



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 3

March, 1992

Audubon's Second Century

Last October, 17 chapter leaders and seven NAS staff people met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the future of the Society as it enters its second century. The meeting was designed to produce frank, open dialogue about problems and needs that are barriers to Audubon becoming the most effective grassroots environmental organization and also to brainstorm for solutions to those problems.

Solutions were proposed in the form of specific projects. Ten projects were created from the four basic "needs" areas that the group identified: 1) strong regional and/or state structures; 2) better communication; 3) membership involvement in decision-making at the national level; and 4) building stronger chapters.

The number one priority of the ten projects is to expand staff to include regional representatives in all regional offices. Among the other nine projects are sharing information with the Audubon network by establishing an Audubon Information Clearinghouse, reforming the National Board of Directors election process into a more truly democratic election, and creating a chapter-led task force to develop a research and development program to review new ideas for strengthening chapters.

For more information, members are encouraged to contact the two chapter leaders from our region who attended the Second Century meeting: Cary Lund from Montana (444-5622) and/or Ruth Russell from Arizona (602-743-9707). Interested chapter members are welcome to review the full report (President Brent Mitchell and Editor Sharon Bergman have copies) and become involved in the development of the projects.

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

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				

***3/9/92 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting,** 5 pm, at the Bigfork Inn, Bigfork. Open to all those interested.

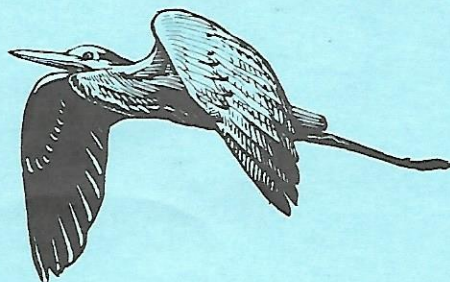
Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church, Commerce and Electric Avenues, Bigfork.

Business Meeting: 7:30 pm. Program: 8 pm. Everyone welcome.

Program: The featured speaker will be Joel Holtrop, Supervisor of the Flathead National Forest. His subject will be **"Thinking Like a Mountain: The Role of the Flathead National Forest."**

Mr. Holtrop is a graduate of Michigan State University and received his master's degree in forestry from the University of Washington. He has served in the Forest Service since 1976 at ranger districts in California, Oregon, Michigan and Wisconsin before coming to the Flathead as supervisor.

***3/21/92 - The first 1992 FIELD TRIP,** led by Dan and Susannah Casey. It will be a half-day trip of **Lower Valley waterfowl**. Participants are to meet at 8:30 am at Levensgood's Parking Lot, near the junction of Hwy's 93 and 82.





The Editor's Spotting Scope

This 'N That

Bird Seed Available. You may have noticed that even though the winter has been very mild, the birds are still frequenting their favorite bistro's. If your supply of sunflower and/or niger seeds is getting low, you can replenish by contacting one of the following: Patti Brown (837-5018); June Ash (754-2289) or Brent Mitchell (756-8130).

Give Credit Where Credit is Due.

At the February meeting, Flathead Audubon honored the volunteer mappers who had worked on a mapping system for the Adopt-A-Forest program. Three volunteers were inadvertently overlooked and not credited in last month's newsletter item, although they were recognized at the meeting. So we hereby add the following to our list of honoree's: Terry Divoky of West Glacier and Gary & Mary Sloan of Whitefish.

In Memorium. Albin E. Nelson of Kalispell, 86, loved the outdoors. He was a musician, artist and fisherman, and he made a lasting impression on those who knew him. At his death, the family suggested that memorials be made to the local Audubon Society in his name and the following donors are acknowledged: Ruth Nelson, Elly Jones and Maynard Bolsten.

