



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 5

May, 1992

Mark Your Calendar

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5/11/92 - ANNUAL POTLUCK MEETING, 6 pm, Lone Pine Park, Kalispell. Bring a potluck dish and eating gear. ALSO, bring items for a Silent Auction. They don't have to be bird-

related. The money raised will go to the Montana Wildlife Fund.

Business Meeting : Election of officers and directors.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: Shawn Riley, wildlife biologist with Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, will give a presentation titled "Mountain Lions -- 100 Years in Montana." Riley has worked with Montana FW&P as a management biologist in Thompson Falls, as well as in the Flathead area. As part of his duties, he has participated in all facets of managing mountain lions.

5/16,17/92 - Family Forestry Expo, at the junction of Tamarack & Trumble Creek Rd., one mile north of the Blue Moon.

SEE PAGES 5 and 6 FOR THE FINALIZED FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE. There's something for everyone.

Conservation Comments



The Montana Logging Ass'n and the Montana Forestry Extension Service is sponsoring a series of Best Management Practice (BMPs) "mini colleges" in several timber producing areas in the state. The mini-colleges present a series of classes on best management practices designed to protect water quality and riparian areas for loggers, land managers and forest land owners.

In March, Janet Ellis, Montana Audu-

bon's program director, and I presented a program at the BMP mini-college held at the University of Montana.

It was an interesting and rewarding experience. Our subject was "logging stewardship". Under that topic we discussed the importance of protecting biodiversity and wildlife problems related to forest fragmentation and the disturbance of riparian areas. We suggested management and logging practices in streamside zones and wetlands which would give as much protection as possible to wildlife habitat as well as water quality. We talked about the needs of neotropicals and the importance of snag retention in logged areas.

The mini-college provided a fine opportunity for us to present Audubon's viewpoint and the MLA deserves much credit for including us. In the course of the day we conducted three classes and met with over 120 loggers, managers and land owners. We had some good discussions, and our ideas and suggestions were given courteous attention. It was obvious that there was considerable common ground among us concerning conservation objectives. There was also some disagreement about some of our concerns and solutions.

For me, the mini-college was another example of the value of Montana's BMP program which is being developed in a cooperative and good faith manner by all concerned.

Probably most important: Audubon's participation in the workshops provided another opportunity for a dialogue which was much more productive than the name-calling and vindictiveness that too often passes for communication on our difficult resource issues.

..... Rod Ash



The Editor's Spotting Scope

Another Conversation With a Chickadee.

"Hey, Fee Bee!" There's my chickadee friend again, calling from the cedar tree near the feeder. We haven't talked for awhile because he (or is it she, and how can you tell?) and his mate have been doing what chickadees and other species do in the spring. "How are you?" I asked, wondering what kind of answer I'd get.

"I'm pretty good," he replied. "I love spring and I'm usually a pretty cheerful creature, but I still have some concerns about the state of the earth."

"Yes, I know," I responded. (Am I getting used to talking to chickadees? I looked to see if anyone was noticing my apparent conversation with something in the cedar tree.) "But if I take environmental care of my own little corner of the world and try to influence my family and friends to do the same, isn't that shouldering my responsibility to the earth and helping to retain it for my children and grandchildren?"



E. Phyllis V. Saroff

"Do you believe in reincarnation?" he asked, which I felt was ignoring my question and changing the subject.

"What's that got to do with anything? Am I going to come back as a chickadee in another life?"

"You could do worse, but that's not the point. If you do come back, what would you come back to? Think about it."

"In 50 or 100 years will Flathead Lake still be pristine? Will the Mission Range be bald? Will Glacier Park be a memory?"

"You may save your own little corner of the world for your children and grandchildren, but it wouldn't be very worthwhile without the lake and mountains ... and all the wetlands, woods and streams that all of us creatures need. A diversified environment is important for all of us and for different reasons."

"Don't work for just your own corner of the world; expand your vision. Think about it -- okay, Fee Bee?"

"All right, my friend; you're right. We'll pass the word, and I guess we'd better do more than just think about it."

