



Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 6

September, 1992

Bird Banding With Elly

Summers do fly by, in more ways than one. Banding at the MAPS stations at Swan Oxbow Preserve and at Six-Mile went very well. Many grateful thanks to all who helped. We had the expertise of Brett Moyer of Pennsylvania (a senior at Carlton College, MN) and Zedd Ruhlen of Point Reyes Observatory, CA. They were contracted by the USFS to help run our two stations and four other stations. Hilary Smith was the MAPS coordinator of all the stations in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Dan Casey did the point counts at the Swan Oxbow and Jane Engebretson, USFS, is doing the habitat descriptions.

At the Swan Oxbow, 97 birds (25 species) have been banded and 29 were same year recaptures (birds banded earlier this season that returned). At Six-Mile, 187 birds (28 species) were banded and 22 were same year recaptures. There were no recaptures from previous years as both sites are new.

The birds were beautiful, and it was an exciting experience to see them and their bright colors in the hand. Swainson's Thrushes were plentiful and we were glad as they are losing ground in some areas. Highlights were identifying Hammond's, Dusky and Willow Flycatchers; seeing a Cassin's and Purple Finch in the same net; seeing my first Western Wood Pewee and a Varied Thrush.

On the home front, 291 hummers have been banded (18 caliope and the rest rufous) and 80 recaptures. I had a couple of old-timers at five years. Overall, rufous numbers were up by about 20 birds from



last year, but still down from 1989 and 1990. This year hatch year males were almost twice as many as last year.

Fall banding will continue through September at both sites. This will provide information on the species using the areas for migration, and it will be interesting to compare the two sites with my previous studies done on fall migrants. Anyone wishing to participate or observe is welcome. We can always use the help. Call evenings at my home, 886-2244.

Elly Jones

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

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		

***9/14/92** - 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: Jeff Herbert, statewide waterfowl biologist with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, will discuss the Montana Waterfowl Stamp and Waterfowl Habitat Program. His presentation, featuring slides, will illustrate waterfowl habitat restoration for which funds from stamp sales are utilized. He will provide information on how improved habitat can increase the number of waterfowl moving through Montana this fall.

***9/19/92** - Swan Valley Logging Field Trip. See page 2 for details.

IT'S BIRD SEED TIME AGAIN. See page 7 for your sunflower seed order form.



The Editor's Spotting Scope

When I told birding friends I was going to spend two months in Michigan, their reaction was: "Oh, warbler country! Aren't you lucky!"

For the first six weeks of my stay the weather was abominable and I did very little birding. I saw starlings and robins on the motel lawn, sparrows in the mall parking lot and rock doves (pigeons) on a stretch of power lines near the freeway.

And then one spring day I found my way to the Woldumar Nature Center. Armed with binoculars, a bird guide book and a map of the preserve detailing a marsh, the Grand River, an old, overgrown farm field and acres of natural woodland. I eagerly followed a trail into the woods. With that variety of habitats, I figured I should be able to add new species to my life list.



Almost immediately I heard them -- the warblers ... maybe. I stopped and scanned the trees. How can they sing that loud and not be spotted? They sounded so near. I walked on and heard more songs. The woods were full of birds, many species, but I couldn't see them. Since I'm not that knowledgeable about bird calls and songs, how could I possibly add to my life list if I couldn't see them to make an identification?

Disappointed, I realized my birding prowess was limited. Then, gradually, it occurred to me that I seemed to have the woods all to myself. Just me and a startled squirrel, a turtle sunbathing on a log in a pond, as well as the many birds I could hear, but not see.

My frustration at not being able to identify anything dissipated as I gave myself over to just being in the woods ... which were full of unfamiliar trees. There were wildflowers galore ... and I couldn't identify them either. But it really didn't matter.

One of those moments of simple insight swept through me as I took a deep breath and strode down the trail in anticipation. You can be curious and desire more knowledge, but you don't have to identify everything in sight in order to enjoy it.

Sharon Bergman

Swan Valley Field Trip Change

The Swan Valley field trip originally scheduled for Saturday, September 12, has been changed to Saturday, September 19.