Can You Help? The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is involved in a major research effort to study the nesting success of bird species that nest in agricultural habitats, and nesting reports from such areas are especially needed for this study. If you have nest records from previous years, or if you are currently involved in a related research effort, please write or call: Pixie Senesac, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. --- Birder's World

Sharon Bergman



Earth Day Continued



The Flathead Valley Earth Day Coalition/Recycling Coalition will meet on Thursday, March 5, 7:30 pm, at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on Meridian Road in Kalispell. Individuals, businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the decision making process for 1992. Plans for Earth Day exhibits will be discussed. Also, discussion will be held on the possibility of using students to conduct NAS garbage audits by measuring community-generated waste.

Approximately 100 individuals attended the waste management meeting conducted on February 13 by Christine Kaufmann, Waste Reduction and Recycling Coordinator. We were grateful for the opportunity to meet in public. The audience focused on recycling issues. Flathead Audubon and the Recycling Coalition emphasized source reduction, which is "smart shopping" by reducing waste at the source. A solid waste task force was advocated for recommendations on waste management issues in the valley. The coalition has over 50 businesses and 400 individual signatures which will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in requesting the appointment of the task force.

The meeting was a beneficial service for the community. While Christine Kaufmann listened well, and clarified each speaker's comments for her list of concerns, she did not take the opportunity to add to our knowledge about waste management.

Ferne Cohen



Printed on recycled paper



President's Corner

Bits & Pieces. An informal group is being formed to pass information back and forth between several organizations. Called the Flathead Conservation Coalition, its members range from Montanans for Multiple Use to the Montana Wildlife Federation. Some agencies will also participate. I attended the first meeting and was surprised to see how diverse the philosophies were. This could be quite a challenge for Flathead Audubon. ****

The Baucus/Burns wilderness bill is set in concrete, according to the senators, but they know the House could amend the final bill. Now would be a good time to write Pat Williams about including the Swan-Crest and Thompson-Seton areas in S 1696. As it stands now, S 1696 is a poor wilderness bill. ****

The state's solid waste management program was well attended by Auduboners, other conservationists and recyclers on February 13. Over 100 people with varied backgrounds were present for the two-hour meeting, and Ferne Cohen was there to lead the cheering section and support group. Thanks, Ferne. It was the best attended solid waste meeting to date, according to the state coordinator. ****

As the holder of a Montana trapping license, I'm ever watchful of furbearer population fluctuations. I note the continued use of the pelts from esters and naughas, but for the life of me, I can't remember the last time I saw a live polyester or naughas's hyde. Will these be the high tech T & E species of the future? ****

At a recent meeting of the Wildlife Society we learned that mountain lions are increasing their range and numbers. They select deer as their prey about 45% of the

time. If you are attacked, fight like hell -- the opposite of what you do in a grizzly attack. Shawn Riley will give us a very informative program on the status of Montana mountain lions at the May meeting. ****

Flathead Audubon will be involved with the Family Forestry Expo,



which will be held in May. Watch for further information on actual date and place. This is a good place to see the latest industry technology, exhibits on forest succession, forestry practices and their relationship to wildlife habitat. ****

I hope you can make it to the March meeting to meet and hear Joel Holtrop, the Flathead Forest Supervisor. I believe he's a straight shooter and hard worker. See you there!

Brent Mitchell

Forest Watch Groups To Form

With the establishment of the Adopt-A-Forest program in the Flathead Audubon area, considerable data has been developed about old growth forests, sensitive wildlife and plant habitat, indicator species, erosive soils and fisheries and streams. The information will be extremely valuable when applied early in the process of Flathead Forest planned sales and trades.

It has been suggested that forest watch groups be formed to monitor the Flathead Forest sales and trades. Such groups would be affective in each of the ranger districts of the forest.

Those interested in taking an active part in this project should contact Rod Ash (754-2289) or the NAS Adopt-a-Forest Coordinator Rosalind Yanishevsky (756-4489).



Natural Resource Classes In Swan

"Natural Resource Issues in the Last Best Place" will be the central focus of an Elderhostel program to be held this spring at Holland Lake Lodge in the Swan Valley.

