



Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 20

Number 2

February, 1995

Sharing the cost of the outdoors

(From the Great Falls Tribune)

The biologists in charge of managing the nation's wildlife are preparing to ask hikers, campers and bird watchers to contribute a share of the cost.

For years hunters and anglers have been paying for the management of game and fish. The money is raised through license fees and excise taxes of up to 11 percent on sporting firearms and boating and fishing gear. The fish and game excise taxes are collected by Washington and distributed to the states under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs.

The International Ass'n. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, made up of state, federal and Canadian officials, will ask Congress this spring to begin a similar program for nongame species.

A user fee of 5% or less would cover such things as camping gear and bird seed. Surveys show that most people who go outdoors for recreation, want to see wildlife and are willing to help pay for that experience. It would cost the average person about \$5 per year.

For years, nongame species have been getting some benefits from hunter-and angler-financed programs. Land bought for public hunting, for example, provides

nesting sites for songbirds.

Some species of nongame animals, such as neo-tropical songbirds, are declining dramatically and without a source of money to do research biologists don't know why.

David Waller, director of wildlife resources in Georgia, said, "We've got adequate money for fish and game and we get some federal money for endangered species. But there's a wide gap in there and if we can fill that gap, it will make us truly all wildlife agencies. Wildlife managers will spend the next few months building a coalition of outdoor groups, ranging from birders to hunters, to help support the program, Waller said. Top officials of corporations making outdoor gear were understandably cool to the idea.

With the nongame program, the money is collected by the federal government and returned to the states, which would have to match each three federal dollars with one state dollar. The money then goes to programs to benefit wildlife.

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The Editor's Spotting Scope

The wolves are back and I have to admit to mixed emotions. For one thing, many years ago (many, many years ago) (okay, in the 60's), I was married to a cattle rancher and we raised cattle and kids in the Bitterroot Valley. We had grazing permits in the Bitterroot National Forest and ran our cattle in the Skalkaho area in the summer time.

I've been asking myself whether we would have been concerned about the cattle being stalked by wolves if the wolves had been a natural part of environment in those times. If the wolf population had not been eradicated, ranchers would have dealt with any problems that threatened their herds. That's what ranchers do.

It could be said that westerners did just that when the rifles and poison came out and the wolves went down. It never occurred to the ranchers, government or biologists of the era that alternative methods could be used.

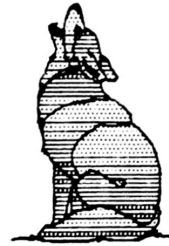
With this in my background, I can understand the concerns of today's ranchers about the reintroduction of wolves. I have walked a mile in their boots.

For another thing, in watching and reading about the farce of the release of the wolves in Idaho and Yellowstone, I wonder about the wisdom of those involved, and of those who trailed along "to watch". If these wolves are smart, they will get as far back in the wilderness as they can go and steer clear of this

species known as 'human'.

And one more thing. Reading the news report of the Idaho release, my heart soared as I visualized them loping into the wilderness. Vaya con Dios, El Lobo, and welcome back.

Sharon Bergman



A New Look

The Pileated Post was entered in an Audubon newsletter contest and the judges made several suggestions for improvement, including a lighter color of paper. Some of the modifications have been used and we hope you like the changes.

Take Note! —

February General Meeting

Monday, February 13, 1995

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell

Mtg.: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:15 pm

February Program: Riley McClelland, a retired National Park Service biologist, will give a presentation on "Landscape Health; 5-D Wood, Cacophony ... and Birds." During his career, McClelland was involved with eagle research in the Glacier Park area. His research also included other birds, such as woodpeckers in the Glacier area.



Welcome to Those New Among Us —



Bigfork: Bonner, Diana Rahdert, G. Rickenbacker and L. Terrell; **Columbia Falls:** Sonja Hartman and Tim Wiley; **Coram:** Gil Jordan; **Eureka:** Green Toy Store, Lila Halden, Ed Heiser, Ron Komac, J. Nix, Alta Smith and Ron/Marie Sperandeo; **Fortine:** William Chew; **Hot Springs:** Ann Mahler; **Hungry Horse:** L. MacDonald; **Kalispell:** Charles/Mary Bleck, Janet Hess, W.A. Higgs, Lillian Hinkley, Venola Johnson, Reggie Lanfear, May Loveless, Ellen Miller, Henry Oldenburg, Marjorie Romera, Michael Tuszynski, Michael Vetter, Dr. Mrs. David Walker, and Rod Walette; **Kila:** Ellen Denny, Marjory Ostman and John/Linda Winnie; **Lakeside:** Glenn Shaner and Nicole Thompson; **Libby:** Eva Christensen, Charles Gring, Pam Little, Whitson Family and C.J. Winn; **Plains:** Evelyn Hooker and Susan Williamson; **Polebridge:** Richard Clark; **Polson:** June Carson and Joan St. John; **Rollins:** Martha Haggett; **Ronan:** Kalanit Barson, Robert Bell and Annie Kolattukudy; **St. Ignatius:** Lonnie Trunko; **Thompson Falls:** Beth Heller, Carl Johnston and Clarence Thomas; **Trego:** Roy Johnson; **Troy:** Linda Owen; **Whitefish:** Suzanne Daniell, Melissa Fisher, Sue Harding, Jean Knutson, Fred McLaughlin, Estelle Shirley and Derik Williamson.

Welcome to Flathead Audubon!

Citizen Lobby Day Set For February 17 - 18

The Montana Audubon Council is offering a Lobby Day, free of charge, for any and all interested Audubon members and supporters. Members will have the opportunity to go to Helena and participate directly in the Capitol happenings.

Those attending will learn more about legislative proceedings and important Audubon issues while influencing lawmakers by lobbying on critical wildlife and environmental concerns.

Friday, February 17: A dessert reception will be held at 7 pm with legislators at the Sander's Bed & Breakfast. If you arrive early, arrangements can be made for you to attend committee hearings.

Saturday, February 18: At 8 am, a workshop on legislative process and citizen lobbying will be conducted. The group will then go to the Capitol to watch floor debate in the House and Senate and to lobby the lawmakers.

To receive a detailed agenda with exact times and locations, and to help the Audubon office plan the workshop, phone or send a post card to:

Christine Phillips
Montana Audubon Council
P.O. Box 595
Helena, MT 59624
(406) 443-3949





The President's Page >>

A friend of mine died toward the end of January. Craig Hess was not a close friend, but a good friend that I highly respected. He was just 42 years old (1952-1995), and was vice president of Flathead Audubon in 1983-84.

I became acquainted with Craig and his wife Janet several years ago when they hired me to remodel the 100-year-old house they had just bought. Because of the age of the house it was a tremendously complex project - even more than usual for a remodel job.

I remember so well Craig arriving home from work each day and I'd present him with the day's laundry list of unearthed problems - everything from disintegrated sill plates to hopelessly inadequate floor joists to walls listing two inches out of plumb. Any other homeowner might well have flipped out or panicked, or worse yet, turned on the hapless contractor with irrational anger.

Not Craig. Instead, very carefully, he would question me as to the exact nature of the problem and then ask for all the potential remediating measures. We'd confer about them and then start getting creative. I'd say, "Craig, we really should rebuild this wall," and he'd say, "Let's do it then, but while we're at it, wouldn't it be nice to frame in a new window?" I'd say, "Craig, that section of sagging floor joists will hold up the floor okay, but I'm afraid they'll throw your baseboard out of whack." And he'd say, "What would it cost to use a wider baseboard and plane it to fit?"

Good idea, Craig. I learned a lot from Craig Hess about making lemonade when you're dealt a mess of lemons.

This remains an important aspect of my business and, even moreso, a lesson for life. When friends like Craig fall victim to the ultimate test of courage, strength, forbearance and faith, it throws a bright shaft of light into everyday problems.

When I find myself complaining about another cloudy day, I should thank God I can still see the clouds - and the sun when it finally breaks through and drenches the peaks in alpenglow. When I'm about ready to hit the panic button because all the work isn't getting done and my desk is inundated, and here comes more bills and there goes the phone again, and please do I have time to do just one more thing ... yes, thank God, I do still have time. I have tomorrow.

The work will get done, and by the weekend I'll be one of the lucky ones back on the ski slopes gulping that pure mountain air. I have the day after tomorrow too, when spring returns to the valley and the honeysuckles trumpet and mayflies mist over the river. God willing, I'll still be one of the lucky ones here to enjoy the beauty of life. Any morning I wake up with my wife there beside me and the baby tucked sleeping in her crib is an indescribable gift.

In this light I see there is absolutely nothing to complain about and so much to be thankful for. That's the lesson we learn when a friend goes too soon. Leo Keane



Report – Bigfork Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 1994 by Dan Casey

TOTALS: 86 species (plus 4 during count week); 16,251 individuals.

These totals are higher than our 10-year averages of 78 species and 10,965 individuals. This was the 7th year we have seen over 80 species, and the species total is our (and Montana's) highest ever. There were 38 observers in 13 field parties and mild weather contributed to the excellent count totals.

This was the 21st Bigfork count and several new mileposts were set. Four new species, Pacific Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-headed Blackbird, brought our list of species seen to 133. New high count totals (below in bold) were tied or set for 17 other species (these are underlined). We set another (probable) national high count for Wild Turkeys, with 761. Four species were seen during count week (cw), but not on count day; most notable: an adult Peregrine Falcon, a species we have not had before.

<u>Pacific Loon</u>	1	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Belted Kingfisher	6
Horned Grebe	9	Downy Woodpecker	20
(Red-necked Grebe)	cw	Hairy Woodpecker	15
Western Grebe	1	<u>Northern Flicker</u>	55
<u>Double-crested Cormorant</u>	3	Pileated Woodpecker	16
Great Blue Heron	12	<u>Horned Lark</u>	17
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	262	Gray Jay	2
Canada Goose	3284	Steller's Jay	13
<u>Green-winged Teal</u>	3	Blue Jay	7
Mallard	1292	Clark's Nutcracker	7
Northern Pintail	7	Black-billed Magpie	100
Gadwall	5	American Crow	44
American Wigeon	8	Common Raven	166
<u>Canvasback</u>	150	<u>Black-capped Chickadee</u>	588
<u>Redhead</u>	1700	Mountain Chickadee	76
<u>Ring-necked Duck</u>	88	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	17
Greater Scaup	113	Red-breasted Nuthatch	160
Lesser Scaup	55	White-breasted Nuthatch	8
Common Goldeneye	536	Pygmy Nuthatch	33
Barrow's Goldeneye	16	Brown Creeper	7
Bufflehead	80	<u>Winter Wren</u>	2
Hooded Merganser	22	<u>Marsh Wren</u>	3
Common Merganser	239	American Dipper	13
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	48	Golden-crowned Kinglet	40
Northern Harrier	2	<u>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</u>	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	<u>Townsend's Solitaire</u>	15
Northern Goshawk	1	American Robin	2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Bohemian Waxwing	952
Rough-legged Hawk	9	Cedar Waxwing	4
<u>American Kestrel</u>	2	<u>Northern Shrike</u>	15
<u>(Peregrine Falcon)</u>	cw	European Starling	42
(Prairie Falcon)	cw	American Tree Sparrow	68
Gray Partridge	8	Song Sparrow	21
Ring-necked Pheasant	62	Dark-eyed Junco	47
Ruffed Grouse	3	Red-winged Blackbird	151
<u>Wild Turkey</u>	761	<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u>	2
American Coot	3970	Pine Grosbeak	27
Killdeer	1	(Cassin's Finch)	cw
Ring-billed Gull	24	<u>House Finch</u>	218
Herring Gull	10	Pine Siskin	3
gull, species	9	American Goldfinch	7
Rock Dove	86	Evening Grosbeak	32
<u>Mourning Dove</u>	95	House Sparrow	238
Great Horned Owl	2		



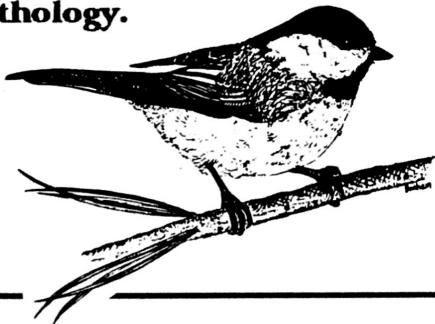
Upper Swan Valley Bird Count Report

by Rod Ash

The 2nd Annual Upper Swan Valley Christmas Bird Count was held in Condon on December 27. The day was cloudy or foggy and all still water was frozen. There were 11 field observers and six feeder watchers who recorded 24 species and 584 individuals. Both numbers were down from last year's count.

The species with the largest numbers was the Black-capped Chickadee at 162. Other sizeable numbers included 50 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 34 Grey Jays and 12 Hairy Woodpeckers. Two Lincoln Sparrows were seen near a feeder where they have been seen most of the winter. The Ruffed Grouse numbers at 8 were up from the previous count. Nine Bald Eagles were counted, and during count week a Saw-whet Owl, Spruce Grouse and Golden Eagle were observed.

The Upper Swan Valley count is co-sponsored by the Grounded Eagle Foundation and the Flathead Audubon chapter. Under the sponsorship of the Grounded Eagle Foundation, local birders will also take part in the Migratory Bird Count in May and will participate in the Tanager Project and Feeder Watch of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



Flathead Audubon Society Mission Statement

The Flathead Audubon Society is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

☐ Our mission is to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity.

