



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17 18

Number 1

January, 1993

President's Corner

What a positive time of the year! I'm positive that we'll have some positive changes locally, statewide and nationally.

The elections will result in positive changes. The Dept. of State Lands will be headed by a strong advocate of Best Management Practices -- that's positive. The Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks will be headed by a, as yet unnamed, director -- a change here will be positive. Nationally, the chances are much better that a renewed Endangered Species Act will be forthcoming -- that's positive. Statewide, a politician lost and wolves won -- that's positive.

Locally, the Flathead Forest Watch is alive and well. Look for more positive Audubon involvement there.

The Christmas Bird Count, held on one of the crummiest days (weatherwise) turned out an impressive group of positive people to monitor the Flathead's bird populations. Over 70 species were observed. That's positive.

A strong effort to help change the subdivision laws will be made in 1993. This will help us keep the best spaces and better guide the growth in the Flathead. That's positive.

The Nature Conservancy will be opening a Flathead office and that, too, is positive.

Sunflower seeds are still available. It could be a very snowy and cold winter and the birds may need more than usual. If you, or someone you know, need seeds just let me know. I'm positive we can sell a few more bags.

As the new year begins, let's not sell ourselves short. All the positive changes in directions, actions and activities are not just outside of Audubon.

Every monthly meeting sends me home with a smile on my face, thinking of our upbeat group. Everyone contributes something positive: part of the program, technical expertise, fundraising help, a new bird seen, a plate of cookies, smiles. What a rich group we are! And that's so positive.

Brent Mitchell



Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

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
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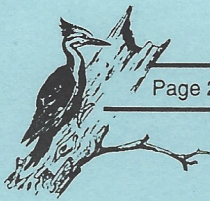
***1/11/93 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting**
5 pm, at the Bigfork Inn Bigfork. Open to all those interested.

Regular Monthly Meeting: United Methodist Church, Commerce and

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

Program: Marty Watkins, District Manager of Lone Pine Park District of the Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, will give a presentation on "The Thompson Chain of Lakes." In 1990, Champion International handed over 4,000 acres (including 26 lakes along US Highway 2, between Libby and Kalispell for state park use. Ms. Watkins will illustrate the significant wildlife and recreational areas with slides and discuss the consultants' recent recommendations for use of the area.

Members of the audience will be encouraged to ask questions about the land use. They will also be encouraged to write their state legislators regarding potential use of the land and their concerns.



The Editor's Spotting Scope

Sunday Journal. Up at the crack of winter dawn (which really isn't too early) and watched a light snowfall begin to fill in the previously shoveled paths to the bird feeders. Pulled on winter paraphernalia and headed out with broom in hand. (How did the birds manage before we birders came along?) Swept away the snow and exposed the sunflower seeds that had fallen to the ground from the feeders. On the way back to the shed for more feed, made note of the tracks in the snow then got my morning constitutional by shoveling the paths again.

After breakfast, sat at the desk and cogitated about the newsletter column; made the mistake of looking out the window at the feeders. Chickadees, nut-hatches, juncos, sparrows, hairy and downy woodpeckers; oh, there's a Steller jay, and look at that flicker acting like the feeder is his own personal roost. Where did the morning go?



Made up a batch of glob from a combination of peanut butter, cornmeal, rolled oats and a dab of bird seed. Put some of it in the special glob feeders (chunks of wood with holes drilled in them), then pulled on winter paraphernalia and hung out the feeders. The woodpeckers accept this glob as their own special feed and give me a scolding when the feeder runs out. (Why do I allow a woodpecker to dictate to me?)

Back to the desk and cogitation ... and staring out the window. Hrrrrrrrr. I wonder if a piece of plywood leaned at an angle over the ground feed would keep the snow off and give the ground-feeding birds a little more protection from the elements. Pulled on the winter paraphernalia again, found a piece of plywood and leaned it against the feeder posts -- a sort of bird leanto. Threw a handful of seed under the protective cover and went back to the house.

I'll cogitate later; right now I need to see if the birds will accept the

leanto. They do! They do! They're pecking all around under it. (I wonder if the raccoons will climb on the leanto tonight. Their curiosity usually leads them into or onto most of my projects.) My gosh, look at the Cedar Waxwings coming in.

What happened to the afternoon? Actually, when spring breaks, I'll be able to say 'What happened to winter?' Thanks to the critters and my feathered friends, we'll get through it together in great style.

