

Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 17 18

Number 2

February, 1993

President's Corner

Getting together and pulling together. New administrations and new ideas are dominating the political scene both nationally and within Montana. The biggest job for the leaders may be in trying to get people of diverse backgrounds and philosophys to work together. It's usually a big job - to get folks to work together to solve common problems ... but not if you're in Flathead Audubon; and not if you want to be involved. We get together and pull together at every meeting. We set realistic goals and explore ways to achieve those goals.

What's the secret? Respect for other's opinions and ideas; a willingness to talk about possibilities and, perhaps, an understanding that for every problem there are a number of correct answers.

Our financial planning meeting will be completed by the time you read this newsletter. We will have pulled all our ideas together to make sure our priorities, financial and otherwise, are in the proper order. We will decide if we can continue to help finance the Forest Watch office; if we will again offer scholarships to Glacier Institute; how much money will be dedicated for natural history books in school libraries and we will plan our seed sales and estimate how much can be raised in a Birdathon.

All this and more will be accomplished in a 3-hour meeting of the 20 chapter leaders ... a diverse group pulling together to make things happen.

Would you like to be a part of this leadership team? Stay tuned, get involved. We would like new ideas, new possibilities

and new perspectives. You can help by volunteering to run for an office or by sharing your ideas. You call - we'll listen. Our phone numbers are on the last page of this newsletter. Let's hear from you.
Brent Mitchell



Mark Your Calendar

FEBRUARY

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					

***2/8/93 - 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: Lou Albershardt of Whitefish will give a presentation on "**Antartica: A Place of Wonder.**" She has spent the majority of the last five years in Antartica as an employee of an independent general contractor for the National Science Foundation. Her presentation will include slides from McMurdo Station and South Pole Station, featuring her wildlife observations and recreational activities.

**** See page 7 for information on a series of meetings concerning the future of the Flathead Valley.**



The Editor's Spotting Scope

Birding is a continual evolvement. As time passes, your knowledge increases subtly and you may not ever be an expert, but your enjoyment of the pastime is enhanced.

I have friends who can recognize and identify a bird just by its call (song, chirp, whatever). Others can spot a bird in flight or perched in a tree a quarter of a mile away and tell the species instantly, if it's an immature or adult and, if pressed, whether it's had a morning meal.

I'm not that good. When I spot a bird, it has to be a male adult (no immatures, females, third cousins or hybrids). It must dally long enough for me to focus binoculars, give it close study and allow enough time for note-taking and/or field guide referencing....unless it's a Canada goose, in which case I recognize it instantly - male or female.

During the past month I had to make a round-trip to Missoula five days a week, so I issued and took up my own challenge - birding by car. I was on a schedule so that meant no stopping, no binoculars, no field guide ... see it, make an identification and go on down the road. It also meant don't hit anyone and don't run off the road.

Two absolutes were quickly established: 1) I could start any daily count with hawks, ravens and magpies; and 2) there are a lot of hawks to be seen between Ronan and St. Ignatius. Since it was my count, I could determine the standards for it, so the criteria included an overall species count and a hawk count.



When I started, the hawks couldn't be judged as I couldn't tell a Red-tailed hawk from a Rough-legged one.

I counted them as one specie, but that sent me to the field

guide when I got home for some serious study. After several days, I could recognize the Red-tailed Hawk. (I also came to realize that the huge bird in the tree near Ninepipe Reservoir with the white head and big beak was not a hawk ... it had to be a bald eagle! Yeah! A bald eagle!)

My awareness became more acute. I could spot hawks, not only on power poles, but in nearby trees -- hunkered over, fluffed out, ever on the alert for a movement in the field under the snow.

My birding savvy improved (and the count went up) as I began to note bird habitats: a pond fed by a warm spring that harbored a flock of mallards and later produced a heron; geese and gulls congregating near the Polson bridge. A tree by a creek surprised me with a Kingfisher and a billboard in Missoula could usually offer a flock of pigeons.

The goal each day was for a better count than before and it grew from 5 species, 13 hawks to 9 species, 24 hawks. Obviously, I didn't see the same species every day (except for the hawks, ravens and magpies), but the overall total for a 3-week period was 18 species, noted from a car moving down Hwy 93, without a stop and without hitting anyone or running off the road.

Birding by car made those daily trips palatable and improved my birding skills. Now, if I could just learn to recognize flocks in flight, I could better that species count.

