



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 18

Number 5

May, 1993

Celebrate May 8—International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 8, 1993 has been declared the first annual International Migratory Bird Day. Bird Watchers throughout the western hemisphere will encourage conservation action for migratory birds with a host of special events—bird walks, bird counts, habitat restoration, educational displays, and more.

Each year millions of birds—more than 330 species—embark on migrations across the Americas, breeding in the north and wintering in the south. Recently, however, scientists have documented drastic declines in some migratory bird populations. Because of the concern for these birds, governments and conservation groups in North and South America joined forces to launch the international program "Partners in Flight—Aves de Las Americas." Its mission is to develop coordinated plans for migratory bird conservation.



Voluntary Dispute Resolution Project

The Glacier Institute invites you to explore "The ABC's of Voluntary Dispute Resolutions/Mediation" with Jim Arthur and Ty Tice of Mediation Services of Seattle. The informational forum will be held on Monday, May 17, (7-9:30 pm) at the Flathead Community College Learning Center, Room 123. It will feature how the Voluntary Dispute Resolution can be utilized in the Flathead area.

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

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5/10/93 - Annual Potluck Meeting, 6 pm, Lone Pine Park, Kalispell. Bring a potluck dish and eating gear. ALSO, bring items for a Silent Auction. They don't have to be bird-related.

The money raised will go to the Montana Wildlife Fund.

Business Meeting: Election of officers and directors.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: John Haskell of Hawk Watch International will be the featured speaker. Hawk Watch is working to monitor the status and trends of hawk populations in western North America and Mexico, to detect subtle and dramatic environmental changes that may threaten hawk survival (and our own).

Flathead Audubon Election Scheduled

The election of officers and directors of the Flathead Audubon Society will be held at the annual May membership meeting at Lone Pine State Park.

Nominated as officers for the 1993-94 term of office are: president - Brent Mitchell; vice president - Leo Keane; secretary - Kent Miller and treasurer - Holly Butlett. Nominated for new director terms are Carol Purchase and Elaine Corrigan.

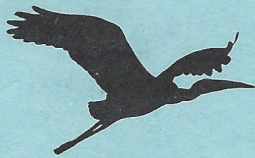
The election will follow a potluck dinner at the Lone Pine Visitor Center.



Through The Editor's Spotting Scope

This column comes to you from the deep south, namely Baton Rouge, LA, where I've been for several weeks. I'm learning all about bayous, jambalaya, crawfish and when it rains, it POURS, y'all.

Naturally, when I first got here, I had to find out where the birds hang out and was pointed in the direction of Avery Island near the Gulf of Mexico. The man whose family produced Tabasco Sauce, a Mr. McIlhaney, loved birds and became concerned when the snowy



egret, heron and crane populations began to diminish.

He built (and is building) the Avery

Island Bird Sanctuary, which includes a very large pond (or small lake, depending on your perspective) containing nesting platforms and alligators that patrol the area for occasional dropped eggs or bird offspring. When I was down there, I just happened to get into a conversation with Mrs. Snowy Egret as follows.

"I notice a couple of snowy egrets are doing a sort of dance on that shore over there. Their wings are beautiful, all spread out like that."

"Well, yes. Those are a couple of the guys, showing off, and that old girl watching them out of the corner of her eye is going to have to decide which one she wants. She acts like she's not interested; you can bet your grass nest that she is."

"This is a wonderful place for you egrets; you must be very pleased."

"As soon as they quit knocking us off for our wing and tail feathers, things got a lot better. We needed those feathers a lot more than the women's hats in New York City did. But we still aren't in the clear yet. People come and enjoy watching us in this sanctuary, but there are a lot of

crane and egret habitats that are disappearing. You just gotta keep on them."

"I'll do what I can."

"I gotta go. Here comes that damn alligator again. I can't stay here all day jawing with y'all. I'd better check on my young'uns. Y'all come back now, ya hear."

"Yes, I'll be back." And I will.

