



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 18

Number 7

October, 1993

Festival of the Cranes

Among the most awe-inspiring sights in nature is the annual fall migration of tens of thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese to their wintering grounds on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, NM. Birders can enjoy the spectacle of these migrating flocks, along with an impressive lineup of experts and events at the sixth annual Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes November 18-21.

The action-packed four day program features authors Donald and Lillian Stokes, International Crane Foundation director George Archibald and other speakers, plus more than 50 exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and conducted tours, some in areas usually closed to the public.



An illustrated lecture by veteran birder-photographer Gary Froehlich and three workshops by famed publisher-photographer Karen Hollingsworth will

provide tips to amateur and serious bird photographers.

Festival information and tickets are available from: Festival of the Cranes, P. O. Box 743 NR, Socorro, NM 87801; phone: (505) 835-0424.

✂ MAKE NOTE of it!

◆October General Meeting 10/11/93
United Methodist Church, Bigfork
Meeting: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

◆Sunflower Seed Delivery 10/16 & 17
See page 7 for details.

◆November General Meeting 11/8/93
United Methodist Church, Bigfork
Meeting: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

Program for October Meeting

"Life in Guatemala" will be presented by Caren VonGontard of Whitefish at the general meeting on Monday, October 11.

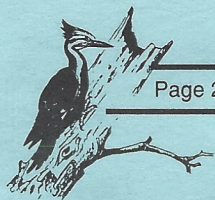
Adi and Caren, with their young son Paul, spent almost four months performing volunteer work and learning about the culture of the indigenous people of Guatemala. Traveling throughout the country and learning Spanish, the couple became personally acquainted with two families, one a Latino and the other an indigenous family, and Caren will share her personal perspective of the two.

The presentation will be illustrated with slides, giving their view of "the most colorful people on earth", as exemplified by their weavings, dress and lifestyles. ✂



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The Editor's Spotting Scope

As a general rule, birds add to our pleasures of life. A recent trip to the Seattle area was made more memorable when I watched a young bald eagle fly into a nearby tree with his fish dinner clutched in his claws. Obviously, he had a lot to learn, as when he landed on the tree limb and used his claws to clutch the limb, he dropped the fish. In disgust (my assumption), he flew off to try again.

Throughout the trip, which included the San Juan Islands, a variety of birds enhanced the viewing and the doing. Herons, gulls, terns, cormorants, ducks in wide variety, geese and one I have to check out in the guide book ... all those and more added to the pleasures of the trip.

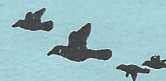
Whether I'm traveling or at home, staring out the window, the fascination of birds remains constant. When I so thoroughly enjoy watching birds, why am I revolted by bats? Okay, we'll split some hairs here: a bat is not a bird -- it's a "furry, nocturnal, flying mammal," according to the dictionary. But it does fly and it eats insects, nectar, fruit, flesh (ugh) and blood (yuk), and many birds have similar tastes. Yet, I can watch hawks and eagles, even ravens and magpies with interest, but I don't want bats around my house, even if they eat every mesquite in a two-mile radius.

As far as I'm concerned, bats belong in a Bela Lugosi movie or in Carlsbad Caverns, but not under the eaves of my house. My inner feeling was very apparent during the summer when I was staining the house and a bat fell out of the eaves, sleepy and groggy. I was off the ladder in a flash and watched from a distance. Live and let live, I always say, but you, Mr. Bat, get the hell off my place. I watched and waited. The bat just sat there. Was this an impasse? How can you let a little creature like that have total control of your actions? I still watched, not moving, and suddenly he was airborne, flying across the yard and into the woods with the grace of any feathered flyer.

I understand the French look upon bats as a culinary delicacy. Viva la France, but I'll betcha eating them is one thing and being around them is another, even for the French.

Thanks all the same, but that's one creature with which I prefer a distant relationship and the wider the distance, the better. Fortunately, you don't have to love them all to environmentally exist in this world.


Sharon Bergman



Board Report

When the board of directors met in September at the Bigfork Inn a committee was appointed to review the chapter's bylaws and recommend changes to be considered by the membership at a future meeting. Serving on the committee are Sharon Bergman, Robin Magaddino and Jean Robocker.

The board voted to change the mailing address from Bigfork to Kalispell, to enable the officers to have easier access to the mail. The new address will appear in the next issue of the newsletter and the Bigfork post office box will be monitored during the transition period and until the rental period expires. The board also agreed to move the chapter's funds to its bank account in Kalispell and close the Bigfork account.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to make a \$500 donation to the Cooperative Planning Coalition. Additionally, a \$1500 donation will be made to Montana Audubon Council and targeted for the Ortenberg-Claiborne Grant, which will be matched by the Grant on a 3:1 basis. 



☼ Loosestrife Pull (*Lythrum Salicaria*)

Under threatening skies, 16 adults and 4 children gathered around Sam Manno of the Craighead Institute in the parking lot of Allentown Restaurant, south of Ronan. Sam had brought along Spotted frogs, Leopard frogs, a Tiger salamander and a Long-toed salamander and he informed us that the Leopard frog is rapidly disappearing from many of its traditional habitats.

After a quick lesson on Leopard frog identification, we traveled to our designated pothole. The pothole was adopted by Flathead Audubon three years ago, and for the past two years, the Flathead chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society has pitched in on the pull.

And PULL we did! As the threatening clouds proceeded to deliver on their threat, we worked our way through the cattails, locating and pulling or digging the vile purple loosestrife.

An hour and a half later, we were still being rained upon, but "What - we worry?" — the pull was declared a success as we rewarded ourselves with lunch and gourmet desserts.

As an added reward, Rachel Sykes led us to a nearby pothole where the beetle, *Galerucella californiensis*, has been introduced. These particular insects in both the larval and beetle stages prefer purple loosestrife as their primary food source. Rachel showed us where they had been released and the damage they had inflicted on the test plot. At which time the clouds dissipated and the sun did shine.

A special "Thanks" to Rachel, Sam-Sam, the Reptile Man, and Bill West of the National Bison Range. An extra special "Thank you!" to the Loosestrife Pullers of 1993: Dee & Claire Strickler, Blue Tanttari, John Grant, Carol Purchase, Kent Miller, Neal Brown, Rod Ash, Terry Divoky, Dan & Susannah Casey & daughters, Jerry Sutcliffe, and Gay Sousa & children. Patti Brown ☼

Member of the Month

☼ Malcolm Thompson

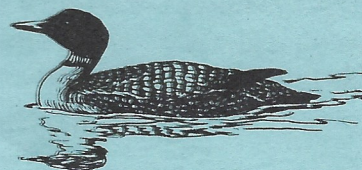
"I wanted to see what 'those environmentalists' were all about," commented Malcolm Thompson in explaining how he became involved with Flathead Audubon.

Born in Alhambra, California, and raised in Campo, he discovered the great outdoors when the family vacationed in Kings Canyon National Park. "I've been a country boy ever since I was ten years old," he said, and his interest in farming led to a year of schooling at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

He met his wife as a senior in high school and the family grew with the addition of a daughter and three sons. They farmed in Oregon for about six years and then moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, where he got into sawmill work and the framework of his life changed.

In 1973, the family moved to Columbia Falls and as his sons graduated from high school, the family business evolved - RBM Logging & Lumber. After joining Flathead Audubon in 1990, Malcolm became actively involved in forestry issues. "I've been in the middle of the controversy over forest management ever since," he said. "It's a real challenge to look at all sides of an issue."

As an Audubon member and birder, he especially enjoys pileated wood peckers and loons. He has served as a director on the Flathead Audubon board of directors since 1991. Malcolm Thompson, Member of the Month, brings a woodsman's viewpoint to the chapter, tempered with the desire to do what's best for all concerned, and stirring it all together with good humor and rare insight. ☼





President's Corner

(The following Guest Editorial echoes my concerns and in my opinion is most worthy of repeating. Written by the president of The Nature Conservancy, John C. Sawhill, it originally appeared in the September/October issue of *Nature Conservancy*, and is reprinted here with permission. **Brent Mitchell**)

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Hardly a day passes, it seems, without the publication of some new report warning of an impending environmental calamity. My problem is figuring out which ones to worry about.

Think of the environmental issues that dominate the headlines -- global warming and climate change, the ozone layer, and toxic waste, to name but a few. How can we possibly set priorities for action when confronted with so many challenges?

In my view, the environmental movement has unwittingly contributed to this confusion through its fondness for hyperbole. The conservation lexicon is littered with superlatives: the most, the best, the rarest. Problems are invariably "critical" and the situation always "grave".

In many cases, of course, the environment does face grave threats. Similarly, many plants and animals are indeed perched on the brink of extinction. But in other cases, environmentalists have used incomplete or flawed scientific evidence to dramatize the deteriorating health of our environment. At best, this sends mixed messages, which are then reflected in the media.

Add the deliberate distortions of anti-environmental activists and you're left with a hodgepodge of conflicting data about the environment.

I believe that the responsibility for

sorting fact from fiction falls on those of us in the conservation community. We must provide the public with clear and accurate information about environmental issues. We must be open and honest. And above all, we must avoid crying wolf.

All environmental organizations have at some time or another cried wolf without adequate justification. Perhaps they have overly dramatized the plight of a particular species or inflated the severity of a problem. But as the conservation movement enters the mainstream of politics and society, I am convinced that this will hinder, rather than help, our efforts to protect the environment. For one, such embellishments are unnecessary because we face plenty of legitimate threats. There is no need, for example, to overstate the plight of Hawaii's native birds and plants. The facts are sobering enough.

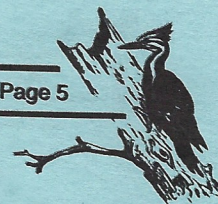
What's more, crying wolf can destroy the credibility and trust upon which nonprofit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy depend. The Conservancy has spent 42 years earning a reputation as an efficient, no-nonsense operation. We cannot tarnish that reputation by allowing our rhetoric to outstrip reality.

Perhaps most important, however, is that the more dire predictions go unfulfilled now, the less people will pay attention to such warnings in the future. As you will recall, this is the real lesson behind the story about the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf finally did appear and begin to eat the sheep, no one believed the boy's pleas for help. After all, why should they have, after so many false alarms?

The environmental community cannot afford to run this risk. The stakes are simply too high.

John C. Sawhill






BETTER BIRDING

The following is an edited excerpt from the National Wildlife Federation brochure "Wild Bird Feeding Preferences":

Oil (black) sunflower is the most popular seed with most seed-eating birds, especially chickadees, grosbeaks and finches. **White proso millet** is the most popular with cowbirds, various sparrows and doves. In general, birds attracted to elevated feeders (4 feet or more) prefer oil (black) sunflower seed while ground feeding birds prefer white proso millet. Buckwheat, whole oats and rice proved unattractive to practically all birds.

Peanut kernels are popular with **blue jays**, the **tufted titmouse** and the **white-throated sparrow**. Black-striped sunflower seed and cracked corn are the favorites of **grackles**. **Starlings** prefer peanut hearts, hulled oats and cracked corn.

Non seed-eating birds such as **woodpeckers**, **nuthatches** and other insect-eaters prefer suet, while **hummingbirds** always prefer sugar water. 

Meet the Board

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



Name: Sam Culotta
Position: Director
Board Member: Since 1991
Originally from: Baltimore, MD
Present home: Ferndale, MT
Occupation: Plant Ecologist

Birding With Elly

At The Nets. We had busy days in the bushes this summer in spite of the rain and got the job done. At Swan Oxbow, there was a total of 23 species; 93 birds were banded and 24 were recaptured from 1992. The Six-Mile site had 36 species, with a total of 115 banded and 29 recaptured from 1992. All the help was greatly appreciated.

After Dick Hutto's excellent program on how land changes affect neotropical migrants, I was curious how the Swainson's Thrush (SWTH) were fairing, since this specie is declining in some places. In 1992, Swan Oxbow had 21 SWTH and Six-Mile had 50 and in 1993, Swan Oxbow had 12 and Six-Mile had 20. Surely the rain played a big part in the decline. It will be interesting to see how the birds are in coming years.

Hummingbirds. At feeders along the foothills hummingbirds were way down across the state. Early hot weather in May brought on a prolific bloom before nesting and the birds went straight to their preferred food. Young birds were only slightly lower in numbers, so there must have been about as many mothers and fathers as other years. Phew!

Bill Calder is now writing the bibliography on Caliope Hummingbirds for the big new *North American Birds and Their Life Histories*. He needs more information on the young newly-fledged males. I've looked through six years of records and have not caught one! I was amazed. Where do they go? Have you seen any?

Misc. A new bird for me this summer was the Gray Catbird at Swan Oxbow. Also exciting was banding a female Pileated fledgling. She flew right back to mother after drawing blood from me. The same fingers got it the next weekend at Six-Mile when I caught a Pygmy Owl. It wouldn't even look at me ... absolutely fearless.

Elly Jones



Endangered Species Act Update

Endangered Species Act reauthorization is moving along. Two bills have been introduced, one in the House and one in the Senate. Both bills need co-sponsors.

We need to write and ask Representative Pat Williams to co-sponsor the House bill, H.R. 2043, introduced by Representative Studds. The Senate bill, S. 921, was introduced by Senator Max Baucus. Now is a good time to write Senator Baucus a thank you for his sponsorship. We also need to encourage Senator Conrad Burns to co-sponsor Senator Baucus' bill.

Senator Max Baucus
Washington, DC 20510-2602
Phone (202)224-2651
Toll Free 1-800-332-6106

Senator Conrad Burns
Washington, D.C. 20510-2603
Phone (202)224-2644

Representative Pat Williams
Washington, DC 20515-2601
(202) 225-3211

The Bills

H. R. 2043, the House bill, would:

- Ensure faster development of plans to recover endangered and threatened species;
- Make the Endangered Species Act (ESA) more preventative by encouraging attention to "candidate" species that are not yet listed but are likely to become listed unless current trends change;
- Authorize development of habitat conservation plans for candidate species and establish a fund for grants to states, counties, or municipal governments for such plans;
- Provide financial incentives and technical assistance to private landown-

ers to implement recovery actions for listed species and conservation measures for candidate species;

- Call for a report on whether provisions of the ESA relating to plants are sufficient for their conservation;
- Allow citizens to file suit to protect listed species in emergencies; and
- Substantially increase the funding ceilings for the Fish and Wildlife Service to implement the federal endangered species program.

S. 921, introduced by Senators Max Baucus, includes all the same provisions as H. R. 2043, with the exception of the study for plants and citizen suite language.

Related Bill in Congress

Shortly before Congress went into recess for the summer, two House Committees acted favorably on a bill, H. R. 1845, to create the National Biological Survey. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt proposed the Survey to consolidate biological research to get ahead of "train wrecks" that result when species become threatened with extinction.

The Survey will be charged with assessing and inventorying the biological resources of the United States and developing information and methods necessary to protect and manage ecosystems.

Please urge Representative Williams to support the National Biological Survey bill, H.R. 1845.




Welcome to Those New Among Us

Bigfork: D. Rockwell, Sandy Early, and Paul & Lavon Mooring; **Charlo:** Bill West; **Columbia Falls:** Nikki Sutkus; **Coram:** Michael Woods; **Eureka:** H. Reynolds, Angus McRae and James Sauerman; **Kalispell:** Lora Boyce, Vicki Woodruff, Marilyn Bert, John Hughes, William Breen and L. Senner; **Lakeside:** Charlotte Easter and Gladys Fredenberg; **Libby:** Carol Douglas and Mickey Rosato; **Marion:** Patricia Dejong; **Polson:** Dennis Newby; **St. Ignatius:** Mary Keast; **Somers:** Mildred Mead; **Swan Lake:** Roger Breilein; **Troy:** Linnett Swanson and Roxie Christensen; **Whitefish:** Rhonda Anderson, Pat McLaughlin, Denise Manning, James Scanzo and Glenn Violette.

New Montana Bird Guide Available

Falcon Press has just published The Birder's Guide to Montana by Terry McEneaney. Terry is the ornithologist for Yellowstone National Park and a member of the Montana Bird Records Committee.

This new book contains a wealth of information, including great places to go birding, a list of the birds found at 45 major birding areas and seasonal availability and migration paths of Montana's 388 bird species.

This guide will greatly aid birders who want a new place to go for the weekend - as well as those who are looking for a particular bird. Many Audubon members helped with the research for this book which can be found at your local bookstore. 



Flathead Audubon's Annual Sunflower Seed Sale Order Form

BLACK, OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS - High quality, 50 lb. sack - \$17

Number of sacks: _____ @ \$17 = Amount enclosed _____

I will pick up my order on **Saturday, October 16**, in


Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐

or on **Sunday, October 17**, in Polson ☐

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Are you a member ☐ or non-member ☐ ?

 Send your order & check by **October 9** to : FLATHEAD AUDUBON
c/o Rod Ash
(Do NOT send order to Bigfork!!) P.O. Box 1129
Condon, MT 59826


Remember Your Feathered Friends!


When you stock up on your winter supply of sunflower seeds through Flathead Audubon, you achieve results in two ways: 1) the birds at your feeders are delighted and delight you in return; and 2) you assist Flathead Audubon in continuing the funding of several conservation and education programs. The money raised through this annual sale of bird seed **supports** Audubon Adventures, an educational program for school children; **enables** the chapter to assist in the care and upkeep of local refuges, such as Ninepipe Reservoir; and **provides** scholarship funds for environmental education. It also **helps** in financing other Audubon projects.


DELIVERY LOCATIONS : After completing your order, be sure to make note of the delivery location and mark your calendar accordingly, so you won't forget the time and place.

 **Bigfork:** Lakehills Shopping Center

Saturday, 10 - 12 noon; 837-5018


 **Condon:** Call June Ash, 754-2289,
for arrangements

 **Whitefish:** Train Depot Parking Lot
Saturday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm; 862-2028

 **Columbia Falls:** First Federal Savings

Saturday, 10 - 12 noon; 892-1317

 **Kalispell:** Kalispell Center Mall West
Parking Lot, Saturday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm ;
257-4100

 **Polson:** Super 1 Foods Parking Lot
Sunday, 12 noon - 2 pm ; 849-5286



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

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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**Sunflower
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