



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 7

October, 1992

NEW AUDUBON CAMPAIGN

THE SOLAR BRIGADE hopes to save the planet 170 million tons/year of carbon dioxide by pressuring electric utility companies to convert to 10% solar energy by the year 2000. We are asking people to send a monthly message to their utility company when they pay their bill that says "We want 10% solar in 10 years". This single stroke could wipe out 170 million tons/year of carbon dioxide and help provide a long-term future for wildlife and humans. After Audubon collects the names of these participants and their utilities, Audubon will be in a strong position to negotiate with the utilities about switching more to solar.

Public pressure has worked before - for instance, in launching recycling programs and getting environmentally friendly products in the supermarket. We want it to work again in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) that contribute so much to acid rain, global warming, and the exploitation of precious land.

The Solar Brigade intends to create a national referendum for the safest and cleanest energy available to us - solar. Since the cost of solar technology has dropped 75% in the last ten years, utilities have no excuses. Surveys show that Americans want a cleaner environment, even if it costs a little more at first, because in the long run we all benefit. The voices of a million consumers on behalf of solar can make a huge impact.

The key to this campaign is getting as many people as possible to register their name, address, and utility with Audubon, as well as to send the message WE WANT

10% SOLAR IN 10 YEARS to their utility.
Solar Power + People Power = the Solar Brigade. Act now!

To register and get brochures to distribute, call 212-759-6345, or write Solar Brigade, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.



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

***10/12/92 - 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: Nancy Matheson, Agricultural Program Coordinator of the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), will speak on "**Principles and Practices of Sustainable Agriculture**". Her focus will be on organic farming and its affect on wildlife and habitat enhancement, as well as market constraints. In August, she visited Montana farms practicing sustainable agriculture. She will share developing concepts in this field, illustrating her talk with slides

***10/17 & 18 - Bird seed delivery dates.** See page 2 for schedule.



The Editor's Spotting Scope

Twice in one month I was told by non-birders, who spoke with confident authority coupled with awe, that hummingbirds go south for the winter on the backs of ducks. In my own inimitable way, I decided to investigate and went right to the source; I shamelessly eavesdropped on the hummingbirds themselves.

"Where's Mom and Dad?" the youngest sibling asked.

"They said something about going south the other day and I haven't seen them since," the older one replied.

"Where is south? Are we supposed to go too?"

"Yes, we're programmed for it -- they call it instinct. South is that way, I think."



"So that's what the others were talking about. Okay, let's go find a duck and head south."

"What are you talking about: 'find a duck and head south'?"

"Someone said we have a long ways to go, and since we're so tiny and frail we should get on a duck's back and let them do the flying. Where do we catch a southbound duck?"

"Now wait a minute; stop and think about it. If a duck is flying south, it's in the air and certainly isn't going to spot one of us down here and know we want a ride. If you check out the local ponds for a likely duck and find one, you can't just fly up to the duck and land on its back. That particular duck might not be disposed to hummingbird hauling."

"Well, there ought to be a depot of some kind so that ducks and hummers could be matched up for the southern journey."

"The biggest such obstacle to any such scheme is communication. They don't speak hummingbird and we don't speak duck. We 'chip' and they 'quack' and that makes travel planning difficult."

"It's kinda scary ... the thought of

going it alone."

"You're right, but it's up to each one of us to make it on our own. South is that way. Let's fly out of here. We'll make it."

And they did. And they will.

Sharon Bergman

Don't forget your BIRD SEED !

Sunflower seed orders will be ready for pickup on Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18, at the following locations.

Bigfork:	Saturday , 10 - 12 am Lakehills Shopping Center
Columbia Falls:	Saturday , 1- - 12 am First Federal Savings
Condon:	Call June Ash, 754-2289
Kalispell:	Saturday , 12 - 2 pm Kalispell Center Mall
Polson:	Sunday , 12 - 2 pm Super 1 Parking Lot
Whitefish:	Saturday , 12 - 2 pm Train Depot Parking Lot

Make note of the time and day of your delivery site and don't keep the birds waiting.