Sharon Bergman

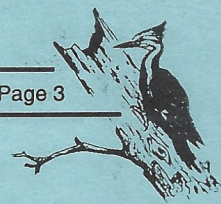
Benefit Concert To Be Held In June

Noted Colorado pianist Patricia Burge will be the featured performer at a Flathead Audubon benefit fund raiser on Sunday, June 13. The benefit will be held at 2 pm at the Bigfork Methodist Church. Minimum donations for the concert will be \$5 a person and \$15 per family.

Burge is a composer and music educator as well as a fine performer. Her compositions, some of which she will play in Bigfork, reflect her love and concern for wildlife and the wilderness. She is in Montana to conduct a workshop in Missoula for music educators and offered the concert to help raise funds for the local chapter.

Funds raised by the benefit will be used by Flathead Audubon to help the Montana Audubon Council meet its grant from the Liz Claiborne/Art Ortenberg Foundation. The grant will enable the council to provide grassroots organizing assistance to the Montana Audubon chapters, to provide education in Montana communities on the state's endangered species and to help chapters work effectively within their own communities to contribute to the solution of resource problems.

Refreshments and a reception will follow the program. For more information, contact Patti Brown (837-5018).



President's Corner

The weather has changed from overcast and snow to sunshine and flowers. It's spring in the Flathead and it's beautiful! Flathead Audubon is preparing for spring and summer activities -- good times in a great place.

The May meeting will be at Lone Pine State Park, and it will start with a wonderful potluck at 6 pm. There will be a great program, a display on owl pellets by elementary school kids, a report on bluebird nesting in the Smith Valley area, a silent auction with many unique items and a time to recognize the volunteers who have helped lead us through another productive year in Audubon. Come and enjoy the fun and friendship. And bring your binoculars -- we always see quite a few birds at the park.

Birdathon will be held on June 5. This is a good time to help the chapter by sponsoring a team or by being a direct participant. "Power birding" is what Leo Keane calls it. Bird-watchers get 24 hours to count all the species they can find and everybody wins. Schools benefit directly because the money collected is converted to a grant for conservation and wildlife books for their libraries. Librarian Gail Leonard just completed the process for Thompson Falls Schools, with \$400 donated for new nature books.

The field trip schedule is included in this issue and it's well worth keeping my your calendar. Dan Casey has done another great job of putting the trips together. Be sure to catch a couple of these outings and enrich your summer!

We're looking forward to meeting you and sharing the good times: special people (Auduboners) in a special setting (Lone Pine Park at a special meeting (the Annual Potluck). See you there!

Brent Mitchell

Banding With Elly

M.A.P.S. Plans for this season's MAPS banding are in the works. Two more stations will be added on the Flathead Indian Reservation as part of an Outreach Program. Three interns will be coming to help with this and we will have more to do at Swan Oxbow and 6-Mile. The first three weekends the song point counts will be run simultaneously with the banding. Extra help on these days would be very beneficial. Following is a tentative schedule, with the first date for Swan Oxbow and the second date for 6-Mile.

June 5,6; 12, 13; 26, 27

July 3, 4; 10, 11; or 17, 18
and 24, 25

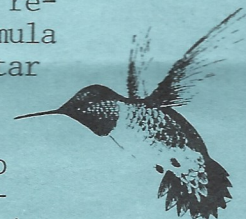
August 7, 8; 14, 15; 21, 22

It will be interesting to see how many recaptures (birds banded last year) we get.

Hummers. Just a reminder that the formula for hummingbird nectar is one cup sugar to four cups water and boil one minute. No food color is necessary. The birds squirt it right out. It doesn't seem to hurt them, but is unnatural. This formula most closely resembles natural nectar and cooking it retards the growth of mold. Never use honey as it is harmful to the birds.

Watch out for those ruby-throated hummingbirds! They may actually be more mature female rufous hummingbirds with a dense cluster of iridescent red throat feathers. Each throat pattern is different in each female rufous. Some are tiny, more on one side or the other, larger, but generally do tend to increase in numbers with age.

Elly Jones



recycled paper



Member of the Month

—Holly Butlett—

"I guess I've always loved birds," Holly Butlett remarked. "My great grandfather, who originally came over from Germany, had an atrium on his place in the midwest and it had all kinds of birds. When we visited, he would let me help feed the birds and that was very special for me. He was a great influence on me."

Holly was born and raised in the midwest, DeKalb, Illinois to be exact. She came west the first time when she attended Rick's College in Rexburg, Idaho, as an art major. "I fell in love with the west," she said, "and wanted to live out here. But I went home and met my future husband and then had to convince him that the west was where we should be."

Seven years ago they were headed for Alaska and passed through Kalispell en route, and that took care of that. They were both impressed with the area and decided to stay. Currently Holly "paints faces for a living", working in the cosmetics department of J.C. Penny.

"Since moving out here," she commented, "I've had the chance to do my bird watching more than just at the feeders. My two kids are always willing to go on Mom's birding trips and I'm really pleased that they are interested. My favorite birds are the hawks, and the American Kestrel also fascinates me."



Holly became involved with Flathead Audubon when she read an announcement in the paper about a monthly meeting. Wanting to become more active, she attended and then kept coming back. When long-time treasurer Tommie Clark resigned, Holly volunteered to serve and was soon in the middle of seed sales, paying bills and keeping the books.

Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: Holly Butlett, looking after the debits and credits of the chapter and also finding time for family, job and birding.

Meet The Board

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



Name: Holly Butlett
Position: Treasurer
Board Member: one year.
Originally from: DeKalb, Illinois.
Present home: Kalispell.

Archaeologist For A Day

The Flathead National Forest is hosting a Passport in Time (PIT) project this summer, June 21 thru 26. In cooperation with the Diamond "R" Ranch, on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, PIT volunteers will work with professional archaeologists and historians in test excavating and documenting historic and prehistoric components at the ranch. Volunteers will be fed and housed at the ranch, as part of the collective agreement with the Flathead Forest.

Through programs such as this, the Flathead Forest hopes to further our understanding of the interaction between humans and the land. These kind of opportunities allow people to fulfill their personal dream of being an "archaeologist for a day."

Volunteer applications are currently being accepted. If you would like to become a volunteer for this fun and educational program, contact Gary McLean or Gerry Bergerson at the FAS office, 755-5401, ext. 5258 or 5348.



* * * FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS * * *

Our 1993 field trip schedule has been finalized, and is presented below. All trips are open to members and non-members alike, so please post this list and copies of it in prominent places at home and work! Standard recommended equipment includes comfortable clothes and shoes, binoculars, cameras, field guides, "fowl" weather gear, and a sack lunch or snack. Like last year, we have incorporated additional field trips sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). Trips vary from short hikes and roadside stops, to longer hikes or boat trips as noted. We've tried to provide a wide variety of trips, all suitable for families, throughout the spring and summer. Come and enjoy!

Please call the Field Trips Chairperson, Dan Casey, at 857-3143 (evenings) or 752-5501 (days) with any questions, last minute changes, or for more detailed information regarding any of the trips. Individual trip leaders are also listed below.

Saturday, May 8: International Migratory Bird Day: Celebrate this day, dedicated to the plight of migratory landbirds, by joining us on one of two field trips:

Lawrence Park: Help survey migrants at Kalispell's premiere birding hotspot. Meet at the north end of the park (end of the road) at 7 am. Dan Casey, 857-3143.

Audubon's (Ruth White's) Birthday Walk: A 2.5 mile hike along the Swan River outside Bigfork; see early migrants and wildflowers. Meet at the Kootenai Gallery in downtown Bigfork at 2 pm.

Saturday, May 15: Estes Lake (Crane Mountain): Sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). An easy three-mile hike through a variety of forest habitats in the hills at the north end of the Mission Mountains, past ponds and lakes. Contact Anne Morley, 886-2242, to make reservations for this popular hike.

Saturday, May 22: Mushroom Identification: (MNPS) Join Missoula mycologist Larry Evans for a day of discovering these intriguing, ephemeral fungi. Meet at 9 am at the Bread Board Bakery in Bigfork. Contact Pattie Brown (837-5018) for info and reservations. A presentation on mushrooms will be given the night before, **Friday, May 21**, at 7 pm in the Fish, Wildlife and Parks building, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell.

Saturday, June 5: Birdathon. See separate details in this newsletter. Please sponsor our record-setting team or spend the day afield raising funds for the chapter and Regional office. Susannah Casey, 857-3143. (This is not an organized field trip).

Sunday, June 6: Safe Harbor Marsh. See a diverse mix of migrants and breeding birds at this Nature Conservancy site north of Polson. Meet at the Polson 4B's at 7 am for this half-day trip. Marcie Bishop, 883-4146.

Saturday, June 19: Owen Sowerwine Natural Area by Canoe. Half-day trip for breeding birds at this river island County park. Flat water paddling and bush-whacking on the island. Bring canoe, life jackets; dress for brush. Meet at Rosauer's parking lot at 7:30 am. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

(OVER)



Field Trip Schedule Continued

Sunday, June 20 (Father's Day): Hidden Meadows Hike, Glacier N.P. Co-sponsored by MNPS. A 2.4 mile family stroll through part of the Red Bench Fire, various forest and meadow habitats. Don't forget the insect repellent, lunch, water and raingear. Meet at the Polebridge Ranger Station at 11 am. Contact Neal Brown, 837-5018, for reservations.

Saturday, June 26: Napa Point Hike: (MNPS) Starting at 6,400 feet, this gentle trail runs a ridgetop for 3 miles to the crest of the Swan Range at 7,000 ft near Inspiration Pass. Birds and flowers of the subalpine zone. Meet at the Swan Lake Mercantile and Post Office at 9 am. Call Dee Strickler at 862-5038 to make your reservation.

Saturday, July 10: Medicinal Herbs of Jewel Basin: (MNPS) Many of Montana's native plants can be beneficial to our health, but positive identification is imperative. Come learn the plants and their uses, as well as the methods and ethics of collecting. Call Barbara Park (837-3009) for meeting place, time and reservations.

Friday, July 16: Grass Identification: (MNPS) Learn how to identify Montana's official state grass and other important and interesting species. Meet at 8:15 am at the Glacier Inn on Hwy 2 in Columbia Falls, or at the Polebridge Ranger Station at 9:30 am. Call Rachel Potter (892-2446 or 888-5441) for more information and reservations.

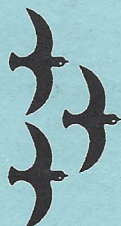
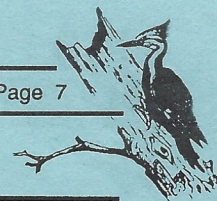
Sunday, July 18: Flathead River Float. Canoe trip from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island at Kalispell. This trip is also a fund-raiser for the Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund, so we're asking participants to make a \$10 tax-deductible contribution. About 6 easy hours on the river, through a variety of riparian habitats. No white water. Bring canoes, life-jackets (one for each person!), lunch and rain gear. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot at 9:00 am. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, July 31: Miller Creek Demonstration Forest: (MNPS) View a forest in various stages of succession, resulting from various disturbances. Seek out plants characteristic of each successional stage, particularly those associated with fire. Meet at the Tally Lake Ranger Station in Whitefish at 8:30 am for this all-day field trip. Call Steve Wirt (862-2508 or 862-5452).

Saturday, August 14: Purple Loosestrife Control - Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge: (Co-sponsored with MNPS) Come help birds and native aquatic plants by reducing competition from the invasive, introduced purple loosestrife. Bring lunch, gloves and shoes to wear in water. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Meet at the Bread Board Bakery in Bigfork at 8 am, or at the Allentown Restaurant south of Ronan at 9 am. Call Neal Brown, 837-5018.

Saturday, September 11: Sixth Annual MT Native Plant Society Float Trip: An easy, five-mile meandering canoe trip. Meet at 11 am at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station. Contact Pattie Brown (837-5018) for details.

Sunday, September 12: Swan Valley Logging. Tour of various logging practices in action. Discussion of the effects of various logging techniques on wildlife, and of light-impact logging methods available to landowners. Meet at the Swan Valley Community Club in Condon (near milepost 42 on highway 83) at 10 am. Call Bud Moore (754-2473) or Rod Ash (754-2289) to verify date and time.



Birdathon '93 Takes Wing

The Flathead Audubon Society Annual Birdathon is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, June 5th. Birders should choose their 24 hour period on that weekend. There are a number of ways members may participate:

1. You could be a team leader and organize a small group of birders to join you for birdathon. As the team leader you can plan the route, solicit sponsors and help team members solicit sponsors. If you would like to be a leader and you need team members, please contact Susannah or Dan Casey at 857-3143.

2. You could be a birder, alone or with a team. Counting birds at your feeders, in your yard and surrounding areas is an easy way to conduct your first birathon. If you would like to be paired up with someone, please let the Casey's know (# above). All skill levels of birders are welcome. **The most important part of birdathon participation is to solicit sponsors.** You ask your sponsors to pledge .05¢, .10¢, .15¢, .20¢, or .25¢ per species or for a flat donation amount such as \$5.00 or \$10.00. After birdathon you collect from your sponsors the appropriate amount determined by the number of species you see.

3. You can be a sponsor. You can sponsor any birdathon participant you like. The Flathead Chapter does have a "Championship" team that consists of Jim Rogers, Sherry Jones, and Dan & Susannah Casey. These competitive birders are the current Montana State Big Day Record holders. This team should net upwards of 150 species, so a pledge of 10¢ per species will result in a total of approximately \$15.00.

4. If you are out-of-town and have not been contacted to sponsor someone, we have an easy way for you to participate. Take out your checkbook and write a check to **Flathead Audubon** for any amount you feel you can contribute. Please mail all Birdathon Checks to Birdathon Coordinators, Dan & Susannah Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904.

With all of these options, *every* member of Flathead Audubon should find a way to participate.

Birdathon is the main fundraiser for National Audubon. One half of the monies raised stays here in the Flathead to support our local programs (Audubon Adventures, etc.), the other half is sent to the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. We request that the funds we send to regional go towards protection of Old Growth Forest and/or Wetlands.

TEAR HERE AND MAIL YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

NATIONAL AUDUBON BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM

☐ I am happy to pledge \$_____ per species in support of your birdathon.

☐ My tax-deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

FROM:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

() _____

Telephone _____

Name of Birder(s) you are sponsoring _____

EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE WILL GO TOWARD AUDUBON'S WORK

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

**Flathead Audubon Society Director****OFFICERS**

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901
Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
Holly Butlett, 2825 Farm to Market, Kalispell, MT

756-8130
862-5807
862-5807
257-2025

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Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Rd, Polson, MT 59860
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937
Malcolm Thompson, P.O. Box 1105, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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883-5797
837-4294
862-1350
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Field Trips
Hospitality/Sales
Hostess
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Newsletter
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Rod Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826
Dan Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904
Patti Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911
Evelyn Kile, 20 Hoffman Draw, Kila, MT 59920
Gail Leonard, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
June Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826
Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Lane, Big Arm, MT 59910
Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937
Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937
Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Road, Polson, MT 59860
Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
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755-4422
862-5807
754-2289
849-5286
862-2028
862-1350
883-5797
756-6344
862-5807
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 p.m. followed by a special program at 8 p.m. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the 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 \$5.00 per year. *Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month.*

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



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**FIELD
TRIPS**

Page 5