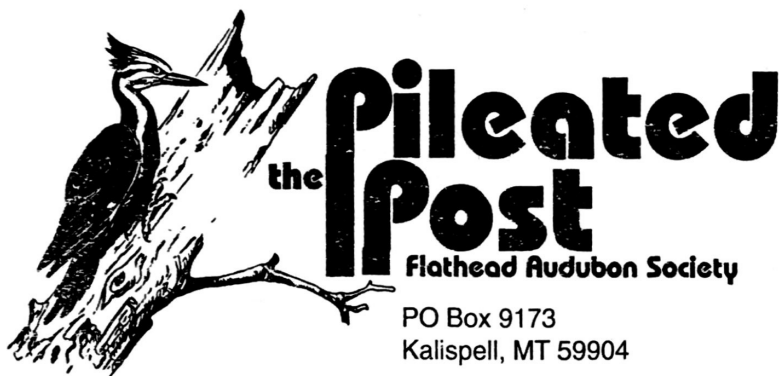
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