



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 18

Number 3

March, 1993

Badger-Two Medicine In Peril

Oil and gas development threatens the wild mountainous Badger-Two Medicine area of northwest Montana. It covers some 130,000 acres bridging Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Great Bear Wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service and several oil companies have wanted to explore the area and they are opposed by a coalition of Blackfeet tribal members and Montana citizens. However, as a final act of the Bush administration, The Bureau of Land Management issued exploration permits to Fina Oil Company.

What you can do to protect the

Badger: Write to Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, asking him to rescind the recent BLM Record of Decision which approved the Fina well in the Badger roadless area, and to protect the area until Congress has determined its long-term management in legislation.

Bruce Babbitt, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

Also, write to members of the Montana congressional delegation. Ask them to urge Secretary Babbitt to rescind the BLM decision and to introduce legislation immediately to protect the entire Badger-Two Medicine area as wilderness.

All three members of the congressional delegation supported wilderness study status for this area because it is the largest unprotected component of the Glacier/Bob Marshall Ecosystem, its significant wildlife habitat and its value to the Blackfeet Indians for their traditional religious and cultural practices.

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

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		

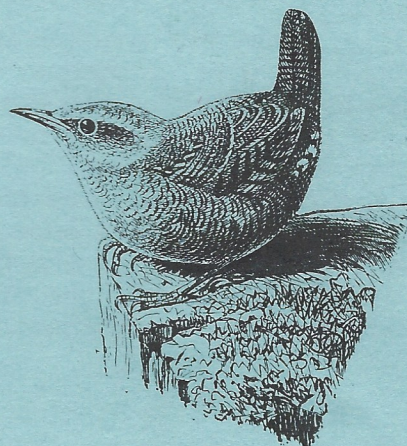
***3/8/93 - Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, 5 pm, at the Bigfork Inn. Open to those interested.**

Regular Chapter Meeting: United Methodist Church,

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

Program: Doug Follett, a naturalist with the National Park Service at Glacier Park, will be the featured speaker and his subject will be **"Through the Years in Glacier Park - a History."** Mr. Follett taught history in Columbia Falls and worked in public relations with the Bureau of Reclamation at Hungry Horse Dam.

Jean Cooney Roberts, of the Montana Audubon Council, will be a special guest (See page 2 for details.)





The Editor's Spotting Scope

"What do birds eat?" a new acquaintance asked, knowing that I'm an Audubon member.

My mind spun rapidly on how to answer. She was being nice and trying to get a conversation started, but her question raised an unasked question for me:

"What kind of bird did you have in mind?"

At various times I have seen birds eat insects, road kill, other birds, fish, mice, berries, nectar, worms, seeds and spaghetti. But if I blurt out, "Oh, different birds eat different things, like road kill, fish, mice and spaghetti," she is apt to gasp, turn on her heel and leave, thinking I am one Audubon member who should take up another hobby.

There is no simple answer. There wasn't time to even barely touch on Nature's way of keeping things neat and tidy with birds: the barn swallows swooping and swirling for their insectual food; the magpies, ravens and raptors keeping the highways cleared in their quest for a meal; the jays, who will eat just about anything, including spaghetti or other household refuse; the gulls who work the waterways and sanitary landfills in a noisy manner; the owls and hawks who go for mice and voles, splitting the night shift and day shift between them; and so many, many others.

Actually, if my new acquaintance had just thought for a brief moment, her mind could have brought forth childhood memories of the times she had seen birds eating many different things. Although she didn't care to pursue more knowledge of birds, she probably knew more than she thought she did; and if she had first consulted her memory bank, she might have asked me another conversation-opener



instead, like "What do you think of Clinton's economic plan?"

But she didn't, and rather than launch into a lengthy response that might sound like an excerpt from a biology lecture, I blithely commented, "I really enjoy the birds at my backyard feeders. They go for sunflower seeds, a peanut butter concoction and suet balls."

"Peanut butter and suet?" she asked in a strained, non-believing voice.

Well, maybe I should have told her about the diet of magpies and ravens after all.

Sharon Bergman

Grass Roots Organizer To Visit Chapter

The newly-appointed grassroots organizer for the Montana Audubon Council will visit with Flathead Audubon chapter and board members at the chapter meeting on Monday, March 8.

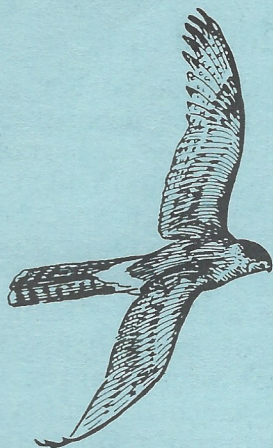
Jean Cooney Roberts was hired by the state council as a result of a grant from the Liz Claibourne/Art Ortenberg Foundation. She will be working with the nine Montana chapters to help meet chapter needs and to increase grassroots Audubon activism in local communities.

Roberts will meet board members at their meeting prior to the regular chapter meeting. She will also participate in the chapter meeting and talk with members.

Board and chapter members will be able to provide the new staff member with ideas for ways in which she can help them meet chapter goals.

A major task facing Roberts in her new position is to assist chapters in protecting wildlife and habitats within their areas. She will be in support of efforts to work within communities toward wildlife goals and to provide sound conservation education.

