



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17

Number 9

December, 1992

1992 Christmas Bird Count

The annual Flathead Audubon Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 12, 19 and 20, and bird counters are urgently needed in all of the designated areas. The bird count is a great opportunity for birders to possibly add to their life lists.

Following are the dates and contact points for the various count areas.

12/12 - Libby Area Count. Meet at the 4 B's by 8 a.m. Contact Marge Swanson (293-5330).

12/19 - Troy Area Count. Meet at Harry Smith's (101 E. Riverside) by 9 a.m. Contact Harry (295-4029) for more info.

12/19 - Bigfork Area Count. Arrangements will be finalized at the December 14 membership meeting. If you plan to participate, come to the meeting or call Dan Casey at 857-3143 (evenings) or 752-5501 (days).

12/20 - Ninepipe Area Count. Meet at the Countryside Cafe (formerly Ruby's), south of Ronan by 7:30 p.m. Contact Dan Casey for details, if needed.

The annual Christmas Bird Count began at the turn of the century when a birder by the name of Frank Chapman initiated the first count on Christmas Day. It is now sponsored by National Audubon and has become a Christmas holiday tradition.

The data generated by the national count is very significant, establishing the movement of wintering birds and providing early warnings of declining species.

You don't have to be an expert to be actively involved in the bird count. Those in charge will pair you up so that your assigned team can be affective. Plan to take part in this traditional highlight of the Audubon calendar, regardless of your birding skill level.

Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER						
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	

***12/14/92 - 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

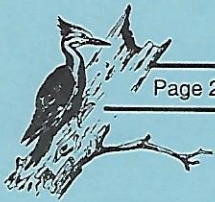
Electric Avenues, Bigfork. Business Meeting - 7:30 p.m.; Program - 8 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Program: Tom Ulrich, world traveler and internationally recognized wildlife photographer and author, will give a presentation on **"Birds and Animals of the World"**. Tom recently visited Argentina, Australia and Alaska and will include his magnificent slides in this special holiday program.

***12/12, 12/19 and 12/20 - The Xmas Bird Count.** See adjoining news item for details.



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO
ALL!



The Editor's Spotting Scope

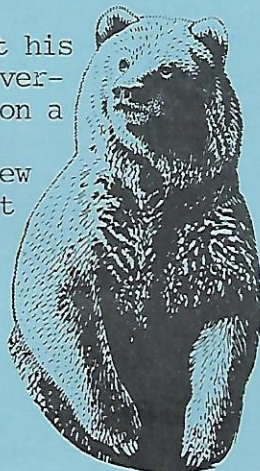
The bear is gone. It was a young one that had become a nuisance in the neighborhood in early fall.

This is known as 'bear country.' Years ago someone complained about a bear that was a frequent visitor searching for food and was told in no uncertain terms, "You knew this was bear country when you bought the place, so what did you expect!"

In the Big Arm area, bears often swim across the bay from the mainland to one of the islands, Cromwell, Wild Horse or Melita, and when they leave after exhausting the food source, they frequently swim back and land in the backyards of our neighborhood. Many of us have apple trees, choke cherries and other bear delectables, so our yards are natural bear cafeterias. Most of us don't deliberately entice them with garbage and such, but the natural bear cuisine brings them in to stay until den-up time, or until too much damage is done and someone calls for a bear trap.

I'm one of those who purposefully chose a place that wild creatures would frequent. Although the raccoons and squirrels are a nuisance, the deer don't respect a fence line, and the bear does as he (or she ?) pleases, I'm here to live with it, make the most of it and enjoy them.

This particular bear left his calling card several times overnight and, while I was away on a trip, he stripped the apples from the trees and broke a few limbs in the process. So what else is new? You could expect that. I had watched him one afternoon and managed to get his picture (with a zoom lens, of course), so I felt that we knew each other.



But now he's gone and his leaving saddens me. He didn't head into the woods and den-up when it was time. Civilization caught up with him. He was struck by a pickup truck on the highway.

We were willing to co-exist on his terms, but he couldn't make it on ours. That is really our loss.

Sharon Bergman



Thanks To You

A special Flathead Audubon thanks to Greg and Nancy Warner for sponsoring an Audubon Adventures class.

