



# Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 18

Number 6

September, 1993

## MAKE Note Of It!

September General Meeting 9/13/93  
United Methodist Church, Bigfork  
Meeting: 7:30 p.m. - Program: 8:15 p.m.

Montana Audubon Council Mtg. 10/1-3  
Hosted by Sacajawea Audubon, Bozeman  
(See following news item for details.)

October General Meeting 10/11/93  
United Methodist Church, Bigfork

## Program for September Meeting

Professor Dick Hutto will speak on Neo-Tropical Migrants at the general meeting on Monday, September 13.

Professor Hutto is a professor of biology in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Montana. He will summarize 20 years of research on the effects of land use on the migratory bird populations in Mexico and in the Swan Valley, where he conducted recent research.

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. Governments and conservation groups have joined forces to develop coordinated plans for migratory bird conservation.

## Montana Audubon Council to Meet

The fall meeting of the Montana Audubon Council will be held in Bozeman on October 1-3. Dr. Mike Myers will speak on his work with Hawkwatch and discuss the raptor populations in the west. Special birding trips will be conducted on both Saturday and Sunday.

Registration should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than September 28th, to Sacajawea Audubon, c/o Bob Moore, 1210 S. Pinecrest, Bozeman, MT 59715; (406) 586-1086.

## Bird Seed Ordering Delayed

It's that time of year when Flathead Auduboners and friends usually receive their order forms so the winter supply of bird seed can be ordered. It'll happen soon -- but not right now.

Rod Ash, who is in charge of the seed sale this year, reports that the excessive rainfall had an affect on the sunflower seed crop and the exact harvest date couldn't be determined by the time the newsletter went to press. Consequently, the delivery date and cost could not be decided for inclusion on an order form.

But don't give up on us! A special order form mailing will be made later in the month, with full information on delivery dates, cost and pickup sites. It is anticipated that the bird seed will be delivered in the latter part of October.







## The Editor's Spotting Scope

Last spring I had the great good fortune to spend two months in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and it wasn't long before I discovered that Audubon was not an uncommon name in the area. There were Audubon Blvd., Audubon Motors, Audubon Inn and various other asundry Audubons, which made a birdwatcher give pause to ponder. What gives? There was almost as much reference to Audubon as there was to Tabasco Sauce (well, not quite).

And then one afternoon, driving near St. Francisville, I spotted a roadside sign giving directions to the National Audubon Bird Sanctuary and Historical Monument. I immediately turned right and followed the signs. Stately oaks, hung with Spanish moss, bordered the road into Oakley Plantation and you had the feeling you were being transported back to an earlier time.

Pulling into the parking lot, I got out of the car and immediately my ears were filled with birdsong. How very appropriate. I couldn't see them, but could sure hear them.

I followed a path through a garden, still with the feeling that I had slipped into another century. It was peaceful and quiet, with only the birds breaking the silence. If this was where John Audubon was inspired, no wonder he chose to paint birds.

The information provided at the main house answered many of my questions. The Oakley Plantation had been owned by a southern gentleman who hired John Audubon, then living in New Orleans, to teach his daughter to draw. Audubon lived at the plantation for about four months and during that time painted and sketched some of his earlier work. (Nothing was said about whether the daughter ever learned to draw.)

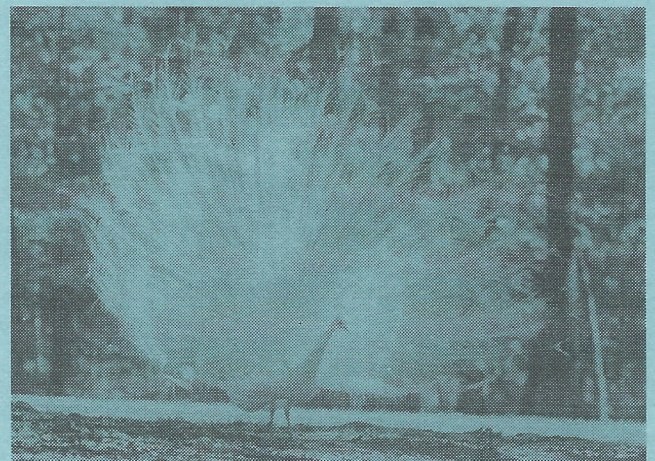
My mind was full of thoughts about Audubon as I walked on a pathway around

the main house, enjoying the birds in the oak trees (don't ask me what they were) and thinking that I was probably walking on the same ground where he had once walked. (There's something about an historical place which seems to demand that sort of thought process.)

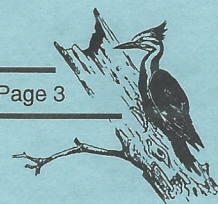
And then I rounded a corner and arrived at the workhouse where the slaves had cooked, weaved cloth from cotton and washed and ironed clothes for the white folks. I was brought up short and had another pause to ponder, because I was now standing on the same ground where slavery had existed, and that was a sobering thought, having nothing to do with birding or Audubon.

I returned to the parking lot, reflecting on what I had seen, heard and experienced. Suddenly, a rousing squawk filled the air and I followed the sound, camera in hand. There, standing beneath the oaks was a white peacock, spreading his feathers for his world to see. I returned to the present and quickly became a bird watcher again. Shortly thereafter I drove out into the real world, but wasn't quite the same as when I entered and observed Audubon's world.

Sharon Bergman







## Planning Our Future Together

By Leo Keane

Can you imagine building a house without a plan? I'm a homebuilder and the thought of turning plumbers, cabinetmakers, electricians and masons loose without a blueprint scares me. Quite possibly you may find your toilet in the dining room, a fireplace right where you pictured the refrigerator and, oops!, there goes \$800 worth of arch-top window into the laundry instead of over the living room couch. Your appliances won't fit through the doorways, you bump your head on the staircase and where on earth did they hide the light switch!

See what I mean? Build your house without a plan and what do you get? A headache. Heartbreak. Total chaos. Chaos in the process and in the product.

How then, if we can't build one house without a plan, can we possibly make sense out of 64,000 people doing their own thing?

That is the population of Flathead County (give or take) and we are growing and building in the valley like there's no tomorrow -- virtually planless. We've got shopping centers mushrooming out of hay meadows, housing developments marching into the foothills where elk and bear should roam and golf courses planned for most everything in between (or so it seems).

What are we doing here? Are we envisioning a future community in harmony with the natural beauty of our sparkling lakes and crystal rivers, with a pleasing mix of forest, agriculture and suburban areas? Are we growing gracefully and thoughtfully, and with regard for all the other life with which we share the valley? Or are we simply cashing in on a national treasure?

The Cooperative Planning Coalition (CPC) envisions the former. To that end, the Coalition was formed

over a year ago out of a body of concerned citizens and organizations. Anybody and everybody with a stake in the valley's future has been welcome to participate and, consequently, the Coalition has evolved into a very diverse and representative organization.

Flathead Audubon jumped on board because clearly land-use issues are central to most every aspect of our conservation mission. From water quality to quality of life; from wildlife habitat to wild lands management; it all comes back to how we plan for future growth.

The Coalition's goal is ambitious, perhaps monumental: to develop a master plan for the entire county, followed by county-wide zoning instituted via the public hearing process and ultimately by order of the County Commissioners.

Two companies have been hired to mastermind the effort. Strategies, Inc. of Helena will oversee the fund-raising campaign, and Design Workshop of Aspen, CO is leading the charge toward the master plan.

But when all is said and done, it is we, the people of Flathead County, who will be responsible for building ourselves that good, sound and sensible final product.

Where do you fit in the picture? First of all the Coalition will ask for your financial investment. We're raising an estimated \$400,000 to pay the professionals involved and to accomplish the field work. If you believe in the critical nature of this effort then this may be your best way of being a part of the solution.

Harder to come by may be your time and energy. If this is to be a good plan and widely accepted, everybody will have to give a little. There will be meetings, public hearings, friends, neighbors and county commissioners to button hole.

--continued on next page--







If you're a real visionary, give both ways and assure yourself the Flathead Valley will be as wonderful a place to live in 2093 as it is now in 1993.

In next month's newsletter you'll find out how to make a financial contribution. Meanwhile, watch the local newspapers for meeting notices; or call me, Leo Keane, at 862-5807 for more information about the Cooperative Planning Coalition.



### Why Recycle?

Litter takes a while to decompose, as shown in the following statistics:

Cigarette butts	1 - 5 years
Aluminum cans	80 - 100 years
Glass Bottles	100,000,000 years
Nylon fabric	30 - 40 years
Banana peels	2 years
Wool socks	1 - 5 years
6-pack rings	100 years
Plastic bags	10 - 20 years
Leather	50 years

Why recycle? Better yet ... why not?

### Meet The Board

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



**Name:** Jean Robocker  
**Position:** Chair, Clubs & Schools Presentations  
**Board Member:** Since 1987.  
**Originally from:** Milwaukie, Oregon.  
**Present home:** Kalispell.

### Member of the Month

#### —Ed Prach—

Ed Prach is a hiker, an avid one. He belonged to the Southern Arizona Hiking Club and after his move to Whitefish in 1987, continued with the avocation. But he's more than an hiker; he is also an Audubon member - an avid one. He commented that he "finds the Audubon experience enhances participation in hikes, whether here or in the desert, as a result of watching for and attempting to identify the various birds encountered."

He grew up in Queens, NY. After a stint in the Signal Corp during World War II, he graduated as an electrical engineer from Syracuse University. He and wife Carla met while he was stationed in Cincinnati during the war and were married shortly after graduation.

His first contact with Montana came as an engineer trainee with the Bureau of Reclamation, on the Hungry Horse Project. He made good use of the job experience and tucked away the Montana experience for future reference.

Signing on with General Electric as a field engineer, over the years he worked in Detroit, Los Angeles, Tucson and finally Phoenix. He retired in 1985 as a senior field engineer, with a specialty as an excitation engineer.

"During our years in Tucson in the 60's," he said, "the family enjoyed monthly nature and travel programs put on by the Audubon Society there. It was only natural then, with time allowed by retirement, to be involved with conservation activities."

And become involved he did. He became a member of the Flathead Audubon board as a director in 1990, and the following year joined Ferne Cohen as co-chair of the program committee. He served as secretary of the Flathead chapter of the Montana Wildlife Ass'n. and was the Earth Day representative for the Montana Nature Conservancy. He also assisted with the Flathead Family Forestry Expo events on behalf of Audubon. Ed believes that "such involvements help form needed linkage among the conservation groups in the valley."

Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: Ed Prach; interested and involved with hands-on conservation.







## President's Corner

Welcome to another great season of Audubon, birds, friends and challenges! Wasn't the summer just wonderful? All 10 days of it!

Birdwatching seemed about average for me, but plant watching (my wife's passion) was nothing short of spectacular. We've watched the plants on our place for years, but this year's rain brought out some we'd never seen there -- Indian pipes, pinedrops and a whole bunch of mushrooms. The extra water in July really changed the flora for us.

Changes, small and interesting to note: This summer we tracked down our bylaws and found that we'll need to adhere more closely to them and amend them in some areas. Sharon Bergman has done a lot of research on this for us. Jean Roberts, from the Montana Audubon Council office, helped us get started on writing our mission statement. Leo Keane will chair a committee to put the finishing touches on it.

Our Family Forestry Expo was a success and Malcolm, Holly and Geoff did a great job. Our new secretary, Kent Miller, got writer's cramp at the summer board meeting and we decided that we need to hold four quarterly board meetings in addition to the eight regular ones.

Two of our members, Leo and Jean, are part of the Cooperative Planning Coalition (CPC) and will be representing conservation interests in the planning process in the Flathead.

As an outgrowth of Audubon's involvement in the BMP minicollege, sponsored by the MT Logging Ass'n., we will be looking for and making awards to loggers who are conducting their business in an environmentally sensitive manner. Whether it's recognizing a company for BMP's for water quality or for maintaining or enhancing wildlife habitat or for aesthetic reasons, we will be involved in praising the good examples of logging in our area.

**IT'S SUNFLOWER SEED TIME AGAIN!** This is your opportunity to attain "hero" status in the bird community and earn the undisputed title of "Bona Fide Bird Watcher". The bulk of our funding comes directly from this effort that the community makes to feed birds throughout the year. Our sunflower seed sales are important to the birds (and squirrels and deer, etc.) and to us in Audubon. You can help by your purchase of sunflower seeds and we all win.

Brent Mitchell

## Board Report

The board of directors of Flathead Audubon held an extensive meeting in July, during which they welcomed new members Secretary Kent Miller and Directors Elaine Corrigan and Carol Purchase to the fold.

In order to get more members involved and extend the capabilities of the various committees, committee chairmen were encouraged to expand their committees to at least three.

So, here this call! If you are interested in serving on a committee, check the Board Directory on the last page of the newsletter, find the committee that interests you and contact the chairman listed. Don't wait for a chairman to go to you! Let's hear from you!!

Considerable discussion was held concerning whether the meeting and program times should be changed. It was decided to retain the 7:30 p.m. meeting time and extend the program starting time to 8:15 p.m. The board will continue to meet prior to the general meeting, from 5 to 7, and members are welcome to attend. In addition, the board will hold quarterly meetings during the year to address subjects requiring more in-depth discussion.





## 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	Kent Miller, 781 1st Ave. EN, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-4100
Treasurer	Holly Butlett, P.O. Box 7821, Kalispell, MT 59901-0821	257-2025
Past President	Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4294

### DIRECTORS

1991-94	Sam Culotta, 979 Eastman Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4298
1991-94	Malcolm Thompson, P.O. Box 1105, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	892-4208
1993-96	Elaine Corrigan, 7405 Valley View Rd, Polson, MT 59860	883-6895
1993-96	Carol Purchase, 781 1st Ave. EN, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-4100

### 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 Lane, 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 Road, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Schools, Clubs	Jean Robocker, 1655 Montford Road, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-6344
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
	Neil Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

### Montana Audubon Council

OFFICE	Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
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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:

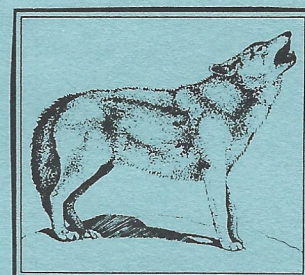
National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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



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