Sharon Bergman

Bird Banding With Elly

The USFS is contracting with the Institute for Bird Populations in California to set up 42 stations in the Northwest, including the Flathead National Forest. Five stations will be set up and our station on the Swan Oxbow Preserve will be the 6th. Hurrah! This olde greedy bander hopes the site on 6-Mile will be chosen as we have done quite alot there already. It is unique in that banding on the slope has made it possible to net 'tree top' species.

Target species to be monitored include Dusky Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Warbling Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler.



The major requirement for the establishment of a MAPS station is that it be sited at a location where substantial numbers of at least one of the principle target species are breeding. Both Swan Oxbow and 6-Mile should do well with up to 12 target species each.

The Swan Oxbow Preserve MAPS banding site has been moved west about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, next to the Swan River. Nature Conservancy is building a kiosk and nature trail at the old site.

Banding takes place once every ten days, weather permitting, starting at sunrise and finishing around noon. The following schedule has been established and the first date listed (Saturday) is when banding takes place. If there are field trips, rain, etc., then banding is done on the 2nd date (Sunday).

May 2-3 or 9-10; 16-17; 23-24 or 30.

June 6-7; 13-14; 20-21 or 27-28.

July 4-5; 11-12 or 18-19; 25-26.

August 1-2 or 8; 15-16; 22-23.

Help is always needed in putting up nets and recording information. It looks like an exciting summer in bird-om. Why not join the fun and learn too? Call Elly Jones, evenings, at 886-2244, if you'd like to be a part of the project.

..... Elly Jones





President's Corner

The first impression -- it may be lasting. Chapter philosophy is important in communicating to the membership so they can get a feel of where we are going and how we will get there. Here again is my perception of our philosophy:

Words and ideas that come to mind: moderation; looking at the big picture; being positive; seeing future benefits and identifying long term goals; working alongside others.

In contrast, think of these terms: abrasive; adversarial; frustrated; confrontational; short term goals; proving your point rather than explaining your position.

Flathead Audubon will seek the first course.

If Flathead Audubon is going to be drawn into a fight with an agency and/or an industry, it will be by our own choice after careful thought and consideration. It will not be because it is "expected" by others. It will not be as a result of an accident or of "guilt by association." It will be planned, calculated, deliberate and with as much force as necessary.

Our allies, as well as others we do not see eye to eye with, need to understand this concept. We are looking for the opportunity to be heard, not "turned off". It is my belief we are listened to and respected because we have a broad, diversified approach to, and perception of, the natural resources we wish to conserve -- be it a water quality issue involving best management practices, a landfill, hunting ethics, neotropical migrant bird species, Glacier National Park or the Flathead economy.

Are we wimps? I think not. We take firm stands on specific issues. Are we willing to talk and share our viewpoint? Absolutely. We do not wish to initiate a fight and try to "slam dunk" our philosophy down someone else's throat. We are real people helping to solve real problems at the local level.

Yes, we are birdwatchers. Yes, we are concerned about our environment. And yes, we are conservationists.

On the lighter side: The May meeting is coming up at Long Pine State Park. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck; bring your questions about mountain lions; bring a few bucks for the silent auction and bring a big smile. It's spring in the Flathead and this really is the best place in the last best place (Montana).

Brent Mitchell





Members of the Month —Dan & Susannah Casey—

He: Dan was originally from New Jersey where a 6th grade science teacher made a lasting impression on him. Students were taken on field trips along the Jersey coast, on the Appalachian Trail and in rural areas. When the family TV set broke down, it was not repaired and bird watching became a passion.

She: Susannah grew up in Ohio and both of her parents were naturalists. Her father loved (lived) to fish so the family spent a lot of time outdoors. Birding was instilled through feeder birdwatching.

He: Deciding to pursue a career in wildlife biology, Dan attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where he earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees.

She: Graphic design was Susannah's major when she attended Ohio State University, earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She moved to Colorado to live closer to "wild" nature, where she fished, enjoyed nature photography, bicycled, backpacked and took advantage of the wildlife opportunities.