Thank You, Loosestrife Pullers !

Did you know that Flathead Audubon adopted the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge as a favored project to be assisted when needed? And did you know that Purple Loosestrife was invading the refuge, a plant that is a scourge to pristine wetlands?

And now you'll know that 16 hardy Auduboners turned out in late summer to hand-pull the pesky plant. We thank you, and the birds and critters that make use of the refuge thank you.

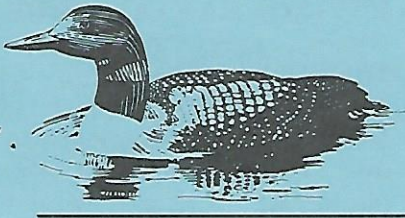




President's Corner

Bird hunters ... that's what we are, plain and simple. The outdoor experience is the same whether we are hunting for a Golden Crowned Kinglet, a mountain goat or a grizzly in Glacier National Park, a red squirrel at the neighbor's feeder or an elk during the big game season. We're all hunters. The difference between the person who hunts "tweety" birds on the birdathon and the one who hunts game birds is in the taking of the prey, the cost to do it and the direct benefit to the species being hunted.

The basic "tweety bird" hunter has expenses of food, books, transportation and optical equipment such as binoculars, spotting scopes and sometimes cameras. The big game, waterfowl or pheasant hunter has the same expenses, but must also include licenses and tags and a firearm or bow. The hunter of game species pays for the conservation of the sport through taxes. These taxes go into habitat projects that benefit all wildlife: deer, mouse, osprey, mallard, skunk, heron, fish and frog.



The licensed hunter pays for conservation (habitat acquisition, population surveys, law enforcement). The bird watchers have fewer opportunities to directly affect the watchable wildlife they seek, but the opportunities are there.

Birders could buy federal and state waterfowl stamps to help purchase or improve wetland habitat. Sunflower seed and suet could be provided to enhance a portion of habitat. Birders can also encourage state and federal agencies (by writing letters) to do habitat restoration. Birdwatchers could do a lot, but to date, the licensed hunter is the leader in direct funding of conservation projects.

What's the point? We are all hunters;

some of us are on the consumptive side of the scale and some (such as Auduboners) are on the non-consumptive side, but we both need each other if the wildlife resource we love is to survive and flourish. Anything we do to improve habitat for a game species will also help several more species of non-game.

Hunting is the pursuit -- not the kill.

Brent Mitchell

Wildlife Habitat For Sale Photographs Needed

Have you seen signs reading "20 acres for sale"? The 20-acre subdivision has been incredibly destructive for wildlife habitat. Developers sell 20-acre plots because those plots are exempt from planning requirements.

One of Audubon's priorities for the 1993 Montana Legislature is to try to get rid of the 20-acre loophole from the subdivision law. We are looking for Audubon members to send us pictures of signs reading "20-acres for sale" from your area. We want to give legislators a photo album showing the signs located throughout the state. Color prints are preferred. Please identify the location of each photograph. Send your photographs to the Montana Audubon Council office.

Meet the Board

(A new feature will be included in this and future issues, putting the spotlight on Flathead Audubon members who serve on the Board of Directors.)



Name: Brent Mitchell
Position: President, 2 years.
Audubon Member: 13 yrs.
Board Member: 8 years.
Originally from: Long Beach, California.
Present home: Kalispell
Employed by: Kalispell School District #5.



Member Of The Month

Sharon Bergman

Q: Under the circumstances, this is a different kind of interview. Tell us a little about yourself.

A: Well, briefly, I was born in Colorado, schooled in Arizona and Montana and married in California. My husband was a rancher and we raised four children as well as a cattle herd. We ranched in California and Montana.

During that time I was a freelance writer and wrote magazine articles, newspaper columns and a book on the history of the Flathead Reservation. When the marriage dissolved, I got into a career with the Women's International Bowling Congress at national headquarters in Wisconsin, which provided challenging opportunities for writing, travel and friendships throughout the country. I retired four years ago and returned home to Montana.

Q: How did you get into bird watching?