Sharon Bergman



EcoFacts:



Every year we dispose of 24 million tons of leaves and grass clippings, which could be composted to conserve landfill space.

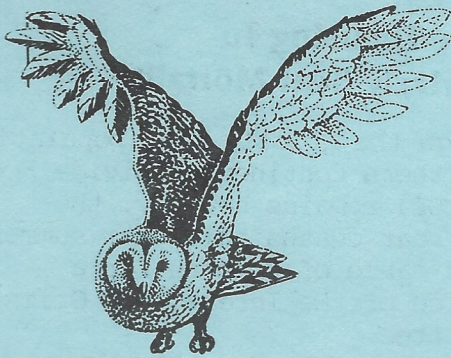
The challenge to conserve is best met by those who know and love what they are called upon to save.

Meet The Board

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



Name: Ferne Cohen
Position: Director, Co-Program Chair
Board Member: 3 years.
Originally from: Rochester, New York
Present home: Whitefish.
Employed: Retired Vocational Counselor; now an Audubon Activist.



Member of the Month

—Bob Ballou—

It seemed like Bob Ballou was always there when you needed him. He served on the Flathead Audubon board of directors for nearly ten years, starting in 1984 as Co-Conservation Chair. He served as the Refuge Chair in 1986 and again from 1990 through 1992, and was a director from 1987 through 1990. President Brent Mitchell described him well when he said, "Bob added a professional depth to the board."

Born in China of missionary parents, Bob's career choice was that of a refuge biologist. He worked for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and at the time of his retirement was the Director of Refuges of the Western Region.

As a volunteer Auduboner, he was one of the first presidents of the Montana Audubon Council and during his years of service was the instigator of the Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund. He worked unstintingly for the good of Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge and led the way when the refuge was adopted by the Flathead chapter. He and his wife spent their winters in the south, as volunteers at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico and the Kofka Wildlife Refuge in Arizona. He was an active member of the Wildlife Mitigation Advisory Committee, providing his expert opinion in addition to his personal concerns for the environment.

Yes, Bob Ballou has been a valuable asset to Flathead Audubon and we're really going to miss him. He and his wife recently sold their home in the Charlo area and moved to Missoula, and our loss will be the gain of Five Valleys Audubon. Bob Ballou, Flathead Audubon Member of the Month; we couldn't let him go without recognizing the contributions he's made to our organization and to the environmental concerns of the area.



Trivia

Some More Bird Trivia

How did you do last month?
Too hard? Okay, try these!

1. The smallest nesting bird in North America (one-tenth of an inch) is also a dazzling courter. Name this casanova of aerial display.
2. "Edibles" for this member of the woodpecker family include fence posts, utility poles, barn sides, house eaves and an occasional tree. It's also happy on the ground. ???
3. They remind one of a porcelain statue--but are definitely not delicate. Thriving on rocky shores and mountain streams, these ducks are known for their ability to walk on stream bottoms.
4. The first wildlife refuge, off Florida's coast, was set aside to save a gull-like bird. Identify this large fisherman, who can plunge to depths of 70 feet.

Trivia answers: 1. Caliope Hummingbird, 2. Flicker, 3. Harlequin Duck, 4. Brown Pelican



Welcome To Those New Among Us



Bigfork: Shaunda Lester, Susan Morrow, M/M Edward Springer, Karen Vogel, Helen Christensen and Mary Caye Ward. Columbia Falls: Milo Anderson, Cathy Clark, Pat Estenson and Dorothy Hamilton. Donna Peck of Charlo; Deborah Newman and Sharon Delong of Eureka and Katherine Gallagher of Fortine; Don Schnitz of Condon. Kalispell: Warren Alexander, Robert Ball, J. Conboy, James Dettman, Pat Dunnan, S. R. Egleston, Ruth Garber, Shari Gregory, E. Honnerlaw, Michael Keedy, William Krause, Daniel Loween, Becky Madison, Frances McCambridge, Steve Oliver, Carolyn Oneil, Ruth Quist, Paul Sharrick, John Stebbins, Lois Thielen, James Till and The Wargos. Steve Herms of Kila. Marilyn Chestnut of Lakeside and Kathleen Bruner of Lake McDonald. Libby: Laura Adams, Don Clark, Pete Cubberly, Charles Gring, Shirley Jokela, J. R. Rose and Greg Stickney. Jocelyn Clise of Marion and Gayle Smith of Martin City. Richard Thomason of Pittsburgh, PA. Polson: Jerry Berner, Elaine Corrigan, D. Page, Kim Ridge and William Tusick. Mary Brown of Marion; Robert Bowlus of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Cher Sider of Ronan and Joan Renne of Rollins. Anita Jones of St. Ignatius, Gary Saindon of Somers, James Kilroy of Rexford; and Vivian Curran and Linda Phillips of Thompson Falls. Troy: D. Bargo, Peggy Baxter, Sheila Mullen, Linda Owen and the Troy Public Schools. Monica Jungster, McClelland and Julie Steinkopf of West Glacier. Whitefish: Doug Betters, Hugh Conklin, David Keith, Kathy Relf, Estelle Shirley, Terry Clayton, Richard Smith, David Stewart and Trudy Voisin.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Committee Focusing To Reduce Grizzly Bear Mortality

