



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 16

Number 7

October, 1991

President's Corner

The nip is in the air, the days are noticeably shorter, the leaves are turning color and many people are taking to the woods and plains to hike the hills, walk the streamsides and sit for hours, watching nature at its best. It's often physically demanding; the outings fine-tune our hearing and sight and because of this, we see a lot of wildlife up close. And for those who hunt, October signals the beginning of a new chapter in outdoor education, appreciation and awe.

Audubon was founded by a big game hunter named Grinnell, who noticed that various bird species were becoming less abundant. Hunters and wildlife conservation have always been tied together. Hunting ethics play a big role in conservation. The ethical hunter follows his own rules: take care not to wound game, don't take more game than you can legally utilize and be safe with firearms.

The National Audubon Society has maintained neutrality in regard to hunting, but they have allowed several chapters (notably in California and Texas) to take staunch anti-hunting positions. Flathead Audubon Society recognizes hunting as an effective wildlife management tool, used to keep game numbers within the carrying capacity of the land. We further recognize the financial contribution to conservation that sportsmen and women have made over the years. For instance, it's their dollars that pay for wetlands through special taxes on equipment, duck stamps, etc. Hunting is a tool and a tradition that we can use when appropriate.

Does this mean that if you are a member of Flathead Audubon, you are then pro-hunting? Certainly not. One of the

strengths we have in our chapter is that we are a very diverse group of individuals who accept and appreciate vastly differing opinions within the group, because we are united by a common interest: birds and their conservation.

Brent Mitchell



Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

***10/14/91 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, 5 pm, at The Bigfork Inn in Bigfork. Open to all Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church,**

Commerce and Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Program: 8 pm. Everyone welcome.

Program: The speaker will be Mark Holston, Public Information Officer for the Flathead Basin Commission and former news director of KCFW-TV. His subject will be "Water Quality in the Flathead." He will present the latest information on the projects and initiatives on the water quality in the Flathead area, including the findings on the recently concluded Forestry Practices study.

***10/19/91 - Pick Up Your Bird Seed Day!** See page 7 for the time and location of the distribution of the sunflower seed orders.

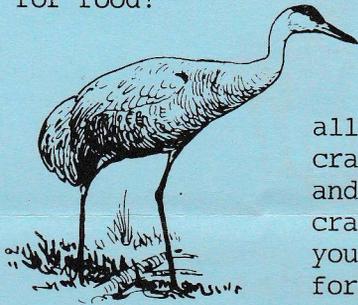


The Editor's Spotting Scope

The word is out. Montana is giving consideration to the legal hunting of a limited number of sandhill cranes. Does this excite you, anger you or have any affect at all?

For me, the reaction is one of curiosity. Why would anyone want to shoot a crane? For target practice? Just to say, "I shot a sandhill crane."? Or to have it stuffed as a trophy? Could it be used as a hatrack?

The two basic reasons for using a weapon go back to our formidable ancestors: one, to hunt for food; and two, to destroy an enemy. A sandhill crane would not be considered an enemy by any stretch of the imagination. Then they're hunting cranes for food!



Okay, let's say you're one of the lucky few to be allotted a sandhill crane hunting license and you go where the cranes hang out. Do you use a blind and wait for them to fly in?

What kind of decoy would you need, other than a BIG one? Or, do you go looking for them? When I lived in Wisconsin, we canoed the White River in the northern part of the state and you could come upon a crane just by rounding a bend in the river. In the fall, you could scare up a dozen or more off the river and what a sight-and-sound experience it was ... to see them take flight.

All right. You're in the hunting area, you take your shot, hit the bird and your retriever can't believe his eyes when he swims out to bring it in. "Are you kidding?" he seems to say. "Bring that one in yourself -- I can't even lift it!" Light up the barbecue or turn on the oven ... or dig a pit in the backyard, 'cause here comes the meat!

At this point, you're in trouble. I have researched this. There is no recipe for baked or barbecued sandhill crane. Neither Betty Crocker nor Pillsbury address how to cook a crane. A Fannie Farmer BOSTON COOKING SCHOOL COOK BOOK,

circa 1896 through 1941, has a roasting chart for poultry and game. The chart includes: chicken, duck (domestic and wild), goose, partridge, pheasant, pigeon, plover, quail, squab and turkey. There is no mention of crane, whooping or sandhill. Do you stuff with dressing? Do you baste (with a shovel)? Should the broth be saved for crane and noodles at another meal? Who is going to eat it? Your friends or neighbors?

