



Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 19

Number 5

May, 1994

Make Note Of It!

Annual Potluck Meeting: 5/9/94
Lone Pine Park, Kalispell, 6pm

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 and adoption of amendments to the bylaws. (See pages 4 and 5.)

The following slate of candidates will be presented for consideration at the election: President - Leo Keane; Vice president - Susannah Casey; Secretary - Kent Miller; Treasurer - Susan Hitchcock; and Directors - Sharon Bergman, Neal Brown, Dan Casey and Ferne Cohen. Nominations from the floor will be accepted

This will be the last meeting of the chapter until September so plan to join us for an evening of eating, meeting and exchanging bird stuff.

- * - * - * - *

WANTED:

Raven nest for study and photography.

Call Doug Chadwick, author, biologist and contributor to National Geographic Magazine, 862-4351.

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.

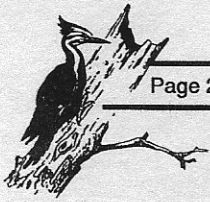
☐ In lieu of active participation, I will contribute to our fund raising effort for BIRDAMERICA by donating ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

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



The Editor's Spotting Scope

It's spring again (we knew it would get here), and again I'm in a city out-of-state for two months. Each spring I take a part-time job with the women's national bowling tournament, and in the past several years I've worked in Tampa, Cedar Rapids, Lansing, and Baton Rouge. This year I'm in Salt Lake City ... just over the hill from home.

One advantage to these annual spring treks is the bird watching in a new place: Storks and Pelicans in Florida, Mockingbirds and Night Hawks in Iowa, Northern Cardinals in Michigan and Snowy Egrets and Herons in Louisiana. And what do I find in Salt Lake City?

Seagulls! Lots and lots of seagulls, soaring over the city, meeting for lunch near the Salt Lake, resting wherever they darn well please and acting like they own the place. And, in a way, they do.

Seagulls are very much in the history of Salt Lake City, the state of Utah and the Mormon religion. There is a large bronze figure of a seagull suspended over State Street in downtown Salt Lake City, not far from the Mormon Tabernacle. Seagulls ate their way through jillions of crickets when this area was first settled, saving the crops for the pioneers and allowing the settlement to go forward. I think it's very appropriate for a piece of art to feature a bird which had such an historical impact.

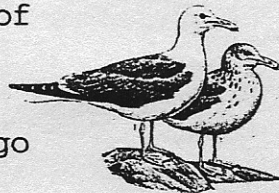
And, wouldn't you know, I don't know one seagull from another, as you may be aware if you read my last column. I

have really studied these birds ... as they fly, land, sit, hunker down, disagree and talk to each other. My best guess, and two of my bird guides tend to corroborate it, is that they are California Seagulls.

If the Mormon founding fathers could make so many changes in settling this part of the west, why didn't they name these seagulls "Salty" or "Wasatch" or "Gray and White" or something else that might be more indicative or descriptive? California Seagulls? Why, oh why, you bird-naming ornithologists?

But, maybe the founding fathers tried and no one would listen. Occasionally it happens that something which needs doing just doesn't get done and we're stuck with the original, like when it's the name of a famous Seagull.

Sharon Bergman



International Migratory Bird Day May 14

May 14 is International Migratory Bird Day. The big event associated with this day is the North American Migration Count, a nationwide bird count of our migrating birds.

1994 will mark the third year for this count in Montana. The count is designed to increase our understanding of the patterns and processes of migration, and to help establish an index of the number of birds in spring migrating populations.

Last year North American Migration Counts were done in 7 counties in Montana: Gallatin, Liberty, Park, Phillips, Ravalli, Silver Bow and Sweet Grass. These counts involved 69 Montanans counting 185 species of birds.

If you want to go on a North American Migration Count this year, contact Jim Sparks, P.O. Box 535, Big Timber, MT 59011, 932-5155 (w) or 932-5251 (h). He can let you know if there is already a count planned for your area, or help you set up your own count.



President's Corner

Four years ago, when I became your president, my goals were many and most of them had something to do with changing the way we were doing business. We were changing from a relatively small active chapter to a large chapter and our affairs could no longer be handled by a core group of 2-5 people. The number of "issues" had skyrocketed with the influx of new residents, new subdivisions, new water problems, new sewer systems, new citizen-based land use planning, new impacts on wildlife and human habitats and new pressures on resource agencies and local industries. It's been exciting, but not always "fun".