The field trip conducted by Bud Moore, Swan Valley forester, sawmill operator and wildlands philosopher, will feature a discussion and observation of various forest management systems with an emphasis on low impact, even flow community oriented forestry.

Various forest sites on and near Moore's own property will be visited and a demonstration of his small sawmill operation will be given. Lunch will be eaten at Bud and Janet Moore's home.

Field trip participants will meet in front of the Condon Community Hall, which is near the 42-mile marker on Hwy 83, at 10 am.

Participants should bring their lunch and wear sturdy shoes for a short walk through the woods. Questions regarding the field trip should be directed to Rod Ash, 754-2289.



President's Corner

Ever heard of BIODIVERSITY? You see the word a lot in scientific texts, hear it in the conversations of those who manage land, animals, and fish. It's one of a few major principles that guide our range scientists, wildlife and fisheries managers in the decisions they must make to keep the natural world around us healthy. They know all the intricacies of the term, but for us, in non-scientific language, it just means "KEEP ALL OF YOUR OPTIONS OPEN." The idea, of course, is that the more variety we can maintain, the richer the overall environment and the more those life forms can flourish, not just survive. Flathead Audubon is a club for bird lovers, but we take positions on issues which are not directly "birdy," for exactly this reason. What benefits the wolf or snake or bull trout or bear will likely help birds, too.

Same concept holds true for people, too. After all, we are animals (some of us more than others), and we Audubon members especially tend to live close to the natural world. Consider your Audubon board of directors - we have ages from 20+ to 70+, high school grads to PhD's, business owners, ordinary "working stiffs," and retirees, writers, upper level management types and labor union activists, Republicans, Democrats, independents, undecideds, and couldn't-care-less's, builders, teachers, landscapers, housewives, social workers, and scientists. It pleases me to know that when we go somewhere to testify for FAS, we go with the knowledge that we practice the concepts that we preach. Our biodiversity keeps Flathead Audubon moderate, stable, interesting, and credible.

Our activities are as diverse as our demographics. We've had a busy summer of field trips, meetings, and birdwatching. Paul Rossi, a very capable birder from Columbia Falls, and I, identified 93 species on the June Birdathon (shameless bragging here!), and we were second only to the Caseys, who set another Montana record! FAS is also participating in a one year study of the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, a 400 acre island on the Flathead River. We also worked in a group trip to pull purple loosestrife in Ninepipes ponds and a trip to Helena to testify on wolf reintroduction in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. We've decided to help fund the Forest Watch office in the Woodland Park area and are planning our big fundraiser in September and October - the annual sunflower seed sale. This is one thing the average person can do to promote biodiversity in our feathered friends.

We each have our favorite species - for some, it's quackers, for others bluebirds, or loons, or raptors, or hummers. Where would we be without this great variety of birds to watch? And where would we be without each other, varied as we may be?

Welcome back to Flathead Audubon!

Brent Mitchell





Montana Audubon Council

P.O. Box 595 • Helena, MT • 59624 • (406) 443-3949

Armchair Activist You Can Make a Difference

Montana Audubon is creating an action network that really works. The program, called Armchair Activist, allows you to make your opinions known to legislators and other decision-makers in a timely, effective manner.

Armchair Activist was developed by Thorn Creek Audubon in 1989. It has spread to Audubon Chapters and Councils throughout the country.

The program offers 3 choices of "Armchair Activities" to participate in: Letter of the Month Club, Telephone Rapid Response Team, and Media Master. The Armchair Activist program is designed to make it easy for people to take effective action with a minimum time commitment. Monthly time requirements for each activity are small.

Sign up today! Use the registration form below. The \$6 annual contribution helps with postage and phone calls.

Letter of the Month Club

There is nothing like a torrent of letters to make a legislator respond to environmentalists on an issue. If you enroll in the Letter of the Month Club, each month you will be asked to write a letter on a current issue. You will be given a description of the issue, who to write, what arguments to make in your letter, and a sample letter for you to copy or use as an example. The time required for this activity is only 1/2 hour per month.