The program has been proposed by a subcommittee of the Swan Citizens ad hoc Committee, a group of Swan Valley conservationists, loggers, mill workers, business and retired persons organized to resolve resource conflicts and work toward sustainable development in the valley. The Elderhostel classes are under the supervision of Flathead Community College.

Resource topics will be explored in classes on wilderness management and ethics, conducted by Kari Gunderson and Joe Flood, wilderness educators; wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife issues led by Ken Wolff of the Raptor Room; and forestry practice and philosophy presented by Bud Moore, forest conservationist. Rod Ash will act as program organizer.

Field trips related to program topics will include habitat restoration projects, logging sites, forest management areas and raptor rehabilitation facilities.



The program starts on May 31 and concludes June 6. The charge for classes, lodging and meals is \$305 per person. The Elderhostel program is designed for those 60 and over.

Ash commented that the program "is an excellent way to encourage resource and environmental education and to provide a small source of income in an area caught in economic transition." He noted that the program is experimental and could lead to other such efforts.

Those interested, or who have

friends or relatives in other areas who might be interested, are encouraged to contact Rod Ash at 406-754-2289, or Karen Zwissler, Flathead Community College.

Welcome To Those New Among Us



D. A. Logan, Michael Logozzo, Steven Martini and Terry Steele of Kalispell; Janet D'Aquino, Charles Hubbard, Lee Nelson and Erwin and Joan Pfuhl of Bigfork; Ilda Kackmann, William Olson and Thomas Pablo of Polson; Dan Brunet & Linda Katsuda, Aja Cronin, Don Montgomery, Richard Smith, Chris Miller and Robert Wesley of Whitefish; Frances Abbey and Deborah Preston of Ronan; Mrs. L. Hodges of Thompson Falls; Sheri Hakala and Robert Wicen of Libby; Jack Stirling of Troy; Dorothy Buckmaster and David Hoffman of Eureka; Donna Deppmeier of Kila; Anita & Matt Mahkuk of St Ignatius; and Lavonne Pierce of Pablo.

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.

Join today and receive:

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

MEMBERSHIP in one of the 500 local Audubon chapters nationwide (if there is one in your area) with access to field-trips and other activities.

FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION to Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.

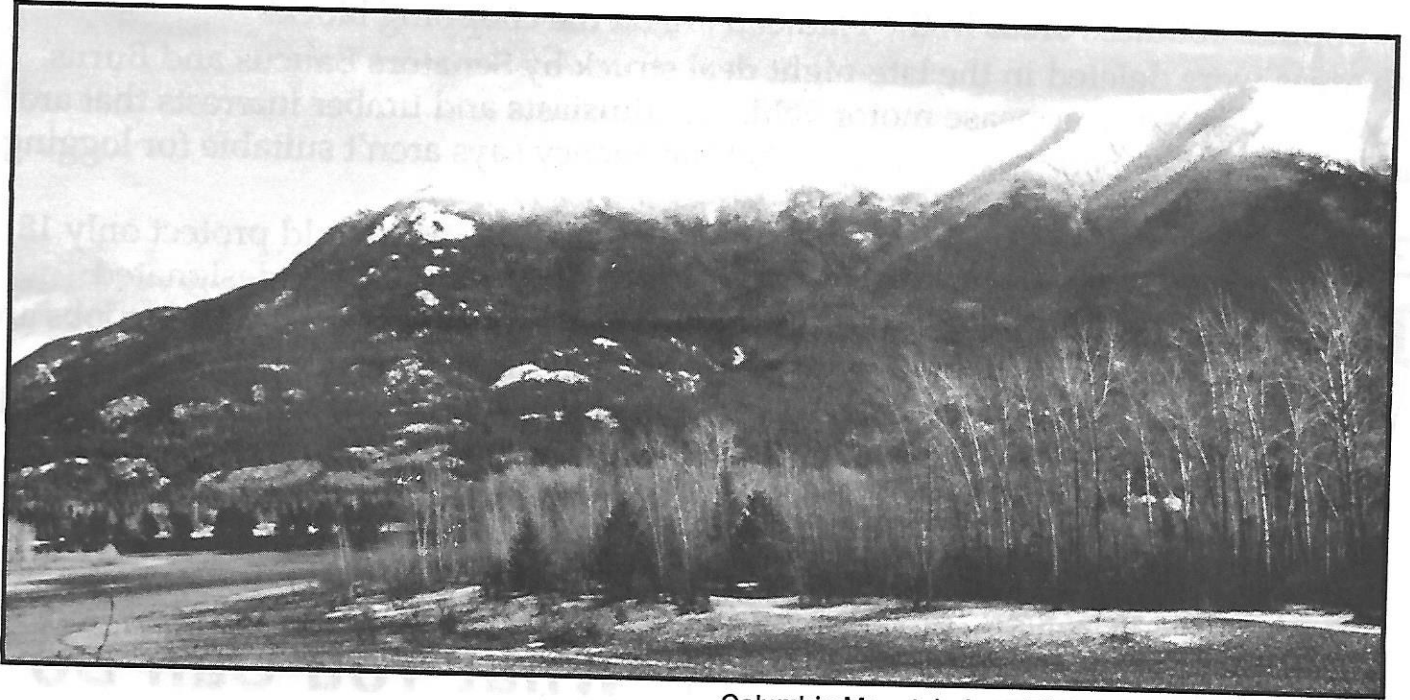
INVITATIONS to Audubon's ecology camps and workshops.