Rod Ash



Hawk Watch Scheduled

The annual Hawk Watch at Rogers Pass is scheduled for March 10 through 20. Visitors are encouraged to watch the hawks with Hawkwatch International. Rogers Pass (Hwy 200 out of Lincoln) is home to abundant wildlife and is an ideal location for observing migratory raptors. During the fourth year of spring observations near Rogers Pass 1,299 Golden Eagles and 170 Bald Eagles were noted.

For further information, contact John Haskell (549-8563).

Flathead Forest Watch Concerned About Proposed Beaver Lake Timber Sale

The Montana Department of State Lands recently announced a proposed major timber sale in the Stillwater State Forest in the area of Beaver Lake, Murray Lake, Woods Lake and Rainbow Lake, some five miles north of Whitefish. The proposal includes construction of 2½ miles of logging road to harvest a 2,500-acre area over a 2-year period. The proposed project has generated major concerns for the residents of the Beaver Lake area, the community of Whitefish and the Flathead Forest Watch.

Beaver Lake is a biologically diverse and environmentally sensitive area which provides educational and recreational opportunities to the general public and has an impact on the resident's quality of life. The major concern is that the logging would have a significant impact on the recreational opportunities, old-growth forest groves, lush wetlands, wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as hunting and fishing.

The Department of State Lands has been urged to complete a full Environmental Impact Statement and to offer a broad range of alternatives that fully protect the environmental values of the proposed area. A public hearing on the issue was also requested.



Meet The Board

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



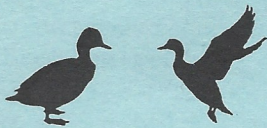
Name: June Ash
Position: Membership Chair
Board Member: Since 1987.
Originally from: San Jose, California.
Present home: Swan Valley/Condon.



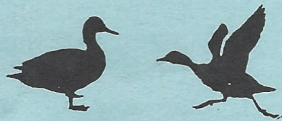
Recycled Paper



BETTER BIRDING



Marsh and Pond Ducks spring directly up when taking flight.



Bay and Sea Ducks run along the water when taking flight.



Mergansers fly with bill, neck and head in a horizontal line.



Egrets and Herons fly with their necks folded.



Cranes and Ibises fly with necks extended.

Earth Day Continued . . .

Earth Day is scheduled for April 22, 1993, and a meeting of sponsors, exhibitors and interested organizations, businesses and individuals will be held Monday, March 1, in the Community Room at the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kalispell.

Citizens for a Better Flathead is the new sponsor of Earth Day, '93. Jan Metzmaker of that organization will co-ordinate the Earth Day activities with Flathead Audubon's Ferne Cohen. Gateway West Mall will host exhibitors and other related activities from April 21 through 25. Participation of over 50 donors of funds and services is anticipated.

Citizens for a Better Flathead has active committees on transportation/roads, land use and waste watchers. The organization's objectives include:

1. to encourage the protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the Flathead Valley;
2. to encourage development consistent with our very reason for living here: the enjoyment of the spacious, pristine beauty, clean air, clean water and abundant natural resources;
3. to generate the information and encourage the public participation that is necessary for sound land-use planning decisions.

For further information on Earth Day, '93, contact the co-ordinators: Jan Metzmaker (862-7960) or Ferne Cohen (862-2028).

Welcome To Those New Among Us



Barbara Weld, Big Arm; Susan Hitchcox and David McMullen of Bigfork; Jerry Riebe, Kalispell; Tom Donahue, Lakeside; Philip Tanimoto, Libby; Cindy Nowlin and Gladys Robinson of Polson; Lloyd Soderstrom, Thompson Falls; and Ben Cohen, Tracy Dewan, Tim Jones and Paul Lamb, all of Whitefish.



Member of the Month

—June Ash—

June Ash was born in San Jose, Calif. "when there were more fruit trees than people," as she put it. She was introduced to the outdoors at an early age when her father would take the family to the mountains and leave them there for the summer. From that point forward, camping was a part of her life. She was introduced to birding by her brother, when he earned a birding badge as an Eagle Scout. Polio struck when June was 16, but she did not allow it to deter her from her major interests.

She met husband Rod at the University of California/Berkeley, and her life continued outdoors. They spent the second summer of their marriage as fire lookouts in the Libby area.

"We settled in northern California," June commented, "where we raised chickens, squad pigeons and four kids." She became the Conservation Chair for a local garden club and was instrumental in developing a town park, receiving several conservation awards. She and Rod were charter members of the Audubon chapter in Richfield, California.

"In my working career, I was mainly with youth groups in organization and training programs and was a coordinator for substitute teachers for a number of high schools. I did considerable volunteer work in the community ... for many years a fulltime occupation."

The outdoors continued to call and the Ash family spent their summers camping all over the northwest. In 1969, they bought 10 acres and a log cabin in the Swan Valley and have camped and added on there ever since, retiring in 1984.

June and Rod became active members of the Flathead Audubon chapter, and in 1987 she was asked to be the Membership Chair. She commented that she learned to operate the computer in order to hold

the position and it was "a major challenge and experience in my life." She continues to serve in that capacity.

Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: June Ash -- always willing to learn something new in order to serve, whether indoors or out.

National Audubon Society Membership Application



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

Check your category rate from the following:

First-time Applicant	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Renewal	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$38	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Individual	\$21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Family	\$23	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$1500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dual Life	\$2000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City, State
and Zip _____

N54 7XCHA

Send this application and your check to: National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P. O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

For Newsletter Only \$5 ☐
Send to: Flathead Audubon Society
Membership; P. O. Box 1129; Condon,
Montana 59826.



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, 979 Eastman Dr, 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.



the Pileated Post
Flathead Audubon Society

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