Media Master

Once a month, you will be asked to write a "letter to the

editor" or a "press release" about the topic from the Letter of the Month Club. You will be provided with the same material as above, plus media contacts and addresses. The time required for this activity is about 1 hour per month.

Telephone Rapid Response Team

Timely telephone calls to decision makers can win an issue. As part of the Telephone Rapid Response Team, you will be part of a telephone tree and asked to make those critical calls. You will receive one call and make from zero to two other calls, plus the call to the targeted party. The calls will be made on important issues at critical times. The time required for this activity is about 1/2 hour per month.

Armchair Activist Subscription

Yes! Sign me up!

please print

Name _____ Phone (Day) _____

Address _____ (Evening) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Activity (check one or more)

☐ Letter of the Month ☐ Media Master ☐ Telephone Rapid Response Team

Amount enclosed: \$6.00 (helps with postage and supplies)

Mail to: Armchair Activist, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624.



Thoughts on Recycling and Waste Reduction



Recently, the Montana Environmental Information Center held a Montana Community Recyclers Conference. The basic drive behind the conference was to learn what is happening across the state and how we all might work together to find solutions to obstacles. A good cross-section of the communities in the state were represented.

It was very interesting to hear the stories from Ennis and Red Lodge and how they've started up recycling programs. The need for more education was a common theme in all presentations. The Bozeman Recycling Coalition has developed an excellent slide show which gives a factual and practical perspective to the solid waste problems. All had stories with the very common theme of a lot of volunteerism and no markets for the collected materials. There was discussion on whether we need some type of organization to network all the recyclers together. A number of people committed themselves to research ideas and to meet again in two months.

It was all very interesting to learn what others have been experiencing, but what seemed to be missing from the conference was the concept of "source reduction" and how we can make it the driving force behind the handling of solid waste. Many questions on solid waste cannot be answered until more thought and effort are given to concepts of source reduction.

Recycling is part of the solution, but source reduction and reuse come before recycling. This is already part of Montana state law. When newspaper fiber content contains 50% post consumer paper and reuseable bottles are utilized, only then will we be truly on the way to putting source reduction at the head of solid waste management.

Richard D. Cohen

IX-SU-CAPE

Dear Flathead Audubon:

That is as close as I can come to a phonetic presentation of the Blackfeet word for "Thank you". I had the pleasure of attending the Glacier Institute's two-day class, People of the Mountain World. Our instructor was Darrell Norman, an artist and Blackfeet tribal member. For those two days, Darrell and his family shared much of themselves and their culture. We enjoyed a wonderful traditional meal, several field trips, time to visit with Darrell and his family lots of show-and-tell of their personal belongings and arts and crafts and the shelter of a beautiful blue and yellow tipi. I hope to carry the aroma of the cottonwood tipi fire on my sleeping bag for a long time.



"The man who sat on the ground in his tipi meditating on life and its meaning, accepting the kinship of all creatures and acknowledging unity with the universe of things was infusing into his being the true essence of civilization. And when native man left off this form of development, his humanization was retarded in growth."

----Chief Luther Standing Bear

Thank you very much for the scholarship which allowed me to take this course

Sincerely,
Sis Ketcher

Montana Audubon Council To Meet

The Montana Audubon Council meeting will be held in Helena on October 2-4. All Audubon members are invited to attend.

A reception will be held at Sanders Bed & Breakfast, 328 N. Ewing, on Friday evening, 7 - 9 pm. The council meeting will be conducted at the Lewis and Clark Library on Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm, and a banquet is scheduled for The Montana Club at 6:30 pm. A walking tour of historic Helena will be offered on Sunday.

Those interested should contact the Last Chance Audubon Society, P.O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59624.



Flathead Forest Watch

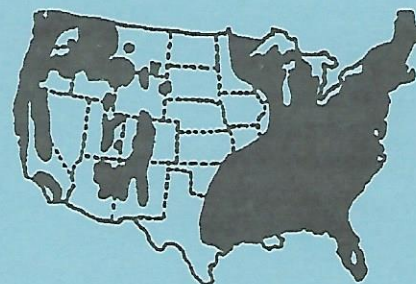
A new Flathead Forest Watch office has opened at the Woodland Center complex, Kalispell, (Suite #8). Workshops on the recently released Old Growth Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a tour of the Flathead Forest Supervisor's Office facility, field trips to proposed timber sales and meetings with Forest and Park Service staff are some of the activities that have kept Forest Watchers busy this summer.