ELIGIBILITY for wide-ranging Audubon tours.

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.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!

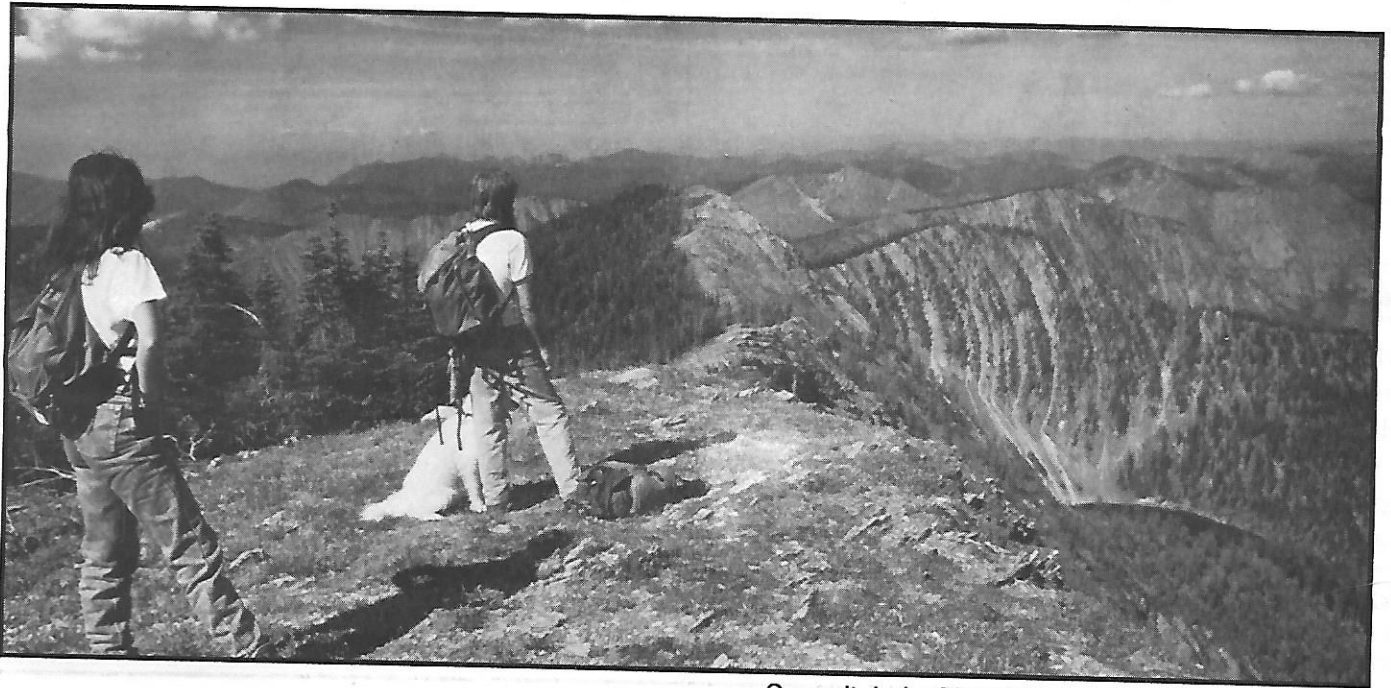
It's wild now...