My goals for Flathead Audubon were as follows:

1. Decentralize authority and actions; for example, give chairpersons responsibility and authority to carry out their programs;
2. Increase communication within the Board;
3. Increase positive communications with potential adversaries (industry, multiple-use groups, government agencies);
4. Get members involved with locally important issues and draw upon the abundant expertise of chapter members;
5. Maintain or improve fundraisers;
6. Attain a "higher" positive profile in the Flathead area;
7. Maintain biologically sound, moderate wildlife and environmental positions.

Most of those goals have been reached -- not because I did anything special, but


because of your continued support and because of the people we have been blessed with on the Board.

This chapter is run by our Board of five officers, four directors and 14 committee chairpersons. We are one of the most active chapters in the state and probably the friendliest. I am still in awe of the diversity of our members, their individual (and collective) skill and commitment to the natural resources, people and environment in northwest Montana.

You are the finest group of people I've ever worked with, and each one of us is a volunteer! Speaking of volunteers, I could not have served without the support, work and cooperation of my best friend and confidante: my wife, Kay. Thanks to you, one and all!

Brent Mitchell

Southwest Wings Birding Festival

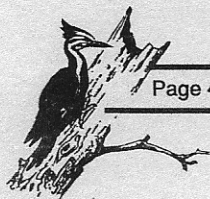


AUGUST 19-20-21, 1994
SIERRA VISTA, AZ.

*BIRDING AND NATURE TOURS
*NATURE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
*PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SOUTHWEST WINGS BIRDING FESTIVAL
P.O. BOX 3432
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(602) 458-2555

SIERRA VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE / TOURIST & VISITORS CENTER



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

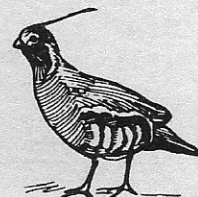
REASON: For several years, Flathead Audubon has had just one person serving as the secretary while performing the duties of both a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary. Since the system appears to be working and there is no apparent need for two secretaries, the deletion is proposed.

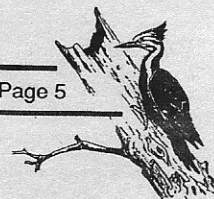
PROPOSED AMENDMENT #6

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.

Birding Challenge

Q: What do Roadrunners, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Blue-footed Boobies have in common?

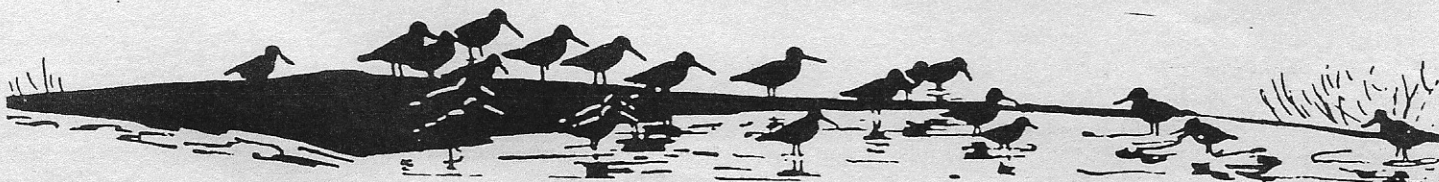
A: They're all birdathon team mascots and they all need your help!

We are looking for fun-loving folks to create more Birdathon teams (or join existing ones) and participate in BirdAmerica 1994! No experience necessary -- teams can get one pledge or 100 and birdwatch for an hour or a day. You can even do your 'thon thing while sipping iced-tea and watching the feeder in your own backyard.

If you don't want to join a team, pledge one! If every Flathead Auduboner raised or pledged just \$10, Audubon would receive over \$4,000! That would enable us to fund Audubon Adventures for local kids and help protect wetlands in Montana. Remember, Birdathon is fun because birding is fun!

So far there are four teams participating: The Red-eyed Roadrunners (the Casey family), The Boob-footed Blubies (Geoff Poole and Susan Hitchcox) and the still-to-be-named team of Brent Mitchell and Paul Rossi.

To start your own team, join an existing team or make a pledge, contact Susanah Casey (857-3143) or Susan Hitchcox (837-4645. GO TEAMS!





