



# Pileated the Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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## Stewardship Proposal Submitted to Washington

A Kalispell-based group called the Flathead Forestry Project, which includes several Audubon members, has put forth a worthwhile idea in the form of a proposed law to Congress. The basis for the proposal is to reorient logging projects to emphasize retaining the integrity of the forest instead of focusing on timber extraction.

Loggers usually work for a mill that buys timber on the stump from the Forest Service. The whole transaction emphasizes the removal of logs and loggers are rewarded for getting out as many logs as quickly and as cheaply as possible. By establishing stewardship contracts, the group's proposed legislation would change that.

Under the proposal, The Forest Ecosystem Stewardship Demonstration Act of 1995, contractors would work directly for the public on national forest land based on acres treated. The timber byproduct would be sold separately.

A diverse, citizen-based local council would help the Forest Service select and monitor demonstration projects. This approach would put watershed restoration, fish and wildlife on equal footing with timber harvest. Clearcuts that eliminate the complex untidy forest in order to start over with uniform, simplified tree farms would be discouraged. Selective logging with light technologies would be preferred.

This idea has been embraced by a surprising diversity of loggers, small

millowners and conservationists. A recent letter to Montana's congressional delegation was signed, for example, by three mill owners, leaders of the Montana Logging Association and active members of the Montana Wilderness Association and Flathead Audubon. The letter states that the "focus of forest management should generally be on what is left in the forest, not what is removed."

It is hoped that the Montana congressional delegation will embrace this idea of looking out for the entire forest, not just the trees headed to the mill.

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## On the Legislative Front

Montana Audubon supports HB 472 which allows for the lease of water for instream flows. The bill will allow for the leasing of water to benefit fisheries and is the only bill that will help instream flows. It has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

The funding for wildlife programs is in many pieces of legislation. Montana Audubon is particularly working to fund the Watchable Wildlife Program, the Montana Natural Heritage program and important wildlife and fisheries programs.

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## The Editor's Spotting Scope

Is there any Montana bird more striking than the Ring-necked Pheasant?

Pheasants were brought to mind just recently when the Pheasants Forever group held their annual fund-raising dinner. One thought led to another, and I mused that Audubon is not alone in its concern about the birds of the ecosystems. Organizations such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and others do what they can in their own way to protect the bird habitats and maintain the species.

Granted, these groups want to shoot the very birds they endeavor to preserve. However, they are willing to do it within the system, for the sheer pleasure of spending a fall day in the field or wetland.

My introduction to pheasant was at the dinner table. As a new teenage resident of Montana, transplanted from Arizona, I experienced many "firsts" in a very short time: hikes in the woods, bears on the trail, porcupine quills in the dog's nose (Mike had his "firsts" too), swims in the lake in the summer and ice skating in the winter.

After an ice skating party with new friends, we all tramped to someone's home for supper. Her mother had cooked pheasant in a pressure cooker and it's a meal I've never forgotten. After all these years, I still salivate thinking about it.

Back in those days we called them Chinese Pheasant and they were plentiful. I soon learned to recognize their cry of alarm and anticipate a wild flapping of wings as they rose from the tall grass in sudden flight. The male was stunning to see, but another delight was watching the female herd her brood across an open space in a field or along the road.

Is it any wonder that Pheasants Forever wants to



perpetuate the species? We Montanans are lucky to have Ring-necked Pheasants among us to enjoy, regardless of how that enjoyment originates.

Sharon Bergman

## Eye the Eagle on Your Montana Tax Form

Again this year you'll find our national symbol among the lines and boxes on the 1994 Montana state income tax form. The bald eagle appears to be swooping above one particular box. That's the box where you can personally help all of Montana's wildlife species through a tax-deductible contribution to the state's Watchable Wildlife Program.

What does the Watchable Wildlife Program do for you? A high priority of the program is to help Montanans better appreciate and enjoy the diversity of the wildlife surrounding us.

Do what you can and make a "check" for wildlife on your state income tax form.

### Take Note! —

#### ✓ April General Meeting

Monday, April 10, 1995

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell

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

**April Program:** Lynn Kelly will be the featured speaker, giving a presentation on "The Wild & Scenic Missouri: a Montana Time Warp." Lynn has a master's degree in wildlife biology and has taught life sciences for the past 18 years to 7th graders in the Polson school system. She has an intense interest in natural history and environmental education, and has worked on Loon management in northwest Montana since 1986.