You, too, can be a part of the Audubon Adventures program, which helps students understand nature and how they can be involved in its protection.

Contact Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901 (755-1311) and he'll be more than happy to accept your \$30 donation.

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

—Paul Rossi—

Paul Rossi is fairly new to birding. Four years ago, when his family lived in Cutbank, he put out some twigs and then watched with fascination as a cedar waxwing made its nest from the building materials provided. He was hooked and has been a dedicated bird watcher ever since.



Paul Rossi is getting a start in many facets of his life. He is a ninth grader at Columbia Falls High School. His mother is a reading teacher and his father is a choral director in the Columbia Falls school district. In addition to birding, Paul's other interests include stamp

collecting, playing the French horn and singing in the choir.

The family moved to Columbia Falls three years ago and Paul continued birding with bird feeders in the yard and occasional trips to Glacier Park to add to his growing life list. Encouraged by his family to pursue his birding interests, he began to attend Flathead Audubon meetings, with Mom acting as chauffeur. His knowledge of birds increased and his skill as a bird watcher proved to be beneficial to Flathead Audubon when he began to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count.

"I've done two bird counts and also the Birdathon," he commented, "and I plan to be on the Christmas Bird Count this year. I really enjoy it here. It's a great place, and not just for the birds."

The next generation coming right along: Paul Rossi, Flathead Audubon Member of the Month.



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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW NATURAL STUFF?

1. The Blue Whale is the largest animal in the world. What was their population before modern whaling? a) 35,000, b) 60,000, c) 150,000, d) 250,000. And today? a) 75 - 200, b) 200 - 1,000, c) 3,000 - 5,000, d) 10,000 - 12,000.

2. Which bird's bill is almost as long as its body? a) Whimbrel, b) Magnificent Hummingbird, c) Long-billed Dowitcher, d) none of the above.

3. The Endangered Species Act comes up for renewal in a) 1992, b) 1993, c) 1995, d) 2000.

4. Nicknamed "Butterball," this sprightly duck loves ponds and bogs near coniferous forests. He is also the smallest duck in North America. a) Ruddy Duck, b) Least Scaup, c) Bufflehead, d) Cinnamon Teal.

Trivia answers: 1. d) and b); 2. d), Long-billed Curlew is correct; 3. a); 4. c).

Meet The Board

(This feature spotlights Flathead Audubon members who serve on the Board of Directors.)



Name: Robin Magaddino
Position: Director, Past president.
Board Member: 12 years.
Originally from: Vallejo, California.
Present home: Bigfork.
Employed: Self-employed as Biological Consultant; also arts and crafts.



MONTANANS INDUCTED INTO NEW HUNTING HALL OF FAME

Formal establishment of a Montana Hunting Hall of Fame at the Montana Hunting Heritage Banquet Saturday, September 26, 1992 in Helena saw 13 Montanans honored for their efforts on behalf of wildlife conservation and hunting, some for more than three decades.

Receiving awards for 1992 were: Lifetime Achievement Award, Bob Cooney and Jim McLucas of Helena; Young Hunter of the Year, Jeff Pippin of Glasgow; Conservationist of the Year, rancher Steve Page of Glasgow; and Hunter of the Year, co-winners Dan Jacobs of Kalispell and Hal Slemmer of Billings.

Another seven Montanans were honored upon establishment of the Hall of Fame by being named "Founding Inductees" into the hall for their long-time efforts as hunters and conservationists. They are: Don Aldrich of Missoula and Roger Fliger of Billings, both of whom are deceased; Florence and Ken Baldwin of Bozeman; Howard Copenhaver of Ovando; Winton Weydemeyer of Fortine; and Jack Whitney of Bigfork.

Each was presented with a plaque commemorating the induction. A large plaque listing all Hall of Fame inductees will hang on permanent display in the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters in Helena. The awards were presented by Dale Burk of Stevensville, executive director of The Hunter's Alliance, who served as chairman-coordinator of Montana's 1992 Hunting Heritage Week.

*-Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
News Release (10-2-92)*



In The Field With The VP

Most of my fall birdwatching is done while hunting. Somehow, birdwatching alone doesn't drive me to leave hearth and home when that cold November wind shoos the leaves away and rain rattles the roof. Hunting does though. In fact, come November I joyfully abandon hearth, home, wife, dog and, on a good day, job for a day afield out on the edge of a cold front. Lucky for me too.