Although the grizzly bear population in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) remains healthy, the number of bear deaths this past summer is a major cause of concern for a subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

Joel Holtrop, Flathead National Forest supervisor and chairman of the NCDE subcommittee, said that most bear deaths resulted from management actions in response to bears in proximity to humans. And say wildlife officials, bears reach that point of vulnerability because of attractants, usually in the form of food.

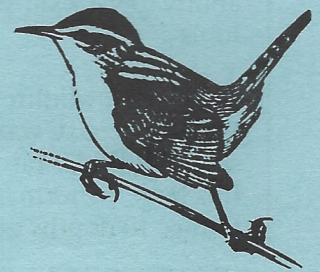


A team of wildlife officials and researchers who met recently in Great Falls, reviewed a listing of areas in the ecosystem which have attracted bears in the past.

"Some of these sites have attracted bears to areas close to humans," said Holtrop. This proximity and the resultant habituation of the bears resulted in the bruins being removed from the area as a prudent management action. Over the next few months, the subcommittee will be developing measures to reduce attractants and the potential bear mortality risks they present within the NCDE.

BE LIKE THE BIRD by - Victor Hugo

Be like the bird, who
Halting in his flight
On limb too slight
Feels it give way beneath him,
Yet sings
Knowing he hath wings.





Montana Audubon To Concentrate On Subdivision Law

Janet Ellis, program director for the Montana Audubon Council, recently emphasized that getting Montana's subdivision law changed is the council's top priority this legislative session.

The coming legislative session marks the 20th anniversary of the state's law and those interested in lobbying to change it are mustering their forces now. Leading the way is Carter Calle, a University of Montana graduate student hired by the Montana Audubon Council to research the law. "The statement that Montana is the Last Best Place is not some kind of phrase coined up by the tourist industry," he said. "I think there is something unique about Montana, with so few residents and so much land, and I think we're threatening that with the subdivision law."

The law was created in 1973 to regulate the division of land, prevent overcrowding, protect the environment and guarantee proper construction of roads and buildings. However, three exemptions have limited the state's ability to regulate the sale of subdivision land and these exemptions are a cause for concern. The exemptions include allowing the sale of one division of land in a year, which permits a developer to break a 20-acre tract into 20 single acres by selling one acre a year; the gift or sale of a division to a family member, allowing a developer to break up land by selling it to relatives, who could then sell it again under occasional sale.

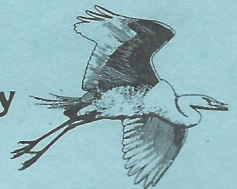
The exemption which concerns Audubon the most is the 20-acre exemption, which provides that land divided into parcels of 20 acres or larger does not come under state review. Calle commented in an interview with The Missoulian that the most popular areas for development are going to be streamsidings, valleys, besides mountains. He said, "Those are also areas that hold the greatest

diversity of flora and fauna."

Unregulated development in rural areas could damage wildlife, and Audubon would like to see government regulations in those areas. In order for that to happen, the subdivision laws must be changed.

As many as four drafts of new subdivision laws are being composed for the coming legislative session, Janet Ellis commented "but Audubon is not ready to back any one of them yet. The council is most interested in getting those interested in changing the law to talk about it."

National Audubon Society Membership Application



Enjoy full National Audubon Society benefits - and AUDUBON magazine, as well as PILEATED POST newsletter.

Choose the category rate from the following:

Special new-member rate	\$20	[]
Student	\$20	[]
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Supporting	\$100	[]
Life	\$1500	[]
Dual Life	\$2000	[]

Mail to: Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 715
Bigfork, MT 59911

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Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____





Flathead Audubon Society Directory

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	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
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	Neil Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

Montana Audubon Council

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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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Flathead Audubon Society

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