## Major Audubon Presentations Scheduled for Western Montana

Pat Waak, who heads up National Audubon's Population and Resource Use program, will be in Missoula and vicinity from April 7 through April 10.

Pat will be taking a field trip to the Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, Stevensville, on Saturday morning, April 8, where she will meet with Bitterroot Audubon members. She will be available to discuss her work and the quality of life concerns at a brown bag lunch at the refuge.

That evening, from 5:30 to 9 pm, she will be leading discussions at the University Congregational Church, 405 University Avenue, Missoula, with concerned community leaders and others on population and consumption issues. It is hoped that this will evolve into a network (coalition) of organizations and individuals who want to get involved in the population/consumption crisis.

On Monday, April 10, Pat will present the program at the regular meeting of Five Valleys Audubon, at 7:30 pm, in the Botany Building, Room 307, University of Montana campus.

All those interested are invited to participate in any or all of these events. It will be a great opportunity to learn about and get involved in this Quality of Life program.

**Bob Ballou**

## Earth Day 25

April 22, 1995 marks the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. In light of the new, anti-environmental mood in Congress, Earth Day will provide a unique opportunity to make a statement about the citizens' continuing concern for the environment.

Citizens for a Better Flathead is coordinating the activities and Flathead Audubon will man a booth at Gateway West Mall.

## Creating a Balance: Making a Place for People, Saving a Place for Wildlife

That's the theme for the Montana Audubon Council Spring meeting, which will be held at Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish, on May 5, 6 and 7. You should have received a flyer in the mail describing this event.

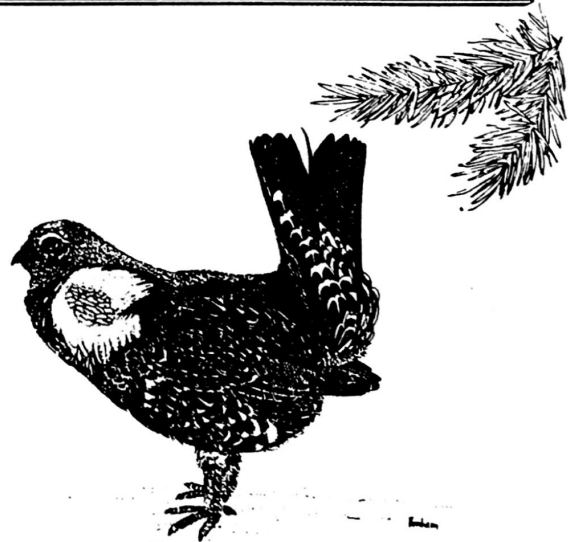
Plan to attend and please bring something for the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Montana Audubon Wildlife Fund.

It promises to be a thrill-packed weekend of field trips and panels of experts. Featured speakers will be Dr. Jack Stanford, Director of Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana; and Don Snow, Executive Director of the Northern Lights Institute, Missoula.

For additional information, call Pattie Brown, 837-5018. Hope to see you there!

**Pattie Brown**

"The greatest of all mistakes is to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can." — Sydney Smith



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## The President's Page >>

Today, The Ides of March, the time has come for me to collect my thoughts and tell you about Buck.

Buck was my old friend. By human years, Buck was very old; in dog years, Buck was just over 17. He was born, with his sister Sadie, on our living room floor, the night before Hallowe'en, 1977. His father was Buckshot (sort of a terrier); his mother was Little One (sort of a poodle); both "found" dogs rescued from the streets of Missoula.

Barely a month after their birth, Buck and Sadie got lost in the woods near our home, in the hills by Thompson Falls. The temperature that night plunged to five below zero. I found Buck and Sadie the next morning, shivering, terrified and crusted with snow. After a warm bath, they bounced back to life and never again strayed far from my sight.

Sadie died 11 years ago this spring and I buried her at home in Thompson Falls, on the day before I moved to Whitefish. Buck and I were a twosome from that time on.

Buck was everywhere with me, be it on the job, on the trout stream or just in the yard fetching tennis balls. He was the little, square-muzzled, fuzzy-faced passenger in my pickup who always went along for the ride. Buck was my constant companion.

