



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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Concern Voiced for Public Lands

Conservation organizations have expressed concern about two bills to be considered by the 104th Congress when it returns to Washington after the summer break.

The BLM "land transfer bill" (S. 1031 and H.R. 2032), if enacted, will permit the transfer of Bureau of Land Management lands to the states in which the lands are located. The "Livestock Grazing Act bills" (S. 852 and H.R. 1713) propose to make the grazing of livestock the "dominant use" of public lands.

Some consider that ulterior motives are being used in a type of "Sagebrush Rebellion" to give away public lands. The BLM lands are being proposed for transfer now, while other federal lands, such as Forest Service lands, are not included, and if the BLM proposal is successful, it is anticipated that other public lands will be next.

States will control the new state lands, and could very well sell off the acreage of high value, such as recreational, timber or mineral lands. There is nothing in the bills that will guarantee public access for recreation. Additionally, there is no guarantee that states will be successful against the wishes of those using the resources when attempts are made to raise fees for various uses of state lands.

Regarding the Grazing Act proposed change, historically grazing on public lands has always been one of the "multiple uses". Under the present law, "multiple uses" includes grazing, wildlife habitat, timber harvest and recreation.

In addition to other concerns, such as eliminating public participation in the management of public resources, a major change would be the near elimination of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. By removing the guidelines, soil erosion will increase and water quality and wildlife habitat will decline resulting in a general deterioration of the environment itself.

What can you do? Phone your congressman about your concerns and follow it with a letter. They won't know you care unless you let them know.

Senator Max Baucus
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2602
1-202-224-2651

Senator Conrad Burns
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-2603
1-202-224-2644

Rep. Pat Williams
House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-2601
1-202-225-3211

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The Editor's Spotting Scope

You missed a good one in July.

The field trip schedule called it Loon Trip to Thompson Chain of Lakes. Lynn Kelly led the way and two of us followed on a great day of birding.

Lynn wasn't sure whether we'd see any loons, but that's the way birding is. You leave with uncertainty and hope, and return with satisfaction — regardless of whether you achieved your birding goals. It's the doing that counts.

Our first success was at Upper Thompson Lake, thanks to Lynn's car. As we were returning to the truck, she heard something. Grabbing binoculars and a scope, we scanned the lake and there they were — a family of loons: Mom, Dad and Chick. (Oh, Wow!) One parent would dive for food while the other stayed on the surface of the water with the chick. This family scene held us for a long time, but there were other lakes to check for loons, so we reluctantly left our watching post.

Our loon count hit six before we were through and we also added Marsh Wrens, Osprey, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, Western Grebes and a Bald Eagle.

At one of the lakes we visited with Pody Riggles who camps in the area from spring till fall, fishing, visiting with those who stop by and monitoring the nesting loons. A retired logger, he satisfies his love of the outdoors and also provides valuable data to the Montana Loon Society on the loon population in the region.

The pair of loons we saw on Loon Lake alerted Lynn by their call. To me, one loon call was no different from another, but to her experienced ear the call meant there was danger.

About the same time, we watched an Osprey hit the water and catch a fish. He lifted into the air and as he flew off, a young Eagle fell in behind him in hot

pursuit, thinking he could have a meal just for the taking.

He had another think coming. We could see it wasn't going to be easy, as the drama unfolded before us. The Osprey spiraled up into the sky, dodging the Eagle as he went, and outflying him at every turn. We thought it was just a matter of time before the Eagle got his dinner, but the Osprey hung in there — dipping, diving, flying in circles and holding fast to the fish. The Eagle was right behind him at each dip and dive.

And then it was over, almost before we realized it. We couldn't believe what we had seen. The Eagle gave up and flew away! The Osprey, unscathed and still holding the fish, flew off to his nest to feed the family.

We knew

we had experienced something special in the bird world; something

not anticipated when the bird watching tour started. In a confrontation, the supposed underdog triumphed and such a triumph is good to see in any world — natural or human.