Columbia Mountain from Flathead River. © D. L. Blank

Columbia Mountain: Dropped from Senate Bill 1696

The wild North Fork from Lake Mountain: Dropped from SB 1696



Summit, Lake Mountain. © Rosalind Yanishevsky

Will it still be wild for your grandchildren?

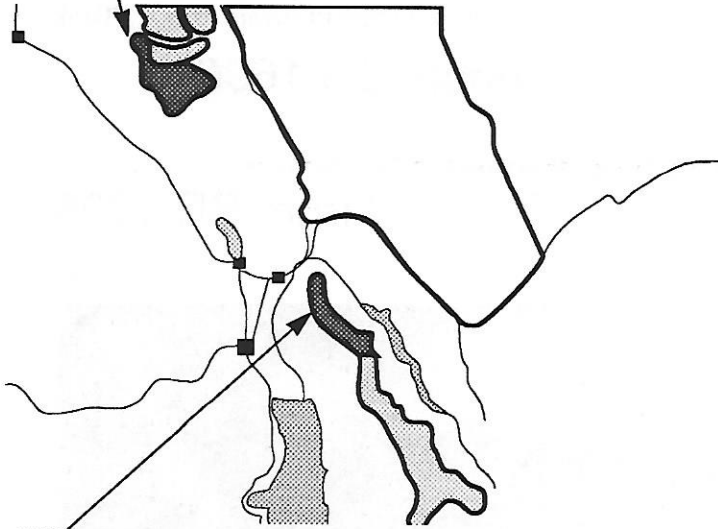
Act Now: Keep these areas wild!

Two popular roadless areas in the Flathead are on the chopping block!

Both areas were deleted in the late-night deal struck by Senators Baucus and Burns. They were deleted to appease motor vehicle enthusiasts and timber interests that are pushing the Forest Service to log areas that the agency says aren't suitable for logging.

Going, going ...

- 1 The Thompson-Seton wildlands in the North Fork of the Flathead is a remote country that is home to some of the nation's most magnificent wildlife - wolves, grizzly bear, moose, eagles, dozens of alpine lakes - including Link Lake, Chain Lakes and Huntsberger Lake - and a network of trails provide quiet sanctuary for recreationists. Old growth near Akinkoka Peak contain a complex web of life that science is only beginning to understand.



- 2 The Northern Swan Crest is the backbone and scenic backdrop of the Flathead Valley. It provides a critical ecological link in the Glacier-Bob Marshall ecosystem. The Swan's secluded lakes and basins are easily accessible for recreation. Deleted areas include Columbia Mtn, Doris Mtn., Jenny, Fawn and Strawberry lakes.

The bill (SB 1696) would protect only 18 percent of Montana's undesignated wildlands. No logging or mining jobs are based in these undeveloped areas. Meanwhile, language in the bill - drafted by timber industry lawyers - opens the floodgates to wildland destruction.

What You Can Do

Please write to Rep. Pat Williams and tell him Senate Bill 1696 is unacceptable. Too many wild areas are on the chopping block! Write to House Interior Committee Chairman George Miller. Write to Senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns.

Rep. _____

House of Representatives

Washington D.C. 20515

Sen. _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Montana wildlands begin where the road ends. Nobody can create wilderness. Our choice is to protect the roadless and wild places that remain or lose them forever. We must make this lasting decision for all future generations.