With gun and knapsack and nothing but the fullness of open hills before me, I'm free as a red-tail.

Or if there is a freshening breeze and the sky's half blue, half white with swirling clouds, I'll feel the quickness of widgeon. Concealed among cattails out on the big lake I'll dream of them coming, flock upon flock like long ago, the rush of their wings like jets.

Another day may bring a lowering sky and the first snow. I'll hunker into junipers, cold and anxious, waiting for deer. A solitaire arrives, flutters on a branch, and quietly sings.

Sometimes November strikes like the slap of a hand, catches you in the middle of a word. Snow geese. Hear it? Tumbling with the wind, a tremolo of wild voices tossed on currents of air. This is the big cold front, rolling off the arctic like a wave, boiling with geese. And I'm caught in the middle of it all--the wind, the cold, all this exuberance of life.

That's why I go hunting. These are the moments I'm hunting for. Together they weave a lifetime of experiences as rich and intertwined as nature itself. And if nature is created new with each season, hunting is even more than being there, it's being a participant in the act of creation.

Leo Keane



Dear Loon Watchers:

The Montana Loon Society now has T-shirts (Hanes) and hats with the MLS logo (seen below) available for sale...just in time for Christmas. All money received for these items will go toward managing the common loon in Montana. If you are interested in ordering, please fill out the following order blank and return to Montana Loon Society at the address given below. Thank you for your interest and contribution to Montana's loons.

Sincerely,

Lynn Kelly
6525 Rocky Point Rd.
Polson, Mt. 59860



ORDER BLANK

T-Shirts: (Please indicate desired size and color)

Juvenile	Youth	Adult
\$8.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
(sizes 2-7)	(sizes: sm=6-8; med=10-12 lg= 14-16)	(sm, med, lg, X-lg)

White ____
Yellow ____
Aqua ____
Pink ____
Light Blue ____

White ____
Yellow ____
Aqua ____
Pink ____
Light Blue ____
Tropical Pink ____

White ____
Yellow ____
Aqua ____
Pink ____
Light Blue ____
Ecru (Beige) ____
Silver ____

Hats:

Summer Mesh Baseball Cap for \$7.00. (All of the following colors have a white front panel): Please circle the desired color.
AQUA, GOLD, ROYAL BLUE, RED, BLACK, GREY

Winter Baseball Cap for \$8.00. (All of the following colors have a white front panel with foam insulation): Please circle the desired color. AQUA, GOLD, ROYAL BLUE, RED, BLACK, GREY.

Poplin Caps for \$8.00 (All cloth hats): Please circle the desired color. LIGHT BLUE GREY WHITE RED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
Street Address Town State Zip

PHONE _____

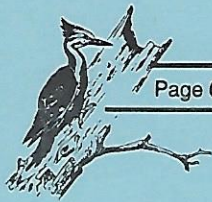
AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

POSTAGE AND HANDLING (\$2.50) _____

FOR THE FIRST ITEM AND AN ADDITIONAL 0.50 FOR EACH ITEM THEREAFTER

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MONTANA LOON SOCIETY



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, PO Box 1105, 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

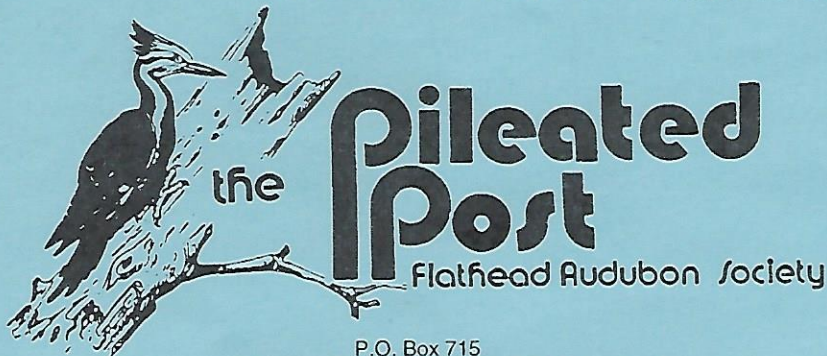
Montana Audubon Council

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 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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