Sharon Bergman

Take Note —

✓ September General Meeting

Monday, September 11, 1995

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell

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

Program: The featured speaker will be John Grant, who has been the Wildlife Area Manager at the Ninepipe Refuge for the past five years. His presentation will be "Manipulating Habitat to Mimic the Natural Environment."

Grant has a Masters degree in Wildlife Biology from U. of M. and a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife & Fisheries from S. Dakota State U.



Waste Not — Want Not ♻️

Encouraging shoppers to stop waste before it happens is the focus of a planned Precycling Program being initiated in Whitefish. Ferne Cohen, Project Coordinator, indicated that volunteers from Flathead Audubon, Citizens for a Better Flathead, Waste Watchers and the General Federation of Women's Clubs/Whitefish will be at the area stores to urge shoppers to think before they buy and reduce waste.

"Reducing waste actually conserves habitat," Cohen said. "Going into the stores is a way to reach the public, which is not ordinarily aware or involved in waste reduction. To be affective, many customers need to change their buying methods."

A precycling information table will be staffed by volunteers. Information on related topics such as reducing waste, recycling and composting will be provided. Postcards will be available for customers to send feedback to manufacturers about their products and packaging.

Additionally, in-store signs will reinforce the precycle message by reminding customers to use reusable bags, such as "Return your shopping bag and receive 5¢ credit."

There will be some labeling of food products which are packaged in recyclable containers, such as aluminum cans.

"Packaging accounts for half the volume and 30 % of the weight in America's trash," according to Cohen. "It makes sense to reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse products that increase our community solid waste."

More volunteers are needed for this important project. Those interested should contact Ferne Cohen at 862-2028.

It's Sunflower Time!

Flathead Audubon's annual sunflower seed sale is getting underway (see page 7). The seed sale is the primary fund raising effort of the chapter.

Proceeds from the sale help to finance the chapter's bird and conservation education efforts, including the popular Audubon Adventures for elementary school students. Other conservation efforts by chapter members to protect wetlands and native and migratory birds are also supported by sunflower seed sales. Additionally, we shared the costs of a neotropical bird trunk for schools in the Eureka area with the Forest Service and the Dancing Prairie Audubon group.

High quality, clean Montana or Dakota sunflower seed will be sold for \$17 for a 50 lb. sack. The deadline for purchasing seeds before the pickup date is Saturday, October 7. Rod Ash

Report From the Nets



A report from the Swan River Oxbow Preserve and also Hungry Horse produced excitement as Tennessee Warblers had been caught and banded.

On the hummingbird front, to date, 238 new-banded hummers were tallied and 61 significant recaptures. These included 8 five-year olds, 3 six-year olds and 3 seven-year olds. Seven years is a record for the Rufous Hummingbird.

Jeanie Lawrence (north of Bigfork) got a picture of an unusual albino Calliope Hummer. Elly Jones



The President's Page >>

And how was your summer? Was it one of those good old Montana "ten months of winter, two months of relatives" kind of summer? That would be just like mine, except we only had two weeks of relatives and all the rest of the time I worked my tail off. Truly an old-fashioned Montana summer — without the lemonade and with worse traffic.

I see now why the pioneers spoke of Montana as "Next Year Country". Their hopes were tied inevitably to the future. Even though this year might bring floods then drought then crop failures, or the market bottoms out for beef or wheat or logs or gold, and the help ran off with the wife or daughter or dog, why next year things must certainly be better. Next year the sun will shine by day and the rains come at night, just like it's supposed to. Next year all the work will be finished by supper and Sundays will be free to fish with the kids. We'll finally get all we deserve and haul wheelbarrows of money to the bank, next year.

If this sounds like the "Cowboy's Lament" it seems to hold true for at least some of us modern Montana city slickers. The big difference for me is that I dream of time; as in, next year I'll have time to go fishing more than once or twice. I'll sleep under the Big Dipper beside some lonesome river and get to

know the bird songs at sunrise again, and I'll teach them all to my daughter. Next year, the canoe will be pressed back into service, and not liemoldering away in the backyard. You know, next year I wouldn't even mind having the time to finish painting my own home and keep the lawn mowed and the woodshed full.

