



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 8

November, 1992

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

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29	30					

***11/9/92 - 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 p.m.; Program - 8 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Program: The speaker will be Bill West, Assistant manager of the National Bison Range. His topic will be **"Purple Loosestrife in Flathead Valley Wetlands and The Prospectus for the Five Valley Wetland Project in Montana."** (The latter was co-authored with Joe Ball of the Montana Co-op Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana.) It is a proposed Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Project, North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The presentation will be illustrated with photographic slides.

President's Corner

What a great time for an opinion poll. Everybody has an opinion about something or an idea that needs trying. If you're already an Audubon member, you don't even need to register, but you'll need to invest in Audubon to the tune of 19¢.

It's the postcard project again. A time when you can jot down your ideas for improvement of Flathead Audubon Society, projects you'd like to see done, directions you'd like the chapter to go or constructive criticisms of the organization. This is participatory management at work for you, the member.

In the past, several excellent postcard suggestions have been implemented by the executive board. By request, projects and changes were enacted because you wanted them. For 19¢, you can help bring about change or help us stay the course. What's your pleasure? Send your card to me (address on back of the newsletter) and I'll tabulate the responses.

Fundraisers? More publicity? More travelogue-style or issue-related programs at the meetings? Training sessions on forestry BMP's? Beginning wolf howling lessons? Let's hear it!

By the way, how do you like the direction that the AUDUBON magazine is taking? For me, I'd like more articles on the positive aspects of Audubon activities and interests instead of articles meant to "shock" the reader.

Brent Mitchell

Assistance Needed

How would you like to be involved with passing the word about the fun of bird watching?

Jean Robocker, who is in charge of presentations to school classrooms and civic and fraternal clubs, needs some assistance. She has slides, illustrations and bird skins to make a presentation interesting and all you would have to add would be enthusiasm and a desire to pass along a little knowledge about our feathered friends.

If you have the time and think it's worth a try, give **Jean** a call at 756-6344.



The Editor's Spotting Scope

Last month I went to a class reunion in Arizona and when I left, my mind spun not only with thoughts of seeing old classmates, but with the birding possibilities. Maybe, just maybe, I could add to my life list.

I was immediately thrown into reunion activities, starting with a homecoming game, and birding had to wait. The next day, though, I was lucky enough to spot a wild parrot from my friends' back yard. I also watched three species of doves (rock, mourning and white winged) who claimed the neighborhood as their territory. The next two days were filled with reunion and I had to settle on watching the hummingbirds that came to the backyard feeders and listening to the doves.

And then we planned a trip to the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, which is located in the Sonoran Desert. I eagerly got out my bird book, binoculars and walking shoes, and I was ready. This is migration time and there should be a lot of interesting birds at the arboretum. Let's go!

It was 90 degrees and the sensible birds did not put in an appearance. An occasional cactus wren fluttered by and a lizard without a tail crossed the trail, but for the most part we had to be satisfied with observing the interesting cactus and succulents that grew in great abundance everywhere.

And then the trail wound uphill and a sign indicated we were approaching a small lake. Now! This is it: water and the birds it should attract! I hurried with anticipation to a lookout post. There, across the small lake, I spotted something in the reeds. I refocused the binoculars, but still couldn't identify the bird. Then I heard a sound to my left and swung around in time to see two water birds placidly cruising, clucking to each other. More swam into view.



I couldn't believe it! There were six water birds altogether. I had traveled from Montana to Arizona and thence to the Arboretum to spend special time watching -- American Coots!

But it was a special time. You forgot about the heat and the scarcity of other birds as you watched the coots enjoying their stopover. It made your own stopover worthwhile, and that's what bird watching is all about.

Sharon Bergman

Meet The Board

(This new feature puts the spotlight on Flathead Audubon members who serve on the Board of Directors.)



Name: Leo Keane
Position: Vice president, 2 years.
Board Member: 7 years
Originally from: Mankato, Minnesota.
Present home: Whitefish.
Employed: Self-employed as home building contractor.

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!



Member of the Month

Patti Brown

Got Her Start. "I'm from California ... Santa Monica. Yes, there it is: I was a Californian. In the 1960's I studied social science at Berekeley and in the 1970's got my degree in wildlife biology at Humboldt State, but I didn't put my education to work. The education enhanced my hobbies, but when I worked, it was usually in the health care field. In those days I was more interested in interacting with people than in managing wildlife."