They: A Denver environmental consulting firm was the meeting place of Dan and Susannah, where both became employed. Dan did bird baseline work for environmental impact statements and some of his projects were in eastern Montana. When city life began to wear on them, they started looking elsewhere and chose Montana for themselves and their daughters, Lauren and Hannah.

Dan went to work for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in 1983, doing mitigation work on Hungry Horse and Kerr Dams, studying the effects of the dams on the nesting ecology of Canada geese and osprey. Susannah didn't have a job so she invented one when she couldn't find a certain gift for her daughter; she opened Merlin's, an educational toy store in Kalispell.

Birding is taken for granted in the Casey household and Flathead Audubon is an important factor in the lives of both Dan and Susannah, just as they have been an important factor for Flathead Audubon. They have been in charge of the field trips for several years and the success of the local Birdathon is due in large part to their enthusiastic dawn-to-dark participation.

Enlightened, dedicated and willing to share their love of wildlife with others ... Flathead Audubon Members of the Month: Dan and Susannah Casey.

EARTH DAY CONTINUED



Program opportunities. The following programs are available from the Earth Day Coalition/Recycling Coalition:

- "How the Waste Was Won"
- "Precycling or Smart Shopping"
- "Household Hazardous Waste"

Each of these presentations includes a video or slide show plus a speaker and a discussion period. Informational materials are available for handouts. The presentations take approximately one hour. Please phone 862-5711 for arrangements. Ferne Cohen



* * * * * **Spring/Summer Field Trips** * * * * *



Our 1992 field trip schedule has been finalized, and is presented below. All trips are open to members and non-members alike, so please post this list and copies of it in prominent places at home and work! Standard recommended equipment includes comfortable clothes and shoes, binoculars, cameras, field guides, "fowl" weather gear, and a sack lunch or snack. Like last year, we have incorporated additional field trips sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). Trips vary from short hikes and roadside stops, to longer hikes or boat trips as noted. We've tried to provide a wide variety of trips, all suitable for families, throughout the spring and summer. Come and enjoy!

Please call the Field Trips Chairperson, Dan Casey, at 857-3143 (evenings) or 752-5501 (days) with any questions, last minute changes, or for more detailed information regarding any of the trips. Individual trip leaders are also listed below.

Saturday, May 9: Audubon's (Ruth White's) Birthday Walk. A 2.5 mile hike along the Swan River outside Bigfork; see early migrants and wildflowers. Meet at the Kootenai Gallery in downtown Bigfork at 2:00 p.m. Jack and Ruth White, 752-9624.

Saturday, May 16: East Shore Research Natural Area. Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). An easy three-mile hike from Ferndale to Woods Bay through six habitat types and past ponds and lakes. Contact Anne Morley, 886-2242, for meeting time and place.

Saturday, June 6: Birdathon. See separate details in this newsletter. Please sponsor our record-setting team or spend the day afield raising funds for the chapter and Regional office. Susannah Casey, 857-3143. (This is not an organized field trip).

Sunday, June 7: Safe Harbor Marsh. See a diverse mix of migrants and breeding birds at this Nature Conservancy site north of Polson. Meet at the Polson 4B's at 7:00 a.m. for this half-day trip. Marcie Bishop, 883-4146.

Saturday, June 13: Squeezer Creek Nature Trail Hike. Co-sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society. Help compile a bird and plant list for this easy loop trail in the Swan River State Forest. Meet, 9:00 a.m. at the Morley Canoe Shop in Swan Lake along Highway 83 south of milepost 72. Anne Morley, 886-2242.

Saturday, June 20: Owen Sowerwine Natural Area by Canoe. Half-day trip for breeding birds at this river island County park. Flat water paddling and bush-whacking on the island. Bring canoe, life jackets. Meet at Rosauer's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.



More >>>>

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FIELD TRIPS—Continued

Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day): Hidden Meadows Hike, Glacier N.P.

Co-sponsored by MNPS. A 2.4 mile loop hike through part of the Red Bench Fire, various forest and meadow habitats. Don't forget the insect repellent. Meet at the Polebridge Ranger Station at 10:00 a.m. Neal Brown, 837-5018.