When I met Gail in the fall of 1985, we became a threesome. Buck was there on our first date, a September walk along the shore of Lake McDonald. He was there the sunny August morning at Lone Pine when we were married. And he slept at the foot of our bed from then on. Last May, when our daughter was born, Buck was there, waiting outside in the truck. We had become a family.

There was one sure thing about Buck — he had a nose for trouble. He was run

over by a car, caught in a coyote trap and stabbed in the back with a screwdriver by some unknown assailant. Once, a cow moose in our backyard chased Buck down and would have stomped him into the ground, but he took cover behind me! That moose fairly loomed over me, but I shouted and waved and, fortunately, she backed off.

Buck had no sense of size. He barely weighed 15 pounds, but got into fights with German shepherds and could keep my brother's Rottweiler at bay. For years I assumed that his nose for trouble would lead to his eventual demise.

But, because of a dedicated veterinarian and Buck's own tenacity, he always managed to bounce back. Not that it was painless for us either. We liked to say that Buck was worth his weight in gold — literally. And so it was about a year ago, with Buck's hearing gone, his eyesight failing and the spring in his step weakening, I began to face a different end for my dog. I realized, and feared, I might have to make the decision to end his life.

It was not to be. Two weeks ago, as I write this, we discovered an infection in Buck's mouth. It looked bad. I took him to the vet, knowing it could be his last trip. Gail and the baby had said their goodbyes. In the veterinarian's sunny office, I held Buck softly for a long moment. The doctor took him, saying he didn't know if he'd pull through this time. There wasn't much bounce left in old Buck.

It was the last time I held him. Buck died in his sleep two days later. When I got the phone call, I returned to the breakfast table to tell Gail, but stopped briefly by the front window. A long, clear note came from the woods — the first Varied Thrush of spring. And on the table by the window, our Christmas cactus, dormant now for two years, had flowered — one pink blossom.

Leo Keane



## Bald Eagles Nesting at Lake McDonald

A pair of Bald Eagles has been observed at the nest site on Lake McDonald and adjacent areas, according to Glacier National Park Superintendent David Mihalic. The pair were observed at the nest in early March. To

minimize potential disturbance at key foraging areas, visitor access restrictions are in effect at the inlet area of Lake McDonald through May 15.

Ongoing monitoring of Bald Eagles at Lake McDonald indicates the birds' primary use area continues to overlap with visitor use at the upper end of the lake. "Minimizing disturbances to Bald Eagles during the important nesting period may improve chances for the successful hatching and survival of young," stated Mihalic.

To provide eagles with opportunities to feed and nest in the area, park officials are implementing the following temporary restrictions :

- The Upper McDonald Creek inlet is closed to the public through May 15.
- The upper third of Lake McDonald is closed to boating and fishing through May 15.

The Upper McDonald Creek inlet and the upper end of Lake McDonald are important spring foraging areas for resident and migrant Bald Eagles and for a variety of waterfowl including many species of ducks, Canada geese, Tundra Swans, Common Loons and Grebes. Waterfowl can provide an important alternate food resource for Bald Eagles, supplementing their usual diet of fish.

Resident Bald Eagles at Lake McDonald produced two eaglets in 1988 and 1994, and one eaglet in 1991 and 1993. No young were produced in 1989, 1990 or 1992. Prior to 1988, successful breeding at the nest had not occurred since 1982.



## Birdathon '95

Seriously, spring is almost here and it's time to start collecting pledges for your Birdathon. Every single member of Flathead Audubon should participate in one way or another. The following pledge lists the opportunities for you to take an active part in this major fund raiser for Audubon.

Birdathon is fun because birding is fun. Go ahead — have some fun!

### 1995 BirdAmerica Pledge

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

☐ Participate fully in a Birdathon: solicit pledges, count birds, collect pledges.

☐ Sponsor a Birdathon Team.

☐ Solicit items for the May Potluck Raffle.

☐ In lieu of active participation, I will contribute to the fund raising effort by enclosing a donation for ☐ \$15 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your pledge to Susannah Casey, Birdathon Coordinator, P.O. Box 7922, Kalispell, MT 59904.



## 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"/>
Individual Renewal	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \$10 ☐

to: Flathead Audubon Society Membership;

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Condon, Montana 59826

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