Member of the Month

—Brent Mitchell—

He was a Navy brat, born in Long Beach and raised in various California towns. When his dad brought home a pair of binoculars from Japan it set the course for his life. Today he questions the wisdom of his first birdwatching project -- spending hours watching English sparrows -- but he hasn't questioned his passion for birding, the environment and the outdoors in general. Brent Mitchell had to get involved with wildlife and its environs.

He got his start in the Boy Scouts, belonging to an Explorer's Troop that toured the west. In 1967, he attended Humboldt State University, studying wildlife management with a minor in range management. After college he went with the U.S. Forest Service and then to the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada as a range technician. From there he became a wildlife agent with Nevada Fish & Game (in other words, a game warden) and then got into law enforcement in Las Vegas.

"Friends wanted me to go to Montana," he said. "They raved about it. So I went on vacation in November and it was the most beautiful country I'd ever seen. I had to come back."

Law enforcement took him to Augusta, and eventually he found his way to Kalispell, where he is currently in the Maintenance Department of School District 5. Along the way he married Kay, and in 1979, she suggested that he "get out and get acquainted in

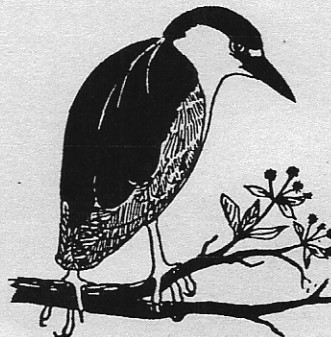
the community." He attended a meeting of the Flathead Audubon Society and, as they say, the rest is history.

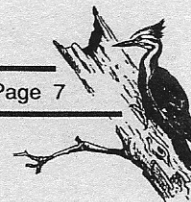
Brent started as the Program Chair and then became a director. He was elected to the vice presidency and in time became the chapter's president. He took a management course and applied what he learned, to see if a participatory management style could possibly make a difference. Brent Mitchell's style made the difference.

"A lot of environmental groups tend to get mushy or emotional on issues and not so much biological. Flathead Audubon's course of action has been based more on biology and facts, rather than emotion, and that is a sound basis from which to work.

"I've always been amazed at the amount of cooperation that this group has. It's widely versatile, but the various viewpoints mesh well. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to work with these people. In giving credit where it's due, I couldn't have accomplished anything without Kay and her support."

Brent Mitchell, Flathead Audubon's Member of the Month: a natural leader who brought out the best in all of us.





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.

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.

Saturday, May 21 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.

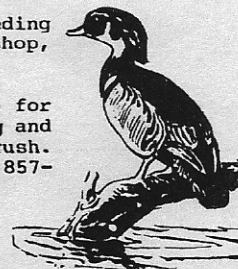
Saturday, June 4: Birdathon / Bird America. See separate details in next newsletter. Please sponsor our record-setting team or spend the day afield raising funds for the chapter and Regional office. Susannah Casey, 857-3143. (This is not an organized field trip).

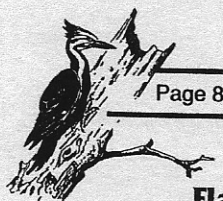
Sunday, June 5: Safe Harbor Marsh. See a diverse mix of migrants and breeding birds at this Nature Conservancy site north of Polson. Marcie Bishop, 883-4146.

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.

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.

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
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901
Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
Kent Miller, 781 1st Ave. EN, Kalispell, MT 59901
Holly Butlett, P.O. Box 7821, Kalispell, MT 59904-0821
Robin Magaddino, 2100 Swan Hwy, Bigfork, MT 59911

756-8130
862-5807
257-4100
257-2025
837-4294

DIRECTORS

1991-94
1991-94
1993-96
1993-96

Sam Culotta, 979 Eastman Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911
Malcolm Thompson, P.O. Box 1105, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Elaine Corrigan, 7405 Valley View Rd, Polson, MT 59860
Carol Purchase, 781 1st Ave. EN, Kalispell, MT 59901

837-4298
892-4208
883-6895
257-4100

CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures
Conservation
Field Trips
Hospitality/Sales
Hostess
Librarian
Membership
Newsletter
Program

Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901
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
Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937
Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911

755-1311
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837-5018
755-4422
862-5807
754-2289
849-5286
862-2028
862-1350
883-5797
756-6344
862-5807
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

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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 ☐

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Condon, Montana 59826

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the Pileated Post

Flathead Audubon Society

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