☐ Awareness and appreciation of the natural world is promoted through educational activities and advocacy programs.

☐ We work with diverse groups and agencies to achieve sound decisions on natural resource issues.

☐ Our community outreach includes school programs, work projects and field trips.

☐ While focusing our efforts in northwest Montana, we believe in the protection of the earth and all its inhabitants.

Spring Regional Conference Set for Boise

The Rocky Mountain Regional Conference is scheduled to be held on May 19 through 23 in Boise. The featured theme will be Audubon's migratory bird work in the Western Hemisphere.

The Golden Eagle chapter will co-host the event. Lodging and meal packages have been arranged with Boise State University, and special field trips have been planned.

The registration form will be available at our February general meeting or you can contact the editor of the newsletter, Sharon Bergman, 849-5286.



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT AUDUBON CAMPS

NATURAL HISTORY INSTRUCTORS

Audubon Camps are operated at sites in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming by the National Audubon Society to provide adults with a relaxed educational setting in which to learn more about the natural world around them and the ways in which people are interacting with that world. Through the use of direct field study, lively lecture/demonstrations and discussions, the program strives to help participants develop a stronger understanding of basic concepts of ecology; an increased familiarity with the flora, fauna and physical environment; an increased awareness and understanding of environmental problems; a greater familiarity with resources and field study skills which will enable them to continue their studies on their own; and a greater desire to put their knowledge and skills to work on environmental matters in their home communities.

Workshop participants range in age from 18 to 80 and in knowledge from those with little or no background to others with considerable field experience. Many are teachers or scout leaders who are interested in learning both background information and teaching techniques. The program is designed to provide a balance between basic information for beginners and providing new information and/or teaching techniques for those with more experience.

Qualified individuals with teaching experience in a wide range of natural science subjects and ecological disciplines can become a part of the prestigious staff at one of Audubon's Camps or Workshops. The programs run for approximately eight weeks from mid-June to late August and the positions include salary plus room and board, at our sites in Connecticut, Maine or Wyoming.

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Since 1936, the National Audubon Society has been offering summer work/learn opportunities to young people who have a strong interest in the environment. The Student Assistant position provides a combination of hard work, meeting interesting people and, through attendance in the Audubon Ecology Workshop & Camps program, a chance to study the many life forms and physical aspects of forests, fields, ponds, streams and seashore environments. As part of the program, each student assistant carries out a field study project. Past projects have included photography of seashore organisms, surveys of ferns, a study of frog vocalizations, breeding bird surveys, studies of bird nesting behavior and many more. The entire summer is filled with learning opportunities, from stimulating, informal field classes, to individual inquiry and consultation with a project advisor, to interaction with strongly qualified instructional staff and interesting participants in this adult education program.

College-age students interested in a summer filled with learning opportunities and great camaraderie in beautiful surroundings should consider joining the staff at the Camp in Maine, Camp in the West, located near Dubois, Wyoming or the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut.

Students assist in the kitchen or as maintenance assistants in making the program work. In return they are provided with an opportunity to participate in the program throughout the summer, room and board, and a salary, commensurate with the position and camp season.

Interested persons should send their resume to:

**Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops
National Environmental Education Center
National Audubon Society
613 Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831**

Qualified persons who are selected for consideration will receive a detailed job description and application form.





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 \$10.00 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"/>
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Send this application and your check to:

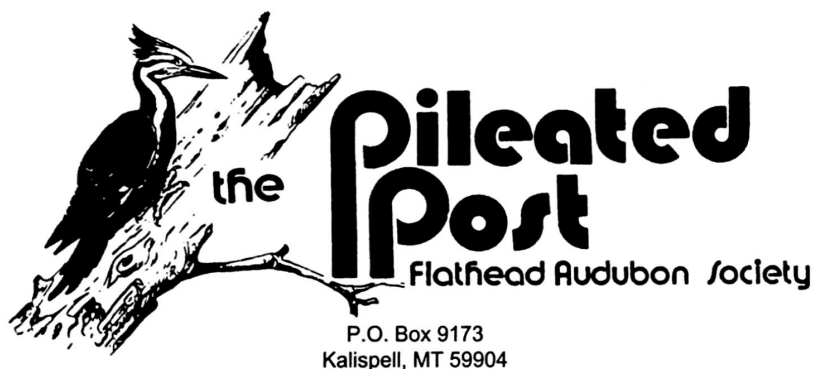
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Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

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