Sharon Bergman

1993 Waterfowl Stamp

Darrell Davis of Helena is the winner of Montana's 1993 Waterfowl Stamp competition. His rendition of a pair of Harlequin ducks backdropped by the rushing waters of a mountain stream was selected by a panel of judges from 16 entries in Helena on November 5. Davis entered Montana's competition for the first time this year, after moving here from Oregon. Previous to this award, he was the winner of the 1987 and 1992 Oregon Wild Trout Stamp/Print competitions as well as the 1988 Oregon State Waterfowl Stamp contest. Ducks Unlimited named Davis the Pacific Flyway Artist of the Year for 1991-92. All proceeds from sales of the Waterfowl Stamp will go towards habitat protection and enhancement.

- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks



Christmas Bird Count Results

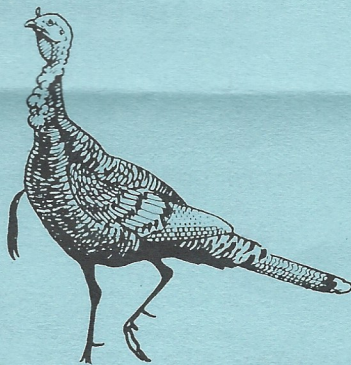


The weather wasn't the greatest, but the bird count was deemed a success. In the Bigfork area, 74 species, plus 3 others during count week, were tallied with a total of 8,933 individual birds being spotted. These totals approximated Flathead Audubon's 10-year average of 75 species and 9,358 individuals.

Twelve field parties, composed of 34 people, fanned out across the designated count circle, in addition to 4 backyard feeders that were monitored.



For the fifth year in a row, the all-time national high count for wild turkeys was broken with a total of 681. (Last year's previous high was 611.) Our high counts for the following species were tied or broken: Tundra Swan - 233; Green-winged Teal - 2; Blue-winged Teal - 1; American Wigeon - 60; Canvasback - 150; Wild Turkey - 681; Greater Scaup - 304; Black-billed Magpie - 135; Common Raven - 186; Snow Bunting - 50 and House Finch - 95.



At the Ninepipe Count, four parties made up of nine volunteers accounted for 58 species and 5,876 individuals. The highlights included a Peregrine Falcon; 112 Rough-legged Hawks; a Double-crested Cormorant; 17 Great Horned Owls; 9 Northern Goshawks and 2 Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks.

Kudos to Dan Casey for carrying the organizational load for both counts.

Member of the Month —Gail Leonard—

Raised in Savona, New York, Gail Leonard looked westward when a decision had to be made about her college education. "I was looking for adventure," she commented, "and thought I could find it in Montana. I chose Montana State University because I was interested in social work and could get that college major at MSU."

Following graduation, she became a social worker in the Libby area and her job required a lot of travel. Although she was not too familiar with birds or birding, she wanted to break up the monotony of travel and birding seemed to be the obvious course of action to follow. She joined the Kootenai Bird Club to learn more about birds and become more adept at recognizing them.

In 1982, Gail attended an Audubon Regional Conference which was conducted at Yellow Bay. She had a good time, met interesting people and it resulted in her joining the Flathead Audubon Society. Later, she and Leo Keane were introduced by mutual friends and quickly found their first common interest was birding. Other interests were developed and Gail and Leo were married four years ago.

Currently, Gail teaches special education to pre-schoolers at the Muldown Elementary School in Whitefish. She remarked, "I really enjoy the five-year olds. I like the way they look at the world."

"I guess my favorite species is the Harlequin duck," she responded when asked. "I usually see them at Avalanche Lake where the snow melt comes in at McDonald Creek. They are so striking, I really get excited when I see one."

Previously serving as the Field Trip chairman for two years, she is currently into her third year as secretary of the local chapter. Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: Gail Leonard; she came west seeking adventure and stayed to serve.



Still Need Bird Seed?

50-pound bags of oiled sunflower seed are still available for \$16/bag. Call 756-8130 for complete information.

