



# Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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## Goshawk Status & Conservation Survey

A collaborative project between federal and state agencies has been initiated to assess the status of the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and to develop a goshawk conservation strategy as part of the Eastside Ecosystem Management Project. The purpose of the project is coordinated, effective conservation of natural resources in the upper Columbia River basin.

The status of numerous plant and other animal species are also being assessed. The goal is to keep the species off the Threatened - Endangered lists through good management.

Anyone with knowledge about the location(s) of a goshawk nest or activity area should contact the Montana Audubon Helena office, 443-3949. Survey forms will be sent for completion.

## Editorial: Contract With America

by Jim Phelps, Public Lands Co-Chair, Montana Audubon Council.

The "Contract with America" which the new House of Representatives majority has enthusiastically embraced, promises many of the reforms Americans want, including a promise to restore the "American dream." Those who wrote the "Contract with America" took pains to highlight issues that appear responsible at first glance. But, like a lot of things, the big print gives it to you and the little print takes it away.

Thus it is with the "Job Creation and Enhancement Act of 1995", one of ten new bills being introduced into the House within the first 100 days. If enacted, it will gut existing health and environmental laws. You wouldn't know that from reading the title or the propaganda surrounding it. The bill is advertised to reduce the capital gains tax, but most of the bill reads otherwise.

The Senate has not yet endorsed the

concept, and we should urge President Clinton to hang tough "a la Harry Truman." In trying to attain the "American Dream", let's not turn it into a nightmare. The sky didn't fall in with the environment and many were lulled into relaxing about it. Well, the threat is real.

Write your concerns to: Senator Robert Dole, Majority Leader, 141 Hart Office Bldg., U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; and to: Mr. Leon Panetta, Chief of Staff to the President; First Floor, West Wing; Executive Office of the President; 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; Washington, D.C. 20500.

Tell them to read the fine print. Might not be a bad idea to let Senators Baucus and Burns, as well as Representative Pat Williams, know how we feel too.

## Take Note! —

☐ January General Meeting  
Monday, 1/9/95

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.  
490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell

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

### January Program:

Marcy Bishop of the National Bison Range will give a presentation on "Double-crested Cormorants & Great Blue Heron." Bishop is responsible for Public Use and Education at the Bison Range, where she has worked for ten years. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, she has a background in biology with emphasis on ornithology. She previously studied wildlife in Africa as part of a 2-year research project.

☐ MT Legislative Update

Thursday, 1/26/95, 7 pm

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

See Page 2 for details



## The Editor's Spotting Scope

On a crisp winter morning I stepped out the back door to enjoy the quiet of the moment and the stillness was shattered by my neighbor. He was at it again with his rat-a-tat-tat.

We've been neighbors a long time and he's always been a raucous one, a little on the boisterous side. My next door neighbors are hardly heard and the one across the way can almost define serenity by her actions.

However, I don't complain when I hear him call or hammer. Invariably a smile crosses my face unbidden and I look to see if I can spot him.

With this particular neighbor I'm a voyeur. At every opportunity my binoculars are trained on him. He wouldn't complain; he tolerates me. We share my wetland acre with its snags and standing dead trees. I own them; he and his family live in them and on them. The arrangement is acceptable to both of us.

The raucous neighbor is a Pileated Woodpecker. For years the neighbor across the way has called him, or one of his forefathers, Red. His family has been here a long time ... as long as there have been dead trees in the swamp.



From my viewpoint, the swamp and the dead trees are useful and are contributing to this particular society. I'm secure in the knowledge that no one will fill that wetland and take out

the trees while they're under my control.

Besides harboring old Red and a family of Osprey the wetland is a stopover for many other species. In addition, it assures me of having a fairly quiet neighborhood, and a lot can be said for that combination.

Sharon Bergman.

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## Montana Legislative Update —

On Thursday, 1/26/95, 7 pm, at the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg. on Meridian Road, you'll have the opportunity to hear what the environmental organizations are working on at the legislative session in Helena. You can also learn what you can do to support their efforts..

Sponsored by the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC), environmental lobbyists from Montana Audubon, Trout Unlimited and MEIC will discuss the following:

- "Takings" and private property rights legislation;
- Game farms;
- Instream flows;
- Attacks on subdivision laws and MT Environmental Policy Act;
- Cottonwood and riparian area protections;
- ... and much more.

For further information, contact Neal Brown, 837-5018.



## Flathead Audubon Announces New Award

Conservationists, including Audubon members, are quick to criticise and protest about bad logging and forestry practices. Often excellent logging and forestry work goes unnoticed and unrecognized.

That is about to change with the implementation of Flathead Audubon's *Excellence in Forest Management Award*. The concept of publically recognizing outstanding examples of logging and land stewardship was initiated by Past President Brent Mitchell. After more than a year of committee work, led by Chairman Geoff Poole, the Flathead Audubon Board of Directors has approved the criteria for the award. The first annual award will be presented in 1995.

Through the establishment of the award, Flathead Audubon is recognizing timber-harvest professionals (loggers, contractors, engineers, etc.) together with private landowners who have shown leadership through careful holistic management of natural resources. The chapter believes that creativity and innovation in planning and implementing forest management practices which minimize impacts on ecological systems while meeting societal desire for economic stability and forest products will play a key role in overcoming the so-called "jobs vs. the environment" crisis we face today.

The *Excellence in Forest Management Award* will be given jointly to a timber harvest professional(s) and private landowner(s) who have worked

together to plan and implement specific forest management activities which produce commodities and protect or improve other forest values. The award will be given to the landowner(s) as well as the professional(s) who were primarily responsible for planning and implementing activities at a specific location. Management activities are evaluated based on the following objectives:

- ① Riparian and wetland protection;
- ② Non-game wildlife habitat protection and improvement;
- ③ Commodity production;
- ④ Minimization of soil disturbance;
- ⑤ Native plant protection/enhancement and weed control;
- ⑥ Stand health improvement;
- ⑦ Protection of air quality.

To qualify for this award, the management activity must have been conducted on private land in Flathead or Lake counties, Montana, must have occurred during 1994 and must have been implemented at least in part by persons employed as timber-harvest professionals.

Recipients of the award will receive a certificate, public recognition for their creativity and leadership and will be included on a list of award winners maintained by Flathead Audubon and available to the public.





## The President's Page >>

A new Montana "State Tree":  
the survey stake. Am I right?

Take a drive around the Flathead Valley, as I recently did for the Christmas Bird Count, and see for yourself. It is an eye-opener. Like jack pines after a forest fire, from the foothills to the wheat fields, those survey stakes are sprouting everywhere across the valley. Colorful survey tape festoons fence line and wood lot like Christmas decorations run amuck.

What's going on? Is all the hoopla over the new County Master Plan essentially a moot point? It seems many landowners, realtors and developers have hastily slipped in under the wire, while it's still a free-for-all. If so, by the time we get around to planning for growth in our valley, the damage may have been done. We are already rapidly liquidating our assets: the breathtaking views, our gentle shorelines, the old pine groves and grandpa's farm. Just like everywhere else, beauty and wild lands are becoming a memory of a place we used to know.

I got a discouraging reminder of this while trying to find birds on Count Day in the Many Lakes area. We drove to the nether ends of several existing roads only to find still more forest cut over, new rights-of way bulldozed through and homesites platted ever deeper into prime winter range.

We searched for the regal Northern Goshawk. They were gone. We saw sign of elk — a small herd had passed through — and I couldn't help but feel their confusion, with their familiar habitat disfigured so.

I too felt dazed and saddened. This was no longer my Montana; the mystic, lyrical Montana that once captured me. This was more like suburbia. Out here I realized our breathtaking vistas are not long for this world. And our wildlife are living on borrowed time. From this winter range, to the rolling hills down in the valley, to the shadowy oxbows along the river, we're taking it all for ourselves — and wasting the very assets we love so much.

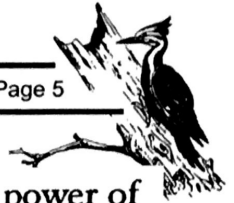
Yet it is a tremendously complex problem. And, as a Visionary once advised, "He who is without guilt may cast the first stone." That would not be me.

As a contractor, I'm building some of these homes. I, too, develop a parcel every now and then. I truly love my work and, like everybody else, I need the work. Still, I'd have to give it up if I didn't think there was a way to harmonize human communities with wild places and natural beauty. That, to me, has been the hope and promise of our valley-wide planning effort. We have just enough time and enough geography left intact to prove it can be done.

*Continued* ⇨⇨⇨







### *The President's Page continued*

With that in mind, I'd like everyone to plan ahead for our Spring Council Meeting, May 5, 6 and 7 at Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. All nine Montana Audubon chapters are invited to participate.

Our chosen topic of land-use planning, growth issues and how all this relates to the future of wildlife in Montana are keenly relevant no matter what part of Big Sky Country you call home. Our goal is to view all facets of the issue, and consolidate a vision for Montana Audubon — a vision of the future that includes both humankind and wildlife in an always beautiful Big Sky state.

Leo Keane



### **We Won One!**

Montana Audubon has a special network of over 90 people who commit to 30 minutes per month to write a letter on a specific topic. Called the Armchair Activist, the program is a unique and efficient technique for concerned citizens and Audubon members.

In October, an alert was raised when the Montana State Legislature planned to install a 900 toll line that would charge citizens to call their lawmakers. Armchair Activists were asked to write, indicating that this was an unacceptable barrier to democracy. Citing the many complaints received, the Legislative Council decided to keep a regular phone line, and not charge 75¢ per minute for each call.

This speaks well to the power of the letter and the energy of Audubon.

If you would like to become part of this important network, contact Christine Phillips, Grassroots Organizer, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, (406) 443-3949.

### **Endangered Species Starts Return**



Black-footed ferrets were believed to be extinct, until two different populations were found. In 1978, a small group was found in Ekalaka, MT and another group was found in Meeteetse, WY in 1981. The Ekalaka population did not

survive and the Wyoming group became the only hope for saving this rare animal.

Wyoming ferrets have been successfully bred in captivity and efforts have begun to reintroduce them into the wild. This year, 40 were released in Montana on the Charlie Russell Wildlife Refuge. Although 20 are known to have been killed by coyotes, biologists are optimistic. They have learned a great deal about the ferrets being released into the wild and are hopeful that efforts will be successful over the coming years.

**Birding Hotline: 756-5595**



## 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

**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.



P.O. Box 9173  
Kalispell, MT 59904

## National Audubon Society Membership Application



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