



# Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 19

Number 7

October, 1994

## Take Note!

➡ October General Meeting

**Monday, 10/10/94**

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell

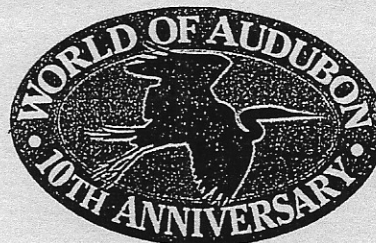
Meeting: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

### October Program

Jim Jensen, who is the Executive Director of the Montana Environmental Information Council (MEIC), will give a presentation on "The Effort to Reform the 1872 Mining Law". He will also speak on the mining issues in Montana.

### From the Lake County Leader:

Flathead Audubon's Lynn Kelly, who is a science teacher at Polson Middle School, meets Koani, the star of the Northern Rockies Ambassador Program from Missoula. With them is wildlife biologist Pat Tucker who, along with Bruce Weide, presented a special program on wolves to Polson students. (Photo by Glenn Timm)



National Audubon Society  
&  
Turner Broadcasting  
present

## The World of Audubon 10th Anniversary Special

Join hosts Lauren Hutton and Richard Dean Anderson on this remarkable adventure, featuring Audubon's most powerful and controversial films of the last decade.

Premieres on TBS SuperStation  
Sunday, November 20, 1994  
at 9:00PM (EST)

Encores: Monday, November 21 at 12:00AM (EST)  
Saturday, November 26 at 10:05AM (EST)  
Monday, November 28 at 2:35AM (EST)

**BE SURE TO WATCH!**

## It's Sunflower Seed Time ☼

If you haven't done so already, you still have time to order your winter supply of sunflower seeds. See page 5 of the newsletter for an order form.

Keep your feathered friends happy and at the same time assist Flathead Audubon with its special programs!





## The Editor's Spotting Scope

Generally, "domain" is defined as land belonging to one person, but the dictionary also says that it is a "field or sphere of activity or influence."

Sitting at my desk at any given time I am able to gaze over my personal domain — the fenced backyard, with its apple trees, garden and bird feeders. Beyond the fence is a pond and nearly an acre of wetland, which I affectionately call The Swamp.

This domain provides me with great pleasure. It has birds flying in and out of the trees and visiting the feeders. Butterflies check out and give their approval to the flowers. Ducks court and hatch their young as winter gives way to spring and in the summer months, an Osprey family soars overhead, their plaintive song announcing the joys of soaring. In late summer and early fall, the Pileated Woodpecker announces his presence with beak and voice, and the Ravens add their squawks year-round to the Nature Symphony. The birds, along with the deer, squirrels, raccoons and bear that parade through the area make this domain a joy — usually.

One morning I found a bird feeder absolutely demolished ... pounded into small bits. What would be so violent? The raccoons usually take the seed and leave; the squirrels aren't destructive at all in their thievery. And then I found incriminating evidence pointing to the night visitor: a bear.

This is bear country. All of us in this neighborhood know it and live with it. Usually, the bears arrive in September and stay a few weeks, being a nuisance as they search for food, then go to where ever it is that they hibernate. But this was early summer; it was a dry summer with very little bear food at the higher elevations. We were in for it.

I became angry when another feeder



was destroyed. Dammit, I shouldn't have to quit feeding the birds just to keep the bear out of the yard. He should respect the fence rather than climb over it. This is my domain — his is on the other side of the fence. He was a cub and didn't know or care about the established rules (put forth by me, of course). I no longer thought he was cute and when he appeared, I pounded on an old kettle to send him high-tailing. Eventually, he and one other cub were trapped and hauled back to the wilds and I felt a small triumph.

One hot afternoon I was standing under the apple tree and became aware of activity in the pond. Looking up I saw a bear cub swimming across the pond, cooling off in his own way. He ignored me and I enjoyed his swim as much as he did. He was back the next afternoon and it soon became a routine; he walked into the pond, swam around for awhile and then went into the swamp and was gone.

Why was this cub acceptable and the other one an ornery nuisance? Perhaps because he unknowingly respected my domain, my territory. All species, man (and woman) included, are protective of their territories. I fiercely defended mine with an old kettle and wooden spoon. If other uninvited species will stay outside the fence, there will be peace and harmony on both sides of the fence. **Sharon Bergman**

\* \* \* \*

**Did you know that** the colorful kestrel (sparrow hawk) is the smallest of the native North American falcons? It has been called the "jet" of the bird world because of its long, narrow pointed wings, sleek shape and great speed.



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Welcome  
to those new  
among us —



**Big Arm:** Larry Osbuensen;  
**Bigfork:** Bob Borchardt, Earl Erickson, Jolene Hays, Kathy Nelson, James Slack, J. Edward Sprenger and Sara Wagner;  
**Columbia Falls:** Robert Cotner, J.A. Grundstrom, Dick Reed, Tibbar Sindt and Nikki Sutkus; **Condon:** Elise Nichols;  
**Eureka:** June Byers, Ron Komac, Jerry McGuire, Deb Miller, Mina Rieben, Lynn Rosario and Bob Seidel; **Hot Springs:** James Larue; **Hungry Horse:** Marieanne Bresciani; **Kalispell:** Ann Beall, Joseph Brady, June Cosner, Karri Gerling, Jan Herriott, Barbara Quinlan, M. Romano, S. Thomson, Maureena Watkins, Cheryl Weatherell and Carl/Julie Winter; **Kila:** Maxine Cleveland and Linda/John Winnie;  
**Lakeside:** Thomas Noreen; **Libby:** Wilba Alquist, R. Magee, Donna Strachoki and Robert Woodward; **Marion:** C. Runyan;  
**Polson:** Garfield Aamodt, John Gobeille, Ethel Harding Dawna Hoffman and Pamela Moriarty; **Rollins:** W. Lebkicher; **Ronan:** Annie Kolattukudy, Joyce Mitchell and Charles Zano; **Swan Lake:** Susan Halloran; **Thompson Falls:** David Stafford;  
**Trout Creek:** Ann Katsaris and Robert Lambrecht; **Whitefish:** Marguerite Amstadt, B. J. Anton, Ali Debellas and Melanie Drown. Welcome to Flathead Audubon!

## Montana Audubon Seeks Legislative Interns

Montana Audubon will be hiring two interns for the 1995 Legislative session in Helena. The interns will be employed from January 2 through April 15, 1995. Duties include assisting the lobbyist of Montana Audubon and helping run the day-to-day operation of the Montana Audubon office.

Salary: \$500/month. Past interns have arranged college credits for their experience. For more information, contact: Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Legislative Fund, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, 443-3949.

If interested, submit your resume by November 15.

## Fly Away, Winston, Fly Away

For Betty Hoefle of Whitefish, the situation could not be ignored. A nest fell out of a tree beside the road and of the four Cedar Waxwing fledglings, only one survived. Betty took him home.

Although Betty and her husband operate the All Season Feed & Supply store, she had never raised a bird before. What do you feed a bird with no feathers?

She was advised to simulate the bird's diet as closely as possible, which meant insects and fruit, so she started a demanding regimen of feeding baby food: strained meats and fruits. The diet eventually included egg yolk, fresh fruit and mountain ash berries.

An old pigeon cage served as home base for the youngster, who was now called Winston for no conceivable reason other than it seemed to fit. The young Waxwing thrived. After about three weeks, he was fully feathered and making attempts to fly in the cage.

The cage door was left open and Winston ventured out — but not far. His flying skills improved, but he always returned to the safety of his pigeon cage. Betty expressed concern about his return to the wild, because he appeared to be intimidated by other birds flying into the area, even those of his own species.

Maybe he doesn't realize yet that he's a Cedar Waxwing. When that inner voice tells him of his heritage, Winston will probably fly away, and Betty will have a memory worth keeping.





## The President's Page ❖

I remember the first time I saw the Flathead Valley. It was 24 years ago this month. We drove north out of Missoula over the big hills that divide the Clark Fork from the Flathead. Topping the last rise at the Bison Range the panorama that opened before my eyes I'll never forget. The Mission Range arose like a standing ovation into the blue September sky. Early snow outlined the peaks. My breath was taken away and I left I should laugh or cry or applaud in return for such beauty.

Descending into the Mission Valley was like drifting into another world. The mountains eased back into their foothills, which reclined into the golden wheat fields and the lakes of Ninepipe captured the sky like sapphires. This was more beauty than I had ever seen and it seemed more than I could contain. When the horizon broke across Flathead Lake I wanted to die right there so I could see it forever — this great rift in the earth pooled with light and lake, forested beyond dreams, range giving way to range.

But our car, like a capsule, transported us onward as though on a mission. When we drove that final curve around Flathead Lake into its nurturing valley where the fields unfold in a mosaic of earth tones and the river meanders green and sheltering and the cottonwoods wave like old friends, that's when I knew I could be at home. This was all I would ever need.

Today it is home. The valleys, in that certain light, still take my breath away, the rivers always beckon, the mountains are constant. What troubles my dreams is how much has changed before my eyes.

There are now scars across the

foothills — roads to new view lots. I remember groves of cottonwood and ponderosa that were filled with the twitterings of warblers and the yammering of woodpeckers. Now gone, logged off, exchanged for thistle and knapweed. Hay meadows overnight seemed transformed into shopping centers or more places to eat. Each day it seems less like the Montana I first knew; more like Montana as a commodity: cut up, sold off, gone.

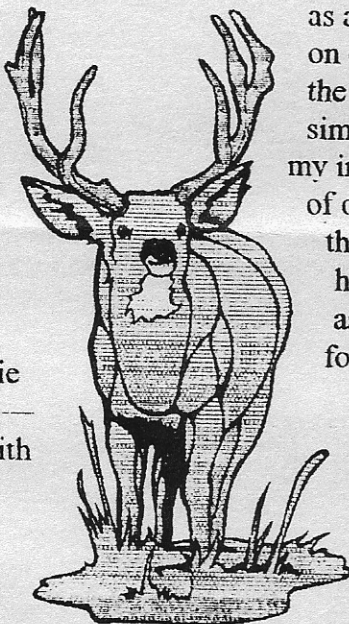
That bothers me very much. And I know that I am a part of it; by being here, working and living. I am a party to the valley's unrelenting change, dependent as anyone on an economy predicated on change. My recourse is to strive for the balance. In practical terms that simply means, first of all, minimizing my impacts on the land and the habitats of other species, and then replacing that which I do take or change. This has become the most challenging aspect of my career. It takes forethought, creativity and planning, planning, planning.

Which brings me to my message. We at Flathead Audubon advocate land-use planning as a giant step in the right direction. It is the one tool we have to attain that balance:

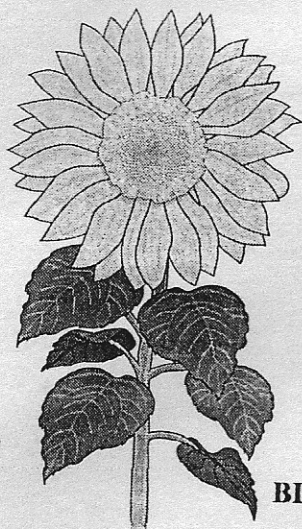
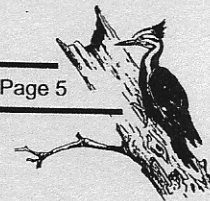
building our communities while saving a place for wildlife, maintaining both a functional and beautiful valley, living here without using up the inheritance of our sons and daughters. It's the best we can do. And though the Flathead will never look like it did to me 24 years ago, thankfully, it's still worth saving.

The public hearing on the County Master Plan is before the County Commissioners on **October 19**. Please be there in support.

Leo Keane







## 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 15, in .....**

Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐  
or on **Sunday, October 16, in Polson ☐.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member ☐ or non-member ☐ ?



Send your order & check by October 10 to: **FLATHEAD AUDUBON**

c/o Rod Ash

(Do NOT send order to Kalispell!!)

P.O. Box 1129

Condon, MT 59826

**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

**Columbia Falls:** First Federal Savings  
Saturday, 10 - 12 noon; 892-1317

**Condon:** Call June Ash, 754-2289  
October 14, 15, 16

**Kalispell:** Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Parking Lot, Saturday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm  
257-4100

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

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

### Support 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** other Audubon projects.





## Flathead Audubon Society Directory

### OFFICERS

President	Leo Keane, 514 Pine Place, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5807
Vice President	Susannah Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904	857-3143
Secretary	Kent Miller, 781 1st Ave. EN, Kalispell, MT 59901	257-4100
Treasurer	Susan Hitchcox, 4755 Foothill Rd, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4645
Past President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130

### DIRECTORS

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
1994-97	Sharon Bergman, 354 LaBella Ln, Big Arm, MT 59910	849-5286
1994-97	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
1994-97	Dan Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904	857-3143
1994-97	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028

### CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1311
Conservation	Geoff Poole, 4755 Foothill Rd, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4645
Field Trips	Dan Casey, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904	857-3143
Hostess	Carla Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
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	Ed Prach, 110 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-1350
Publicity	Liz Hill, 888 McCaffery Rd, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-1444
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	Neal 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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**BIRDING HOTLINE: 756-5595**

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. A business meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. followed by a special program at 8:15 p.m. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

THE PILEATED POST is published 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

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



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