A: It was a gradual process. As a child in Arizona I seemed to absorb knowledge about quail, buzzards and roadrunners. In Montana, I loved camping and hiking in the Mission Mountains and my love of the outdoors spawned an interest in the birds and animals around me. While in Wisconsin, I took up photography and eventually found my way to the Horicon



Wildlife Preserve in October, where the Canada geese start to stage for their trip south.



It's a sight never to be forgotten and became an annual trek for me. I'm not an expert bird watcher by any means, but it just has to be a part of my life, regardless of where I am.

Q: When did Flathead Audubon enter the picture?

A: As my interest in birding grew in Wisconsin, I subscribed to the Audubon magazine. When I retired and returned to Montana, I learned there was an Audubon chapter in the area and began attending the meetings. That lead to

taking part in the field trips and the Christmas bird count and I found that being actively involved made the membership more worthwhile. Two years ago, Leo Keane gave up the editorship of the newsletter and I agreed to give it a try. I've been at it ever since.

Being elected Member of the Month is a distinct honor of which I'm very proud. However, I'd a lot rather be the interviewer than the interviewee.

POPULATION GROWTH - AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM

Almost every environmental problem is driven by population growth. Thus, Audubon cannot ignore population issues no matter how much some would say that this is "someone else's issue". The rainforests in Brazil would not be slashed were it not for poor people spilling out of ghettos. Closer to home, the Bear River in Utah is being eyed for development because of the assumption that the metropolis in the Salt Lake Valley "must grow".

Last Year, in India, I saw poor farmers "poaching" grass from national parks to take home for livestock feed. Humane people cannot deny others a livelihood, but it is obvious that family planning must be available to all who want it. Women feeding families understand the concept of resource limitation, even if governments do not.

Audubon is seeking federal funding for United Nations Family Planning Programs that have a proven track record. The U.S. has withdrawn this funding in the past due to squabbles over China's programs, even though the funds do not go to China's 1-child project.

Excerpt from Power of the Grassroots by Alice Lindahl, Conservation Chair, Bridgerland Audubon Society, Logan UT. Article appeared in Dec. '91 Issue of Audubon Leader.



Conservation Notes

Elections Provide a Great Opportunity

It is time for conservationists to put their money and votes where their mouths are. Folks who feel strongly about the vital importance of maintaining a healthy environment, and who wish to protect habitat and biological diversity, frequently complain that our elections and politicians seldom give much emphasis to environmental issues and, thus, not much choice. Well, that excuse for lack of interest and involvement certainly doesn't exist in this election in either the nation or the state.

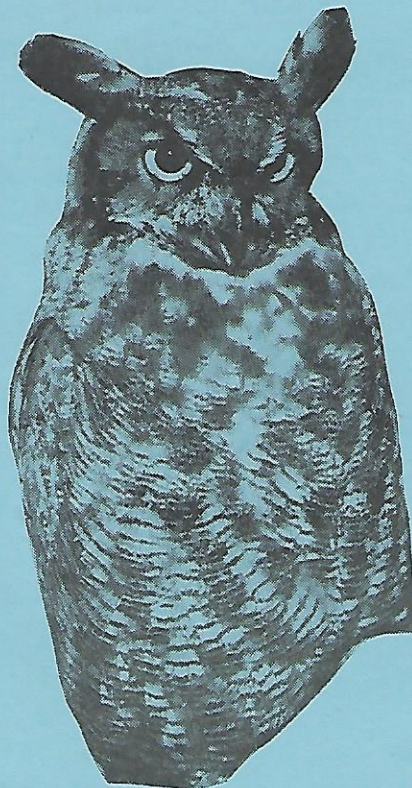
Candidates for president, Congress, governor and the state legislature are taking clear and differing positions on conservation issues and many have established records on these issues. It appears to me that if the environment really matters to us, as an underlying element for most aspects of our lives, then we have a once in a generation opportunity to choose government leadership which is knowledgeable about conservation and related scientific issues. This is leadership which would place a real priority on the quality of the environment.