"Hello, John. We want you and Mary to come over for dinner on Sunday, and bring the kids. We're having a real treat ... roast crane! John? John? Mmmmm, we must've been cut off."

Why not just leave the cranes alone? They're not threatening to take over the world and there aren't too many people who are clammering for a good crane roast. If there are, then someone had better let Betty Crocker know.

Sharon Bergman

Be A Pen Pal With President Bush

The protection of wetlands has always been tenuous. In 1989, the four federal agencies that have jurisdiction - and preservation - over wetland development consolidated their thoughts and came up with a manual which defined wetlands as: any depression where water accumulates for seven consecutive days during the growing season; where certain aquatic plants are found and where the soil is saturated with water that anaerobic bacterial activity can take place.

Development has been forbidden in such areas without a special exemption. The developer had to prove that there was no practical alternative to the wetland destruction.

EPA chief William Reilly was given the task of rewriting this manual. The results? No 15 consecutive days of inundation during the growing season or 21 days of soil saturated to the surface is required. The variety of plants that qualify an area as a wetland is reduced. The provision requiring proof of no alteration or filling will apply only to so-called "highly valuable areas" -- a



subjective classification as yet undefined.

Why! why! why should a few land developers of questionable ethics be able to push our president into making the wrong decision? Bottomland hardwoods, seasoned potholes, Everglade mudflats and river deltas are all vital for flood control, groundwater storage and filtration, wildlife and other benefits.

Help the president! Tell him today that we don't want this or other legislation that would accelerate the destruction or misuse of our nation's wetlands! Let your congressman know too.

Write: President George Bush; The White House; 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Washington, D.C. 20500.

Robin Magaddino



Pete McDonnell From "RE SOURCES"

Conservation Comments

MANAGEMENT BY INTIMIDATION? The forced resignation of regional forester John Mumma, and the resulting protest, has raised to the national level the controversy over the process by which national forest timber cut quotas are set and the degree to which undue political pressure, which Congressman Pat Williams called "management by intimidation", is determining the management of the national forests.

There doesn't seem to be much question that the region's failure to meet arbitrary timber cutting quotas, established by Congress through the appropriations process, put Mumma's job in jeopardy.

Neither does there seem to be much doubt that strong political pressure from some congressmen and Agriculture Department officials combined to force Mumma from the region.

In fact, it would appear that Mumma's problem was that he believed in recently announced U.S. Forest Service goals promoting biodiversity, balanced multiple use and "new forestry", and that he was making a strenuous effort to uphold the laws protecting wildlife and water quality. His adherence to stated forest service principles and his efforts to obey the law are certainly strange reasons for him to have lost his position.

The tragedy of the crisis is that in this period of great change Mumma was probably the best person for the job from everyone's point of view, timber industry, conservationist and the public in general. The fact that he was a moderate and was facing up to the realities of resource management in the region might have made it possible to bring about some constructive solutions within the framework of the contradictions of public resource policy and opposing interests. Certainly, the replacement of Mumma with someone who would try to turn back the clock to the days of maximum timber cuts as the number 1 priority for the region would be a disaster for everyone concerned.

One hopeful note in the whole fiasco is the actions and statements of several Region I supervisors, in the aftermath of Mumma's resignation, reaffirming their commitment to high standards of land stewardship regardless of who is named as the region's forester.

The moral of this tale: timber yields must be determined by professionals on the ground within a context of emphasis on maintaining the health of the total forest ecosystem, and "management by intimidation" must end.

Rod Ash





Member Of The Month

*** Robin Magaddino ***

"Little lady, what you want to do is work in wildlife refuges." That was the advice given to Robin Magaddino in 1977, and it set the focus on her life.

Born and raised in Vallejo, California, Robin was always interested in the outdoors. As an amateur naturalist, she climbed trees to get closer to the birds. Although outdoor studies were not available to students, she enrolled in all the science classes, as though drawn by a magnet. Junior college brought her first hands-on experience with environmental issues and, under the guidance of a caring teacher, her class established the first recycling bins in the Sacramento River area. Attending Cal Poly, she majored in field biology and got deeply involved in biological and environmental work in the field. And then it was off to Botswana, Africa with the Peace Corp where she did field work for almost three years.