Summer Employment at Audubon Camps

Qualified individuals with teaching experience in a wide range of natural science subjects and ecological disciplines are sought to become part of the prestigious staff at one of Audubon's Camps or Workshops. Programs run for approximately 8 weeks from mid-June to late August; positions include salary plus room and board at sites in Connecticut, Maine, or Wyoming. Student Assistant position for college-age students are also available. Interested persons should send their resume to:

Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops,
National Environmental Education Center, NAS,
613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831



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	[]
Individual renewal	\$35	[]
Foreign	\$24.50	[]
Family	\$38	[]
Senior Individual	\$21	[]
Senior Family	\$23	[]
Sustaining	\$50	[]
Supporting	\$100	[]
Life	\$1500	[]
Dual Life	\$2000	[]

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____

TEMPORARY POSITION--ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR/PLANNER

Western Montana College of The University of Montana seeks a person with environmental education/interpretive skills to develop and promote a hands-on education/interpretive program for school teachers and their classes at the College's Birch Creek Nature Center located in the Pioneer Mountains of Southwestern Montana. Bachelor's degree in education or the natural sciences required; advanced degree preferred. Applicants with hiking/outdoor education skills as well as experience in developing environmental education curricula and/or interpretive guides for teaching children in the outdoors will receive preference. Anticipated duration of employment 6-9 months beginning March 1993. Monthly salary \$1500 plus benefits, including single/shared housing May-October. Applications should be received by February 15 including cover letter, resume with names, addresses and phone numbers of three (3) references. To apply, or for more information, contact Dr. Jack Kirkley, Math/Science Division, Western Montana College, 710 South Atlantic, Dillon, MT 59725-3598 or phone (406) 683-7321. This position is funded, in part, by a \$6000 grant from the USDA Forest Service under a 50% cost share agreement within its Natural Resources Conservation Education Program. Western Montana College is an EEO/AA employer.



Conservation Comments

Hope for Change. As the new year progresses there is real hope that major changes will be made in dealing with environmental issues. President Clinton has nominated two strong conservationists to key environmental positions: Carol Browner at E.P.A. and Bruce Babbitt as Secretary of Interior. Vice president Gore is one of the nation's environmental leaders.

However, conservationists should realize that President Clinton is a consensus builder. He will insist on efforts to reach common ground. Browner recently said that it is time to move away from adversarial relationships toward consensus building ones. Thus, while it is clear we have good friends in high positions, it is also clear that conservationists will not always get their way.

The need to keep and develop good jobs will be an imperative for the new administration. As we seek to protect natural values, conservationists will also need to be more aware of community values. At Clinton's economic conference, Gus Speth of the World Resources Institute said that we need to find strategies which will advance both sustainable economic development and environmental protection. "We must reach a level of trust which will allow for more flexibility."

The economic conference gave other signs of hope and opportunities. The Dow Chemical C.E.O. said (surprisingly) that the cost of production should include all costs of pollution and that polluters should not be permitted to escape the costs of their actions. The C.E.O. of Pacific Gas & Electric argued that the development of a national energy efficient system would result in enormous job creation of 500,000 to 1,000,000 jobs. The head of a capital investment firm urged the insertion of environmental concerns into trade negotiations. "Environmental scoundrels should not be allowed level playing fields with environmental good guys," she said.

Such positions taken by business and industry leaders give great encouragement that we can make good progress in solving major environmental/economic problems.

In Montana, Governor Racicot's natural resource appointments appear to be good ones. Bud Clinch (formerly with the Montana Logging Ass'n.) at the Department of State Lands may not always agree with all our positions, but he will give us a fair hearing. Clinch has worked cooperatively with Audubon leaders on forestry best management practices.

Patrick Graham (a career department employee) at Fish, Wildlife & Parks has expressed a desire in the past to work with Montana Audubon members. Graham has said that funding for Montana state parks will be the department's main priority during the state legislative session. That fits in well with Montana Audubon's concerns.

All in all, the signs indicate the possibilities of real progress toward solutions of major conservation problems. Perhaps 1993 will be a good year for all concerned.

Rod Ash



Snowy Owls in Snow Montana

According to The Missoulian, snowy owls moved into western Montana with the arctic storms this winter. A pair of snowy owls have hunted voles in the fields near Pablo Reservoir for several weeks, since the strong arctic fronts dropped into the region. Wildlife researcher Denver Holt commented, "Snowy owls are very uncommon in western Montana." Their appearance is testimony to this winter's harsh cold and to an apparent abundance of voles in the Pablo and Ninepipe Reservoir area.

Flathead Audubon member Dan Casey reported that two snowy owls were also spotted in the Kalispell area.



Priceless Cradle of Evolution Can Be Saved

by Bob Witzeman, MD, Maricopa A.S.

The University of Arizona/Vatican/German Mt. Graham telescope project in Arizona is probably the only peacetime project ever exempted from all US environmental law, including NEPA, NFMA and the Endangered Species Act. Lawyers for the University, using affidavits submitted by two Jesuit priests (with Vatican approval) are in court against the Apaches declaring this is not a sacred mountain. The director of the Vatican observatory went a step further in a recent letter from Castel Gandolfo. He said that environmentalists and the Apache people who have earth-based religions are a type of "religiosity which must be suppressed with all the force we can muster."