Got into Birding. "I started watching birds when I was inspired by a zoology professor. I was excited about birding because my teacher was so enthusiastic and excited about it. That was catching and a natural for me."

Got Married. "Neil and I met in Fairbanks, Alaska while on a bird-watching field trip. He'd been working in Alaska for several years and I had been there about a year. On our first date, we got together at 5 a.m. to go bird watching. In about two weeks, we decided to get married and a few months later came back to the lower-48 and had the wedding."

Got to Montana & Audubon. "Neil and I wanted a place that wasn't too far from family and yet had a good quality of life. Having lived near the Pacific Ocean most of my life, I wanted to be in an area that had lots of water. When we saw Bigfork, we knew we'd found the right place because it was the most beautiful and had everything we asked for."

About seven years ago, being new in town, we wanted to meet people, and when we saw an item in the paper about a Flathead Audubon meeting, that seemed to be a good way to get started. The bird seed distribution project was our first involvement of any kind in the community, and we loved it -- still do. For the Christmas Bird Count, we canoe the Swan River and it's a kick. There's an element of excitement involved and no one else on the bird count does it."

Patti was asked to serve as the

Hospitality/Sales Chair person two years ago, and her outgoing, friendly manner has added another dimension to the monthly meetings, where she serves the membership in her own inimitable fashion.

Dedicated to her community and the world around her: Patti Brown, Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month.

Feed the Birds

NEW YORK (AP)—An apple pudding is pleasing to birds because it's sweet, and is good for them because it's rich in fat, Helen and Dick Witty say in their book "Feed the Birds."

Apple Pudding

Season: Cool or cold weather, but acceptable all year.

Feeder: Bag, basket or suet holder, can or pans.

Method and Time: No cooking except to warm fat; 10 to 15 minutes.

Yield: About 2 1/4 pounds.

2 cups rendered suet, bacon fat or lard

3 cups chopped apples including cores and seeds

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup chopped raisins

3 cups dry crumbs (bread, cake or cookie)

1 cup rolled oats

1 cup peanut butter

In a skillet or saucepan, warm the fat until pourable. Meanwhile, stir together the remaining ingredients. Gradually add the fat to the fruit mixture until a sample just holds its shape when squeezed.

Press into muffin cups fitted with paper liners, or pack into a loaf pan or square baking pan lined with plastic or foil. Clean tuna or cat-food cans can also be used (no need for liners). Chill until firm.

To serve: Hang one or two muffins without the liners, in a mesh bag, or put in a suet holder. Or tack cans to a post or tree.

To store: Refrigerate, wrapped, up to three days. Freeze up to a month.

In the environment
every victory is temporary,
every defeat permanent.

Thomas Jefferson

**1992-93 AUDUBON ADVENTURES PROGRAM FOR GRADES 3-6**

THE AUDUBON ADVENTURES program, sponsored by National Audubon Society, stresses hands-on activities that help students' understanding of nature and how they can be involved in its protection. The cost per class of 32 students is \$30 for 6 issues of a special students' newspaper and a teacher's guide, published bimonthly during the school year.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A CLASS OR CONTRIBUTE TOWARD ONE?

If so, fill in the form below and mail to Kim Davis, Audubon Adventures, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901. Make your check payable to Flathead Audubon Society

___ I would like to contribute \$___ toward the AUDUBON ADVENTURES program.

___ Enclosed is my check for \$30 to sponsor an AUDUBON ADVENTURES class.

My school preference is _____, grade ____.

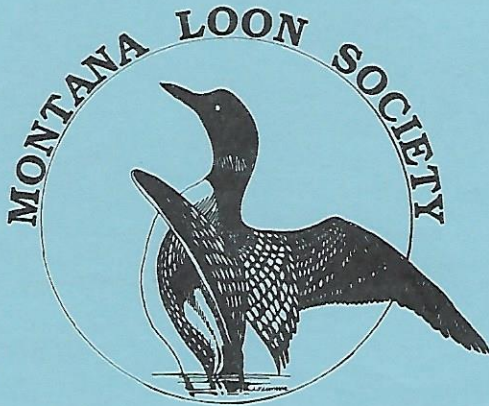
Signed: _____

WILDLIFE WATCHING AND OUTDOOR ETIQUETTE

(Tips from the Colorado Division of Wildlife)

Observing and photographing wildlife is a rapidly growing hobby that usually causes little disturbance or harm to the animals. However, people should view wildlife responsibly. In most cases the harm that people cause results from the energy required for wildlife to move away from a perceived danger. This is particularly true during the spring and summer nesting period when human disturbance can cause nesting failure. Follow these suggestions to help minimize disturbance to wildlife:

- * Observe animals from a safe distance. Get close-up from afar by using binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto camera lenses. You are probably too close if the animals are looking at you with heads up and ears pointed towards you, or are "jumpy" when you move or make a noise. If you see these signs, sit quietly, or move slowly away until the behavior changes. Be sensitive to adult animals with young.
- * Move slowly and casually, not directly at wildlife. Allow animals to keep you in view; don't surprise them.
- * Chasing or harassing wildlife is unlawful.
- * Leave pets at home. Pets hinder wildlife watching and may kill or injure wildlife.
- * Respect others who may be viewing the same wildlife. Approaching too closely will ruin everyone's opportunity for natural, relaxed photographs and observations.
- * Most wildlife (particularly most mammals and all waterfowl) should not be fed. When you feed birds at a feeder, make sure you feed clean, appropriate food at appropriate times.
- + Respect private property; ask permission before entering.
- Ⓜ Do not park your vehicle so that it blocks others.
- * Resting is critical time for most animals; don't force or encourage them to "do something" for you or your camera. If you spot a nesting bird, back off rather than flush it from the nest.
- * Avoid using bird recordings to attract birds during the nesting season; this may interfere with natural breeding.
- * Avoid animals that behave strangely or abnormally.



10/18/92

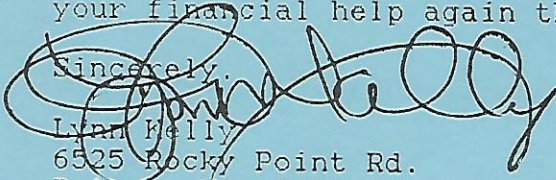
Dear Audubon Friends,

Thank you so much for the financial support you extended to me to cover mileage costs while I conducted common loon surveys on the Thompson Chain of Lakes. As you may know, Champion International donated its lands surrounding these lakes to the State of Montana. The Montana Loon Society is part of an advisory council designed to develop management plans for these lakes which stretch from McGregor Lake to Loon Lake along Highway 2 to Libby. Baseline data on the loon population and territories are needed to insure that campgrounds and boat ramps are not placed in sensitive nesting or nursery areas. The information gathered by myself, Marj Swanson and Don Skaar will be part of an Environmental Assessment which will be used by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to determine how the area should be managed.

While I found several loons early in the spring, only one brood of two chicks was raised on the entire Thompson Chain of Lakes during 1992, despite excellent habitat availability. Spring observations will intensify in 1993 in hopes of finding nest sites and protecting them with floating signs in order to help fishermen avoid disturbing incubating loons. At that time, volunteers will be needed to meet recreational users at the boat ramps to educate them about the reasons for protecting nest sites. If anyone would be interested in doing that, please contact me.

The Montana Loon Society is hoping to increase its own treasury through the sale of T-Shirts (\$10.00) and hats (\$8.00) so that we won't have to keep asking the generous folks in the Flathead Audubon Society for funds. If anyone is interested in these items drop me a line. All the funds will go towards Common Loon research and management. In the meantime, thanks again, for your financial help again this year.

Sincerely,


Lynn Kelly
6525 Rocky Point Rd.
Polson, Mt. 59860
883-5797



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	Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
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

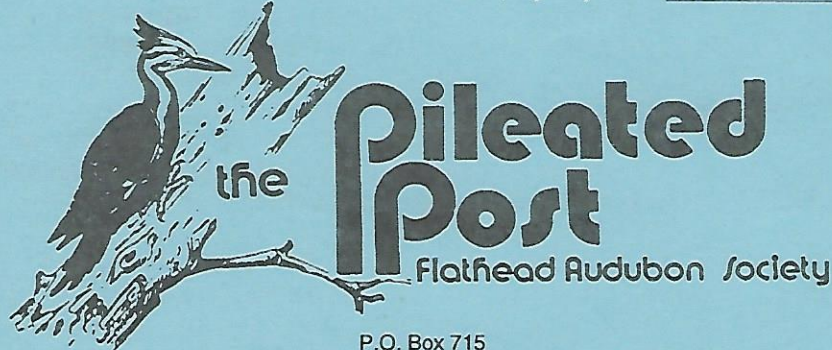
Office - Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

443-3949

Montana Audubon Council To Meet

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 meeting is 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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