Upon her return, she considered graduate school, but there was the inevitable waiting list, and it was suggested that she talk to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Her application was sent out, with favorable results from two refuges, and she accepted the position of assistant manager (trainee) at the National Bison Range, which brought her to Montana. After three years at the Bison Range, Robin transferred to Creston, becoming the manager of the Swan River Refuge and the Northwest Montana Wetlands in 1980, a position she held until she retired at the birth of her daughter, Angelina.

Audubon membership was a natural for Robin. She belonged during the Bison Range years, but her participation was limited because of the distance to the meetings. When she and husband Joe moved to Bigfork, she was able to attend meetings and become actively involved. In 1983, she was named Program Chairman and in 1984, she became a director. During that time period she and Elly Jones were instrumental in starting the bird seed sale, which has become a major fund-raiser for the Flathead chapter. In 1985, when the vice president resigned, she was asked to fill the position and in September, 1986, she became

the president of the Flathead Audubon Society. She served in that capacity for four years and is currently serving on the board as a director.

On the subtle changes that have occurred during the past several years, Robin commented: "We have become much more involved in forestry issues, and now we work with other conservation groups in the valley, to make sure everything is covered. We are more inclined to think things out now, and try to work with all those involved in resolving issues."

Robin Magaddino, Member of the Month. If you're looking for her, you might find her weaving or water coloring or tending to family matters for Joe, Angelina or Martina. But chances are just as good that you'll find her outdoors, doing anything and everything with nature.



Birding In Tally Lake

Are you interested in a monthly birding walk in the vicinity of Tally Lake? Reed Keenam and Nancy Craig, biologists with the Tally Lake National Forest, want to develop a birding list for the area and field trips are in the planning stages. However, if you're interested in a monthly bird walk, contact Ferne Cohen at 862-2028.

Changing Of The Guard

Newly-elected board members, Sam Culotta and Malcolm Thompson, attended their first board meeting last month, taking over for outgoing directors Dick Fretheim and Bob Shennum.

President Brent Mitchell commented, "Both Bob and Dick provided experience and depth to the board and their time, ideas and perspective have been of great value to the chapter. We look forward to the views and guidance of Sam and Malcolm."

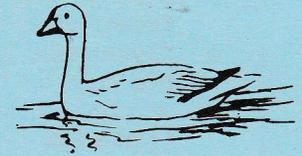


Report From The National Audubon Convention . . . Continued

(The first segment of this report appeared in the September issue of the newsletter.)

The theme of the NAS convention, held in Estes Park, Colorado, on July 21 - 27, was "Audubon in the Americas."

James Bay II. James Bay is located south of Hudson Bay in Canada. Hydro-Quebec James Bay Hydro-Electric project is two mega projects: The Great Whale River Project and the Nottaway-Broadback-Rupert Project. Together these two projects represent 14 hydro-electric centrals, 16 dams, 10 major storage reservoirs and over 70 dikes. Eight rivers will be diverted and their river systems destroyed. Along with the rivers, thousands of lakes and 5,000 square miles of commercial forest will be flooded and destroyed as well. Waterfowl, nesting sites, shoreline habitat, caribou calving grounds, snow goose staging areas, Cree and Inuit homeland and hunting areas, which have been used for 6,000 years, will be eliminated.



The New England states and the state of New York have contracts with Hydro-Quebec for the anticipated power. Some states are withdrawing their commitments. We must ask ourselves: "What is the price of power?" How can we justify the destruction of James Bay when we lack a serious energy conservation policy in the United States?

National Audubon has been cooperating with the Canadians and the native people who oppose this project. Letters can be sent to: The Right Honorable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada; House of Commons; Room 309-s, Center Block; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 9A 6.

United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. This conference will take place in Rio De Janeiro in June, 1992. It was described as the most important conference in history. Heads of state, non-governmental organizations and individuals will be asked to develop an Earth Charter and basic principles for our earth to survive, humans and wildlife, preserving natural resources. To make the principles of the Earth Charter work, technology, tools, training and financing will be needed, as well as research, access to information and more citizen involvement.

President Bush will have to be urged to take a leadership role. Auduboners must bring administration dialogue closer to our ethic, to value biodiversity and sustainable development. The U. S. has not supported scientific issues, such as global warming, etc., and 1992 is a political year. President Bush will attend the conference for two days. In the U. S. youth groups, church groups and environmental groups are planning for this conference. NAS urges us to write President Bush to exert leadership at the conference on environmental and economic issues.