Write your U.S. Congressperson (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) or Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510) and ask that all telescope construction be stopped until environmental studies are undertaken. Points to make in your letter:

1. There has never been an EIS written on the project now under construction.
2. The red squirrel's endangered species study was found to be flawed by a Congressional oversight hearing and by a General Accounting Office Study.
3. University lawyers in their Apache lawsuit argue that Congress exempted them from all cultural and religious protection laws plus all environmental laws. This was the result of a rider University of Arizona lobbyists slipped in during the final hours of the 1988 Congress. Ask Congress to introduce legislation clarifying the fact that it never intended to courts to construe such blanket exemptions from that rider.
4. Mt. Graham is a cradle of evolution having 18 unique plants and animals. After glacial recession 10,000 years ago, the tiny 400-600 acre spruce-fir (Hudsonian) summit became critical in that evolution. The telescopes would destroy or fragment one quarter of that ecosystem and threaten its species and evolutionary integrity.
5. Write your local bishop and ask him how, in this day and age, one church can oppress the religious beliefs of another church.



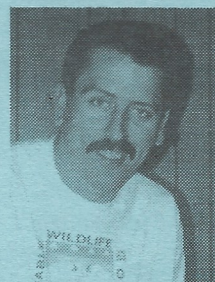
Salmonellosis Warning

Last spring many birds were found dead at feeders in Sanders County, Montana and Bonner County, Idaho. The National Wildlife Health Center in Madison tested five of the birds and found the cause of death to be avian Salmonellosis, possibly from contaminated feeders.

Disease control at bird feeders can be accomplished by maintaining clean feeders and removing spilled and soiled feed from under the feeder. Occasional disinfection of the feeder with 10% solution of household bleach in water is recommended. Storage of food in rodent and insect-proof containers should also be part of the prevention program.

Meet The Board

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



Name: Dan Casey
Position: Field Trip Chair.
Board Member: 3 years.
Originally from: New Jersey.
Present home: Somers
Employed: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.



"Creating a Shared Vision: Achieving a Sustainable Economy"

Thursday 7:00-9:00 February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4, 11, 1993

Flathead Valley Community College, Learning Resource Center, Room 123

Sponsors:	Associated Chambers of Commerce	Flathead Lakers
	Citizens for a Better Flathead	Flathead Valley Community College
	Flathead Audubon Society	The Glacier Institute
	Flathead Basin Commission	Montana Logging Association
	Flathead Economic Development Corporation	Montana Wood Products Association
	Flathead Green Alliance	

Series Facilitator: **Lex Blood**, Flathead Valley Community College
 President, The Glacier Institute
 Introduction: Recap of Statewide Vision Report

February 4 *"Elements and Implications of Economic Sustainability."*
 Tom Power, Chair, Economics Department,
 University of Montana

February 11 *"A Global and Regional Ecological View of Sustainability."*
 Speaker to be announced

"The Federal Land Manager's Role in Attaining Sustainability."
 Gil Lusk, Superintendent,
 Glacier National Park
 Joel Holtrop, Supervisor,
 Flathead National Forest

February 18 *"The Role of Private Industry in a Sustainable Economy."*
 Charles Grenier, Vice President,
 Plum Creek Timber Company
 Mike Collins, President, CEO,
 Winter Sports, Inc.

February 25 *"Economic Diversity - A Key Element in a Sustainable Economy."*
 David S. Harrison, Executive Director
 Northwest Policy Center, Seattle WA.

March 4 *"Native American Perspectives on Development and Sustainability."*
 Salish-Kootenai Tribes
 Blackfeet Tribe

March 11 *"The Role of Land Use Planning and Growth Management in Attaining a Sustainable Economy."*
 Speakers to be announced

As part of regional economic and social trends, northwest Montana, particularly the Flathead region, is undergoing rapid changes in its economic base, population demographics, and social expectations.

Beset by rapid population growth and development, shifts in employment patterns from raw-material-related industries to service sector jobs, and fragmentation of traditional community social and cultural patterns, residents are struggling to develop a vision of the future in keeping with the historically slower pace of life and physical beauty of the region.

The purpose of this discussion will be to explore the concept of a sustainable economy and to consider the concept's applicability and the possible economic, social, and cultural implications to the Flathead area.



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 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904	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	Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Rd, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
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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Flathead Audubon Society

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