Brought to you by the Montana Wilderness Association, Flathead Audubon, Sierra Club, Swan View Coalition, Flathead Green Alliance, Friends of the Wild Swan, Resources Limited, Canyon Coalition, North Fork Preservation Assoc., Children for Wildlife and Keep it Wild!

For more information: MWA, Box 543, Kalispell, MT 59903. (406) 755-6304.



Member Of The Month

Elly Jones



Elly Jones grew up with birding. Magnolia warblers perched in the tree outside the bedroom window of her Minnesota home awakened her in the morning. She and her friends walked to school and delighted in the variety of birds and animals that they saw en route. They shared birding adventures with each other and it was the norm to look for birds during the daily course of life.

Marriage brought Elly to Montana. She and husband Jeff, who was in the printing business, had lived in Vermont and New Mexico and then made the move to Butte. They moved on to Bozeman, where the family grew with the eventual birth of two sons and two daughters. "Birding in the Bozeman area is wonderful," Elly commented. "The first time I saw a tanager I thought someone's parakeet had escaped from its cage."

A move to Missoula whetted Elly's appetite for birding. She took a course in ornithology at the University and became involved with the Christmas Bird Count for the local Audubon group. Her interest in banding birds began to develop, but she was too busy raising her family to take on the demands of more serious volunteer work.

The family vacationed frequently in the Swan Valley, which reminded Elly of the northern Minnesota woods without the mountains, and in 1970 they made the move permanently. Elly joined the Bird Club, took part in the Christmas Bird Counts and participated in field trips. She was in her element. "The Swan River National Wildlife Refuge was new at the time," she said, "and it was a perfect excuse to get away from the vacuum cleaner." She volunteered to monitor the local birds' breeding/nesting activity and has been a part of the program for some 14 years.

In 1979, the subject of bird banding came up again and Elly was ready. She served a year as a sub-permittee (apprentice) and then became a master

bander. As time went on she became affiliated with MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). In 1989, with a lot of planning, ground clearing and determination, the banding net facility was constructed near Elly's home and she was finally where she wanted to be with bird banding. Last year, under Elly's supervision, banding nets for a second area were installed near Six Mile.

The program is vitally important. Through the records kept, population trends for the banded species are noted and the information is provided to the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Heritage and other organizations that deal with wildlife habitat.

Although birds and banding hold a major interest in her life, they are not her total dedication. Professionally, she is a lab technician for the Home Health Agency out of Kalispell. Working as part of a team that takes health care to the homes of those who need it, she describes her job as "neat and very rewarding."

Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: Elly Jones. In commenting about her bird banding accomplishments, she said, "I have to give my husband full credit. He's not into birding, but what he does on the home-front enables me to do what I do."

Thank you, Jeff; and thank you, Elly.



WATCH FOR IT! In next month's newsletter there will be a special item on bird banding at the nets!

The best way to reduce the danger of diseases at your feeding stations is to keep grain dry and to cleanup spilled grain before it has a chance to begin rotting. By feeding preferred seeds, such as sunflower, white proso millet, and fine cracked corn, there will be less waste at feeders and less opportunity for molds to grow in wet grain. In winter, it is best to feed birds from hopper feeders or other inclosed feeders rather than spreading grain on open feeding tables or the ground, where it is likely to be covered by snow.



Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS

President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
Vice president	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Secretary	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Treasurer	Holly Butlett, 2825 Farm to Market, Kalispell, MT	257-2025

DIRECTORS

Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
Sam Culotta, P.O. Box 642, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4298
Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Rd, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Malcolm Thompson, 775 Berne Rd. Coles Falls, MT 59912	892-4208

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
Program	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Refuge Projects	Bob Ballou, Rt 1, Box 11881, Charlo, MT 59825	644-2365
Schools, Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
	Neil Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

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.



the
**Pileated
Post**

Flathead Audubon Society

P.O. BOX 715
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911-0715

Non-Profit Org.
Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
BIGFORK, MT
59911-0715