NAS Community Solid Waste Program. The program is established to work with five Audubon Chapters, to develop a network of Audubon chapter leaders who have experience in developing and implementing workable programs and are willing to share their expertise with others. NAS will provide information and consultation. The NAS staff was interested in the Flathead Valley activities and expressed interest in working with a rural/urban area. Chapters are selected on the basis of their existing involvement in local solid waste issues and their desire, commitment and need to implement environmentally sound solid waste management solutions.

Miscellaneous. During the convention, recognition was given to local Audubon chapters for their newsletters. THE PILEATED POST was awarded Honorable Mention for chapters of our size.

The 1992 National Audubon Convention will be held at the American University in Washington, D. D. on June 13-19. And 1992 is a political year!



The Birds Of Summer: Part II

"100 Birds of Bust"
Leo Keane



My name is mud. My partner's name is Bruce Rickenbacker and for the past ten minutes he's been singing out loud, fine tuning, as it were, my ears to the subtleties of certain bird songs as we bounce along Squeezer Creek toward the State "Watchable Wildlife" area. I've promised a warbler/flycatcher bonanza up here for this mid-day portion of our Audubon BIRDATHON Big Day. I've also just been "reminded" that we are still some 65 species shy of our 100 bird goal--the impact of which is somewhat dulled by my preoccupation with a bag full of sandwiches bouncing along with us in the bed of my pickup.

"Now your Hammond's flycatcher", Rickenbacker explains, showing no signs of hunger, or concern for lunch whatsoever, "goes something like this: (here his voice slips into a marvelously bird-like falsetto) 'Brrr-yupp! Twee yarr, Tree-yip.' The throaty, two-noted introductory is diagnostic, whereas in your dusky..." At this moment Rickenbacker's class in Empidonax flycatchers is interrupted by a throaty, two-noted call emanating from an aspen grove to starboard.

"Stop the truck! Stop the truck!" Rickenbacker yelps. "What was that?"

"Sounded like a turkey sandwich to me--I mean a Hammond's flycatcher! Kind of a throaty two-noted call wasn't it?"

"Yea right. But the double note trailed off toward the end."

"Well then I guess it must be lunchtime--I mean I guess it must be a dusky flycatcher!"

"Could be. Could be. But it was so emphatic, so bold, so breezy."

"So hungry! Hey Rickenbacker, what say we chalk it up as a dusky/Hammond's hybrid and celebrate with a cold Pepsi and a big old sandwich."

Well you'd think I'd called a spoonbill a sparrow. Rickenbacker's look of disdain is worth a thousand words--guilty as I am of disregarding the First Commandment of Professional Birding: "THOU SHALLT NOT COMMIT THY BIRD TO THY CHECKLIST WITHOUT CERTAINTY". So much for the rest of my credibility, out the window in one fell swoop.

The good news is Rickenbacker buys into my lunch break option, and over a full stomach and a couple soda's I'm actually enjoying filtering out the "Brr-yupp's!" from the "Tweedle dees" over in yonder aspen grove: "No doubt in my mind Rickenbacker", I say contentedly, twirling a dandelion, "It's one o' them gosh dang Empidonax's--either a dusky or a Hammond's. Burp! What say we flip a coin?"

With lunch out of the way, and less than half our goal in the bag, I sense it's time to pull out my "ace-in-the-hole".

"So where are we off to next Mr. Northwoods Bird Guide Extraordinaire?" I detect what seems to be the slightest hint of sarcasm in Rickenbacker's voice, but two can play that game. "We're pulling out the big guns, Rickenbacker, so I hope you're good, and fast. It's Icteridae Time! Icteridae and Fringillidae, Phasionidae, Anatinae, Aythyinae and maybe an Oxyurinae or two for good measure."

"Oh, you mean blackbirds and finches, pheasants, geese and ducks? What are we waiting for!" The guy's definitely no slouch.

As ever, the Flathead's Lower Valley treats us right. Bird life is abundant and diverse and beautifully positioned on shimmering pond or riverine slough, about fencerow and homestead. The afternoon is a blur of waterfowl, a chorus of red-wing and yellowhead, with interludes of little secret birds slipping into grassy coverts. By sundown we're pushing 100. A tip from a curious rancher sends us out to his back pasture for the nightly arrival of sandhill cranes. We wait in fading light. And wait. Nighthawks buzz and swirl.



IT'S AUDUBON'S ANNUAL Sunflower Seed Sale

SUNFLOWER SEED ORDER FORM

(Please Print)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Number of sacks	BLACK, OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS	Amt. enclosed
_____	50 lb. sack at \$16	_____

I will pick up my order on Saturday, October 19 in

Bigfork__ Kalispell__ Columbia Falls__ Wfish__ Polson__ Condon__

Send check and order to: **FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY**
(due October 12) P.O. BOX 715
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911



Are you a member__ or a non-member__ ?

DON'T KEEP THE BIRDS WAITING

Get your winter supply of sunflower seeds and help Flathead Audubon fund its conservation and education programs.

The following convenient locations will be used for delivery on October 19.

- Bigfork:** Lakehills Shopping Center
9-11 am; 837-5018
- Columbia Falls:** First Federal Savings
10-12 am; 892-0272
- Condon:** Call June Ash, 754-2289
for arrangements
- Kalispell:** Kalispell Center Mall west
parking lot, 10 - 12 am
- Polson:** Super 1 parking lot
11 am - 1 pm; 849-5286
- Whitefish:** Train Depot parking lot
10-12 am; 862-2028

After filling out the order form, be sure to make note of where you want to take delivery and mark your calendar accordingly, so you won't forget the time and place.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Payment enclosed

Bill Me

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

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Join today and receive:

A YEAR—6 BIMONTHLY ISSUES—of the stunning photography and absorbing articles in AUDUBON magazine.

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DISCOUNTS on nature books, collectibles, and gifts. And with your membership you're supporting the National Audubon Society's vital efforts at protecting wildlife and environment.

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Flathead Audubon Society Directory

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Vice president	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Secretary	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Treasurer	Tommie Clark, 231 Pine Needle Ln, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-6615

DIRECTORS

Ferne Cohen, P. O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Sam Culotta, 979 Eastman Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4298
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Lynn Kelly, 905B 5th Ave E, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Malcolm Thompson, 775 Berne Rd, Cols Falls, MT 59912	892-4208

**MONTANA
BIRD HOTLINE
721-2935**

CHAIRS

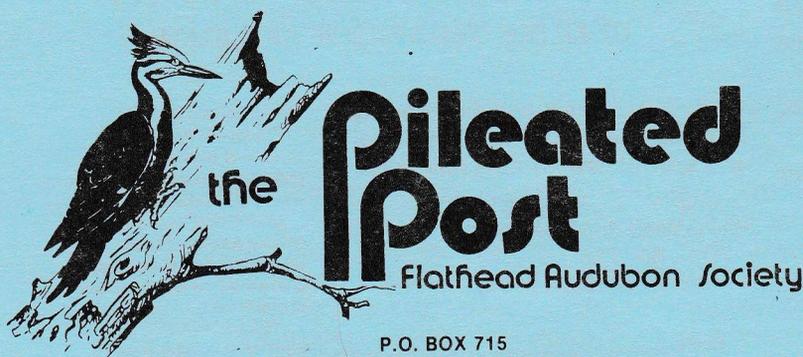
Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 4870 Hwy 93S, #62, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-7350
Conservation	Rod Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Field Trips	Dan Casey, P. O. Box 2922, Kalispell, MT 59901	857-3143
Hospitality/Sales	Patti Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
Hostess	Evelyn Kile, 20 Hoffman Draw, Kila, MT 59920	755-4422
Librarian	Marie Shirley, 1016A Park Ave, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-0790
Membership	June Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289
Newsletter	Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Ln, Big Arm, MT 59910	849-5286
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	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Refuge Projects	Bob Ballou, Rt 1, Box 11881, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
	Linda Vassallo, 683 Somers Rd, Somers, MT 59932	857-3166
Schools, Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Linda Vassallo, 683 Somers Rd, Somers, MT 59932	857-3166

MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL

Office - Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 443-3949

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 business meeting is held at 7:30 pm, followed by a special program at 8 pm. The regular monthly meetings are preceded by an Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all interested people.

THE PILEATED POST is published nine times a year, September through May, and is sent to members of the Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. Subscriptions for non-members are \$5 per year. Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month.



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