Saturday, July 18: Rails to Trails. Hike to develop plant and bird list for converted railroad right-of-way west of Kalispell. (co-sponsored by MNPS). Call Don Snow, 756-5684.

Sunday, July 19: Flathead River Float. Canoe trip from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island at Kalispell. This trip is also a fund-raiser for the Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund, so we're asking participants to make a \$5 tax-deductible contribution. About 6 easy hours on the river, through a variety of riparian habitats. No white water. Bring canoes, life-jackets (one for each person!), lunch and rain gear. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, July 25: Numa Ridge Hike, Glacier National Park. Fifteen-mile hike from Bowman Lake to the Numa Ridge Fire Lookout. Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society. Call Sam Culotta, 837-4298, for meeting time and place.

Saturday, August 1: Mt. Siyeh Hike (Climb), Glacier National Park. Starting at Logan Pass, a very strenuous climb to one of the highest peaks in Glacier. This trip depends on favorable weather, and is limited to 10 participants. Call Sam Culotta, 837-4298, by July 28 to reserve a spot.

Saturday, August 8: Purple Loosestrife Control - Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Half-day of work protecting wetlands, followed by tour of native grassland sites, picnic lunch. Bring gloves and shoes to wear in water. Soda, champagne and gourmet desserts provided. Co-sponsored by MNPS. Meet at the Bread Board Bakery in Bigfork at 8:00 a.m., or at the Allentown Restaurant south of Ronan at 9:00 a.m. Pattie Brown, 837-5018.

Saturday, Sept. 12: Swan Valley Logging. Tour of various logging practices in action. Discussion of the effects of various logging techniques on wildlife, and of light-impact logging methods available to landowners. Meet at the Swan Valley Community Club in Condon (near milepost 42 on highway 83) at 10:00 a.m. Bud Moore (754-2473) and Rod Ash (754-2289).





Birdathon '92 Takes Wing

The Flathead Audubon Society Annual Birdathon is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, June 6th. Birders should choose their 24 hour period on that weekend. There are a number of ways members may participate:

1. You could be a team leader and organize a small group of birders to join you for birdathon. As the team leader you can plan the route, solicit sponsors and help team members solicit sponsors. If you would like to be a leader and you need team members, please contact Susannah or Dan Casey at 857-3143.

2. You could be a birder, alone or with a team. If you would like to be paired up with someone, please let the Casey's know (# above). All skill levels of birders are welcome. **The most important part of birdathon participation is to solicit sponsors.** You ask your sponsors to pledge .05¢, .10¢, .15¢, .20¢, or .25¢ per species. After birdathon you collect from your sponsors the appropriate amount determined by the number of species you see.

3. You can be a sponsor. You can sponsor any birdathon team you like. The Flathead Chapter does have a "Championship" team that consists of Jim Rogers, Sherry Jones, and Dan & Susannah Casey. These crazy, competitive birders are vying with professional birder Ed Harper to break and rebreak the Montana State Big Day Record. **Warning** the strenuous effort of this team should net upwards of 150 species, so a pledge of 10¢ per species will result in a total of approximately \$15.00.

4. If you are out-of-town and have not been contacted to sponsor someone, we have an easy way for you to participate. Take out your checkbook and write a check to **Flathead Audubon** for any amount you feel you can contribute. Please mail all Birdathon Checks to Birdathon Coordinators, Dan & Susannah Casey, P.O. Box 2922, Kalispell, MT 59903.

With all of these options, *every* member of Flathead Audubon should find a way to participate.

Birdathon is the main fundraiser for National Audubon. One half of the monies raised stays here in the Flathead to support our local programs (Audubon Adventures, etc.), the other half is sent to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. We request that the funds we send to regional go towards protection of Old Growth Forest and/or Wetlands.

TEAR HERE AND MAIL YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!



NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM

- ☐ I am happy to pledge \$ _____ per species in support of your Birdathon
- ☐ My tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- ☐ Matching gift form enclosed: my employer matches gifts

FROM: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

() _____

Telephone _____

Name of Birder(s) you are sponsoring: _____

EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE WILL GO TOWARD AUDUBON'S WORK Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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.

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Flathead Audubon Society

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Birdathon '92 Takes Wing