If you have an interest in learning more about how our forests are managed and in getting more involved, contact Rosalind Yanishevsky, National Audubon Society Adopt-A-Forest Coordinator, HCR 69, Polebridge, MT 59928; 756-4489 or 756-7156.

How Auduboners can get involved to help save the future -----

If you don't have the time or inclination to be a volunteer as a Forest Watcher, perhaps you can write a letter to Joel Holtrop, Flathead National Forest Supervisor (1935 Third Avenue E., Kalispell, MT 59901). Any or all of the following comments could be included in your letter of concern about the future of the Flathead National Forest and should reach the Supervisor's office by October 15.

- * The logging of old-growth habitat should not be allowed until a field verified, ecological definition and inventory of old-growth habitat is developed.
- * The highest quality and rarest old-growth habitat should be retained first.
- * Old-growth biodiversity is not outside the scope of the DEIS and must be analyzed.
- * Since Alternative 7 would set aside 20 percent of old-growth habitat, this should be the preferred alternative.
- * It is urged that old-growth NOT be cut below 5,000 feet nor in the Ancient Forest Groves identified by National Audubon Society's Adopt-a-Forest program.
- * Old-growth retention areas should not be allocated to high elevation, poor growing sites, which are already unsuitable for logging.
- * It is recommended that a specific Management Area allocation be created which prohibits logging, road building and snowmobiles in old-growth retention areas.
- * It is requested that maps be provided which show: a) true old-growth habitat; b) areas of old growth that will be cut over time; and c) corridors to connect blocks of old-growth.
- * Old-growth in the Wilderness and high elevation lands are a bonus, and should not be used as a supplement for the rare and more biologically diverse, low elevation old-growth habitat.



Virgin Forests 1620



Virgin Forests 1850



Virgin Forests 1989



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 17 in
Bigfork _____ Kalispell _____ Columbia Falls _____ Whitefish _____ Condon _____
or on Sunday, October 18 in Polson _____

Send check and order to: FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
(due October 10) P.O. BOX 715
BIGFORK, MONTANA 59911

Are you a member _____ or a non-member _____ ?
Would you be interested in organically-grown sunflower seed? Yes _____ No _____

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, October 17 - 18.

Bigfork: Lakehills Shopping Center
Saturday, 10-12 am

Columbia Falls: First Federal Savings
10-12 am, Saturday

Condon: Call June Ash, 754-2289
for arrangements

Kalispell: Kalispell Center Mall west
parking lot, 12 - 2pm

Polson: Super 1 parking lot
Sunday, 12 - 2 pm

Whitefish: Train Depot parking lot
Saturday, 12 - 2 pm

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.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY!

Join today and receive:
A YEAR—6 BIMONTHLY 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.

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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

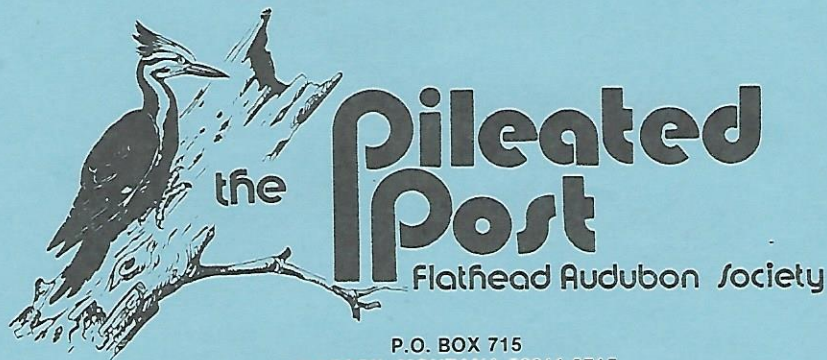
Montana Audubon Council

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.



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SUNFLOWER SEED ORDER FORM
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DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY