



Flathead the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 19

Number 4

April, 1994

MAKE NOTE Of It!

◆ April General Meeting 4/11/94

United Methodist Church, Bigfork
Meeting: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

◆ May General Meeting 5/9/94

Lone Pine State Park, Kalispell
Potluck Supper & Activities - 6 pm
Business Meeting: Election of Officers
and Directors; Adoption of Bylaws
Amendments.

Program for April Meeting

"Managing the Wolf/Livestock Conflict in the West" is the topic of the presentation to be given by Carter Niemeyer, who is the Western Regional Wolf Management Specialist, Animal Damage Control, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He investigates livestock depredations which are attributed to wolves and studies the "crime scene" and attempts to determine "who done it".

One argument against wolf reintroduction centers around wolf/livestock conflicts that will occur. Niemeyer will provide a firsthand account of the who, what, when and where of the wolf control operation. He will also share current information about recolonization in Montana.

Still Need Bird Seed?

Sunflower seeds are still available, if you're running low or out and want to replenish. The following Auduboners can be contacted for bird seed:

Rod Ash, Condon - 754-2289

Ferne Cohen, Whitefish - 862-2028

Lynn Kelly, Polson - 883-5797

❖ President's Corner

The move, the upcoming election, the issues, solid waste problems, wetlands loss, birds, Family Forestry Expo; lots of changes and lots of challenges.

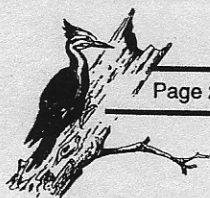
Flathead Audubon will be moving the monthly meeting place to Kalispell next September. The poll was better than 2:1 for the move. The officers and directors utilized the poll in making the final decision. It still seems to be necessary and justified, but that doesn't mean it's entirely comfortable. Our roots are in Bigfork and so are many friends and traditions. We will continue to work to keep both.

We will have an election and proposed changes to the bylaws will be considered at the annual May potluck meeting at Lone Pine State Park. We've got some fun stuff planned, so help us celebrate spring and good times in the Flathead and a little bird watching too.

Land use planning, solid waste issues and wetlands losses are very much in the forefront of our concerns in the Flathead Valley; serious, heavy-duty stuff. There are also plans for the Family Forestry Expo, competitive (Ho, Ho!) bird watching and educational field trips this spring. We're not so serious that we forget how to have fun!

Food for Thought: "There is no limit to the good you can do as long as you don't care who gets the credit." ❖ Brent Mitchell





The Editor's Spotting Scope

Bird identification is not always easy. It sounds easy: look at the bird, make note of its characteristics and check out the field guide. Voila! another species for your life list! Yeah, right!

Supposedly, all birds of a species look alike, which should make identification easy, but there are exceptions and there are also exceptions to the exceptions. Males and females are usually not the same; winter plumage often differs from courtship plumage and all too frequently juveniles (immatures) are different from the adults of their species. But otherwise, for the most part, all things considered, if we see a chickadee, a robin, or a nuthatch, etc., we know we're looking at a chickadee, a robin or a nuthatch, etc. (Of course, we know what they look like.)

As we get more into birding, and can readily identify a male mallard, wild turkey, magpie and pileated woodpecker, we soon learn that many species are quite difficult to identify because they look so much like a closely-related species. Was that a hairy or downy woodpecker? Sure, that one's a sparrow, but what kind? That bird over there, can I just call it a finch and let it go at that?

And the birds don't cooperate. They don't stay put long enough for a birder to look, make note of size and other characteristics, then check the bird book for clues and possible identification.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Hah! Short of shooting it, how would you ever get a bird in the hand for a closer look. Put salt on its tail? Double hah!

If we hear a bird's song, it's supposed to be an aid for identification, and the field guides usually provide us with the technical information intended to be helpful. Okay, here is a descriptive passage: "Per-chik-o-ree." As a further description, the guide book says the song

is "long, high and sweet." Obviously, it's not a Great-horned owl or a Crow, but would you have guessed an American goldfinch?

Last winter when I was in California, I noticed a lot of sea gulls on the Monterey Bay seashore. I studied the birds, made lots of notes and got out the field guide for a definite identification. Since I was in California, in all probabilities, it was the obvious California gull, I told myself as I paged through the guide. There I ran into Western gull, Herring gull and Thayer's gull and the gulls I saw could have been any one of those species. Because of the uncertainty, I didn't check any of them on my life list. (Actually, I probably could have checked them all as there's a good probability that I saw one of each.)

Later it occurred to me that I should have used my sense of hearing to really nail the identification. According to the book, the Western gull goes "kow-kow-kow" and the California gull's call is a descending "kiarr". The Herring gull's call is "loud, clear and bugle-like", and the Thayer gull's is deeper. Of course.

I just consider it an ID missed as I can't run back to Monterey Bay now to double-check them. I should go out to the county landfill and listen to those gulls. Maybe it would hone my birding skills ... and maybe not. I'd probably run into one of those exceptions and be right back where I started from. Sharon Bergman

Birdwatching on State Lands

ATTENTION BIRDWATCHERS!

Have you purchased your \$5 State Lands Recreational Use license?

These licenses are to be carried by all members of birdwatching groups who will be travelling on state lands while birdwatching. The license can be purchased through any vendor of hunting or fishing licenses and is good for one year (March 1 - February 28).

Let's do our part to pay our fair share for the privilege of enjoying the wildlife viewing on our Montana state lands.



BIRDAMERICA 1994 PLEDGE

Yes, sign me up for the following Flathead Audubon fund raising activity:

☐ Solicit sponsors for the Flathead Audubon Birdathon "Team" and turn in sponsor pages to be collected by the Birdathon Coordinator.

☐ Participate fully in the Birdathon by soliciting sponsors, counting birds and collecting pledges (or turn in sponsor pages to the Birdathon Coordinator for collection).

☐ Help collect donations for the Silent Auction/Raffle at the May Meeting.

☐ In lieu of active participation, I will contribute to our fund raising effort for BIRDAMERICA by donating ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Submit your pledge to Susannah Casey, Birdathon Coordinator, at the April or May regular meeting or mail it to P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904 on or before May 9.

Our Very Own Birding Hotline!

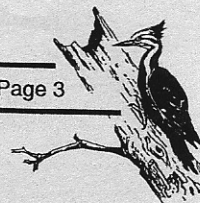
The Flathead Audubon Birding Hotline went on-line in March and is available for use by members and non-members alike. The line was not installed early enough to meet the deadline for inclusion in the phone books, but it will appear in all issues of the newsletter.

For your own use, ✂ clip this and post it on your bulletin board or refrigerator.

756-5595



Birding With Elly



SPRING! When the first Red-winged blackbird arrives at our place, I get excited. It sounds nice and means spring is on its way.

This year the first blackbird arrived on Ground Hog Day. The weather turned cold and he disappeared. In a couple of weeks he was back with 50 or so friends. This time, I thought, "Oh no! There goes the sunflower seed!" About 90 gros-pigs were eating here also, along with a bunch of other little twidgets.

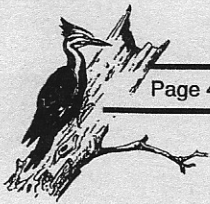
BANDING. Red wings are nice to band. They don't bite, are very soft and are easy to age and sex; and they provided a little excitement recently. On March 2, I recaptured #922-71619. He was two years-old when banded on March 3, 1990, so he is at least six years old now! — and on a pretty tight schedule. (Hummingbirds do this too.) Another two-year old male, banded on March 10, 1990, returned on March 4; and another one was found to have been banded in March, 1989 seven years old! I'd better get busy! Grampa may be out there!

HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR. In case you may have forgotten: the nectar formula for feeding hummers is one part sugar to four parts water. Boil it at least one minute.

Do NOT use food coloring. It is unnatural and the birds squirt it right out. Commercial mixes are not the best either. The sugar-water mixture most closely resembles natural flower nectar.

Put small amounts out at a time and freeze the rest if only a few birds are around. Change the nectar every couple of days and rinse the bottle clean with water only. Elly Jones





Mountain Views by Ken Wolff

During the first ten days of March several harbingers of spring arrived here in the upper Swan: bluebirds, meadowlarks, robins, Cassin's finches and Red-winged blackbirds. The snow level in the yard is down and melting rapidly. A low snowpack in the local mountains can possibly mean another dry summer, resulting in high fire potentials.

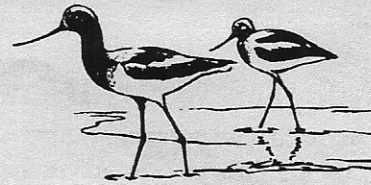
A recuperated golden eagle went free the end of March from the Grounded Eagle Foundation. This subadult male recovered from a tremendous head injury, having been struck head-on by a train near St. Regis in December. The bird arrived for care in a coma and remained unconscious for eight days; it was unable to stand and walk for almost three weeks, but fully regained the use of its feet and legs in about six weeks and was flying again following two months of rehabilitation. We gain another eagle and its progeny, and that is something!

Next in line is a huge young female golden eagle (weighing 16 pounds), recovering from a severe wing fracture as a result of colliding with a powerline in the Helena area. Injured in October, it may be July before she flies again. But she is going to fly again, and that is something!

An immature Red-tailed hawk and an adult osprey await the return of their own kind for release this spring. Both spent the winter here in captivity, recovering from gunshot wounds suffered late last summer.

Injured Wildlife Hotline. In cooperation with US West, the Grounded Eagle Foundation has operated a statewide injured wildlife toll-free number: 1-800-541-7986. Callers are referred to the nearest licensed wildlife rehabilitator or appropriate agency personnel.

It's spring and "baby season" is upon us again, and that is something too..



Member of the Month

Debora Rossi

"When I was a kid in school I wanted to be a veterinarian and work at a zoo hospital doing research in animal communication" Debora Rossi said, and that was the beginning of her interest in wildlife. Her childhood ambition did not come to fruition, however.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, her interest in music influenced the course her life was to take. Norb Rossi was home from college, "... and I was a junior in high school," she said. "We were both singers in a production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. Marriage and two children followed in due order, and the family moved in line with Norb's career in music as a choral director, traveling eventually to Browning, Shelby, Cutbank and then to Columbia Falls.


Working as a Chapter I Reading Aide at Glacier Gateway School in Columbia Falls, Debora teaches third graders. She is also working on a degree in elementary education at Southeastern College, Lakeland, Florida.

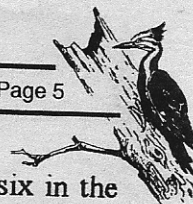
Her son Paul was the main reason she became involved with Audubon. She commented, "When we moved to this area, Paul developed an avid interest in birding and I suggested we come to an Audubon meeting to see what it was like. It is just great for him, although I wish there were other teenagers who share his interest. As for my own interests, I'm concerned about preserving wetlands and old-growth forests."

Her favorite bird? The Black-capped chickadee.

Debora Rossi, Flathead



Audubon Member of the Month: wife, mother, teacher, student and birder, devoting her energies to every facet of her life, to make it one of quality and service. 



Proposed Amendments to Flathead Audubon Society Bylaws

The following proposed amendments were submitted by the Bylaws Committee and approved by the Flathead Audubon Board of Directors. The proposals will be presented for approval at the general membership meeting on May 9, 1994.

Underlined words, phrases or sentences in the proposals indicate those portions of a section that are to be added or changed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1

Article II, Section 4; Heading: Meetings

RESOLVED to change the first sentence to read as follows:

Notice of the annual meeting, special meetings and regular meetings, at which SOCIETY business is to be transacted, shall be given not less than seven days nor more than 30 days before the date of the meeting.

REASON: The present requirement for notices provides for not less than 30 nor more than 50 days. Since meeting notices are given through the newsletter, such lengthy prior notice is not practical or necessary.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2

Article II, Section 6; Heading: Meetings

RESOLVED to change the first sentence to read as follows:

Members present, including at least three Board members, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of members at which SOCIETY business is to be conducted.

REASON: The current bylaws require a quorum of either one-tenth of all voting members or 100 members, whichever is less. Such a requirement could prevent Flathead Audubon from conducting business by the membership except at the annual meeting in May. The proposal will allow those members present at a meeting to vote on items of business and provides for the Board to have representation at the meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3

Article III, Section 1; Heading: Board of Directors

RESOLVED to change "three" to "six in the second sentence, which would then read as follows:

The Board shall include not less than six elected directors and, ex-officio with full voting rights, the elected officers of the SOCIETY.

FURTHER RESOLVED to add a third sentence to the section as follows:

Additionally, the immediate past president shall serve as a Board member with full rights and privileges.

REASON: With a membership of over 400 members, the minimum number of directors should be more representative of the size of the membership. Also, the immediate past president could offer invaluable service to the Board, based on the experience gained while in office.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #4

Article III, Section 3; Heading: Board of Directors

RESOLVED to delete Section 3, as follows, in its entirety:

No one individual shall serve for more than one consecutive term as a member of the Board, except in the case of an individual who after one term of service on the Board is elected an officer and, as such, may serve one additional term as set forth in Article IV, Section 2, hereinafter.

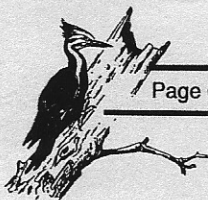
REASON: A term limitation for directors could create a hardship and serious loss to the Board and to the Chapter when a valuable director has to step down. It is questioned whether a limitation is even needed when, through the election process, the membership can replace a director who might not be giving good service.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #5

Article IV, Section 1, Heading: Officers

RESOLVED to delete "Recording secretary" and "Corresponding secretary" and replace them with "Secretary". The section would then read as follows:

The officers of the SOCIETY shall be a

**Proposed Amendment #5 continued**

President, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

REASON: For several years, Flathead Audubon has had just one person serving as the secretary while performing the duties of both a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary. Since the system appears to be working and there is no apparent need for two secretaries, the deletion is proposed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #6

Article IV, Section 2; Heading: Officers

RESOLVED to delete the two-term limitation for the president and the three-term limitation for the other officers, and to change the terms of office from one-year to two-year. The section would then read as follows:

The officers shall hold office for a term of two years following their election and until their successors take office.

REASON: As with directors, a term limitation for officers could create a hardship and serious loss to the Chapter when a valuable, experienced officer has to step down. It is questioned whether a term limitation is even needed when, through the election process, the membership can replace an officer who might not be giving good service.

A two-year term is much more advantageous than a one-year term, as the officer could gain more experience with a term of two years and be more affective for the Chapter.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #7

Article VI, Section 1; Heading: Other Committees
RESOLVED to change the second sentence to clarify the committee chairman's term of office and to delete the term limitation;

FURTHER RESOLVED to change "shall" to "should" in the last sentence, which pertains to the number of members on a committee. The section would then read as follows:

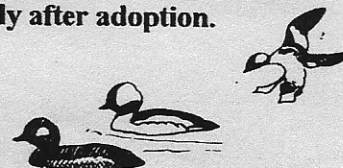
The President, with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint chairmen of

standing committees who, in turn, may select their own committee members with recommendations and suggestions from the Board. Terms of office shall be for one fiscal year or until their successors are appointed. Standing committees should be composed of not less than three members.

REASON: Most of the chairmen are highly qualified individuals who bring their own levels of expertise to the Chapter. Limiting the number of terms they can serve would be a disservice to the membership. If a chairman ceases to function well, or can no longer do the job, a new chairman can be appointed by the president after the annual meeting, with approval by the Board.

The number of members on a committee should be determined by the chairman. The Board can request the use of more members if there is an apparent need.

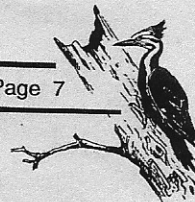
All approved amendments will become effective immediately after adoption.

**Elective Slate Presented**

The Nominating Committee of the Flathead Audubon Society presents the following slate of officers and directors for consideration at the elections to be held on May 9, 1994, at Lone Pine Park, Kalispell:

President - Leo Keane
Vice president - Susannah Casey
Secretary - Kent Miller
Treasurer - Susan Hitchcock
Directors - Sharon Bergman,
Neal Brown, Dan Casey
and Ferne Cohen.

During the elections, nominations from the floor will be accepted.



FIELD TRIPS



The following list is incomplete and tentative; some dates or times could change, and more trips will be added. Check with the field trip leaders (listed) for final details. A complete list of this year's trips with descriptions, meeting places and times will be included in the May Pileated Post. 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. He will also still take suggestions for additional trips, but no later than the April meeting. Once again, we are listing field trips sponsored by the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS).

Sunday, April 17: Lower Valley Waterfowl: Meet at the Somers Fishing Access site at 8:30 am for this 4-hr tour of wetland sites in the Somers area. Up to 20 waterfowl species can be expected, as well as other spring arrivals. Dan Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, May 7: Mushrooms Trip: (MNPS) With Larry Evans, a Missoula mycologist. There will be a fee for this trip. Call 837-5018 for information.

Saturday, May 7: 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 14: 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.

Estes Lake (Crane Mountain): (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, June 4: Birdathon / Bird America. See separate details in next 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 5: Safe Harbor Marsh. See a diverse mix of migrants and breeding birds at this Nature Conservancy site north of Polson. Marcie Bishop, 883-4146.

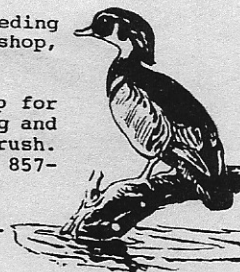
Saturday, June 18: Owen Sowerwine Natural Area by Canoe. Half-day trip for breeding birds at this river island County park. Flat water paddling and bush-whacking on the island. Bring canoe, life jackets; dress for brush. Meet at Rosauer's parking lot at 7:30 am. Dan and Susannah Casey, 857-3143.

Saturday, June 18: Swan Valley. (MNPS) With Maria Mantas, USFS Botanist. Call 837-5018 for more information.

Sunday, July 17: 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. About 6 easy hours; 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.

Friday, July 22: Scenic Point Hike. (MNPS) With Rachel Potter. Call 837-5018 for more information.

Saturday, August 6: 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. Neal Brown, 837-5018.





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 59904-0821	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
	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

Montana Audubon Council

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

OFFICE

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.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON BIRDING HOTLINE: 756-5595

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

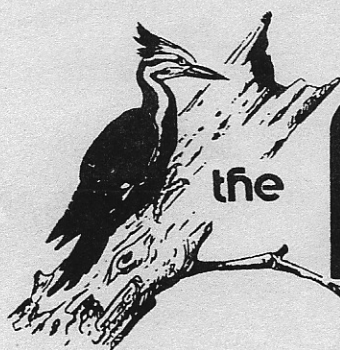
State Zip

N54 TXCHA

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
For address change, call 1-800-274-4201



the Pileated Post

Flathead Audubon Society

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CONDON, MONTANA 59826

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FIELD
TRIPS

Address Correction Requested

See Page 7

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