It is an exciting prospect that we could break away from the polarization and stagnation of our recent environmental politics where so much of our energy is spent in negative ways. We deserve leadership which will develop coherent policies and programs that will merge environmental and economic considerations based on acceptance of the fact that the future of our economy and quality of life depends upon the securing of a high quality environment. One cannot be sacrificed for the other.

However, the fact is that conservationists will have to take an active role in the national and state election campaigns if the tremendous opportunities are to be realized.

Rod Ash



Birdathon '92 Results

In 376 Birdathon events across the country, National Audubon raised \$1,367,000 (as of July 31). Our Flathead Audubon Chapter raised \$800.00, half of which goes to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and the other half stays in the valley supporting the Audubon Adventures programs for schools and other Audubon programs.

ROCKY MTN REGIONAL CHAPTER WINNERS and amount raised:

Under 299 membership		300 - 999 membership	Over 1,000 membership
1st	Arkansas Valley, CO \$2,438	Northern Arizona \$4,409	Tucson, AZ \$21,172
2nd	Last Chance, MT \$1,086	Prescott, AZ \$4,374	Maricopa, AZ \$ 4,292
3rd	White Mtn, AZ \$ 804	Yellowstone Valley, MT \$4,017	No entry

Our chapter competes in the middle category for Birdathon awards, and while we continue to set records in the number of species seen, we are still working on ideas to get the fund raising efforts higher. The two Flathead Audubon Birdathon teams for 1992 were:

1. President Brent Mitchell and Paul Rossi, who saw a very respectable 93 species in the Flathead Valley (anyone who doubts how hard it is to break the 100 species barrier needs to try it themselves); and 2. Jim Rogers/Sherry Jones and Dan & Susannah Casey, who combined Birdathon with a Big Day* effort to see 174 species. This record breaks the 1991 Montana staterecord set by Ed Harper by 12 species. The Casey/Rogers/Jones Big Day involved nearly 20 hours of birding and 350 miles of driving.

*Big Day - An official American Birding Association competitive birding event. A Big Day must adhere to the following rules: It must take place in a 24 hour period, no mechanical means of calling or stimulating birds is allowed, and all participating parties must see 95% of species counted.



Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS

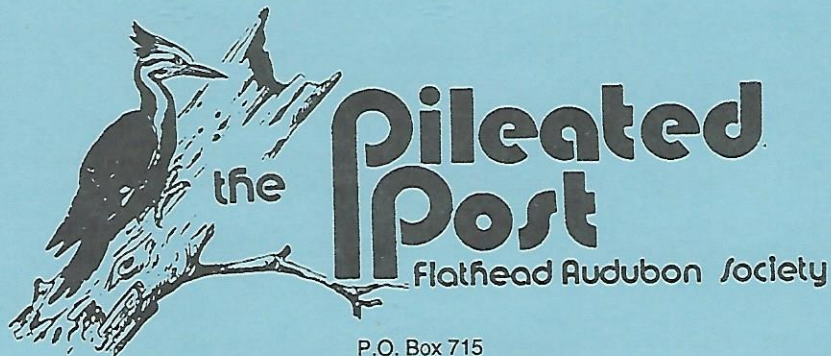
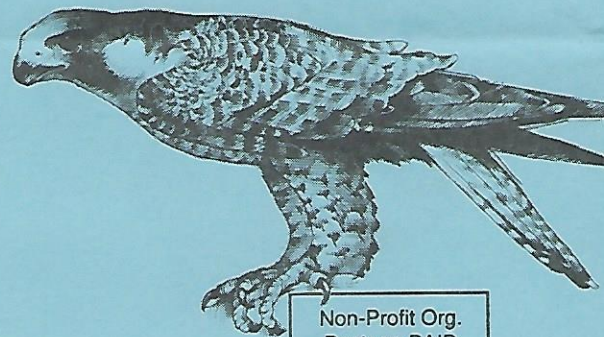
President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130
Vice president	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Secretary	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Treasurer	Holly Butlett, 2825 Farm to Market, Kalispell, MT	257-2025

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, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1311
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	OPEN	
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



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