As for that wheelbarrow full of money, even though I eschew materialism and try to live as lightly on the earth as one can in this modern era, there is something to be said for an adequate bank account. You tend to relax better on those fishing trips. More importantly — so does your spouse.

Yet when all is said and done, I certainly expect to work my tail off, this year and every year after. In fact, I wouldn't have it any other way. But next year, I'll remember why I've chosen to do it in Montana.

Leo Keane

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.
-



❖ This 'N That ❖

New Among Us —

A BIG and belated "WELCOME" to the following who are new to our group.



Bigfork: Gordon Bartells, Leroy Brorson, Beth Gwynn, Jim Manley and James Reinecke; **Charlo:** David Fitzpatrick; **Columbia Falls:** Scott Goodnight, Casey Hebert, Alice Hjermstad and Elmer Lucking; **Eureka:** Lyle Douglas and IMC; **Fortine:** Katherine Gallagher; **Kalispell:** Ryan Averbek, Mike Byers, Denise Conner, Phillip Cressman, James Culbertson, Myra Dimaggio, Dallas Eklund, Gayle Engebretson, C. Mark Hash, Linda Kinamon, Valora Loraas, Ellen Nasca, Henry Oldenburg, Carolyn O'Neil, Lloyd Reesman, Al Shepperd, Lucille Shotwell, Judith Space, Hugh/Janet Swearingen, Bob Spencer, C. Thomas and Leslie Walker; **Lakeside:** Douglas Morehouse; **Plains:** Danny Goolsby; **Polebridge:** Ed Heger; **Polson:** Mrs. Marinkovich and Igor Suchomel; **Proctor:** Ruth Thomas; **Ronan:** Tina Billedeaux and Ron McCrea; **St. Ignatius:** Carolyn Corey and Mary Keast; **Trout Creek:** Carol Deprazza; **Troy:** Lorraino Lundin; **West Glacier:** Marian Peck; **Whitefish:** Irene Arnold, Melia Biedscheid, Ann Haggett, E. J. Hallgren, Laura Rolsky and Steven Smyth.



Off to Connecticut ✈

Flathead Audubon Director Ferne Cohen and former member Bob Ballou will be heading for Greenwich, CT, where they were invited to participate in the National Audubon Society Population Program Strategy Retreat. Discussions will focus on goals for the NAS Population and Resource Use Program, and how the program helps Audubon to achieve its mission of protecting birds, other wildlife and habitat.

October is Population Awareness Month and Ferne will be presenting a special report on the retreat at the October meeting, with added focus on growth in the Flathead area.



From Montana Audubon —

Wildlife Fund Reaches Goal. In 1987, the Council set up an endowment fund for the disbursement of grants for research, education and publications on Montana's wildlife and natural communities. Before grants would be given, the Montana Wildlife Fund had to reach \$20,000, and the Fund reached its goal this spring. First grants are expected to be made in January, 1996. Donations are still being accepted and can be sent to the Montana Audubon office in Helena. ♦♦♦

Wetland Volunteers Needed.

The Council is looking for a few volunteers to help guide and develop the wetlands program. Anyone interested in helping to develop the program (or wants to learn more), should contact Janet Ellis at the Audubon office. (See the Directory on the back page for the Helena office address and phone number.) ♦♦♦

Wish List for the Office.

Following are some of the items needed for the Council office:

- Macintosh Computer
- 3-drawer filing cabinet
- Storage Cabinet
- Nice cards/stationary (for thank you notes)
- Original pen-and-ink drawings of plants/wildlife for newsletter





Are you reading this newsletter but STILL not a member of the National Audubon Society?



When you join the National Audubon Society, you become an important part of the most effective environmental organization in the world. An organization for nature and wildlife that reflects your concerns and rewards you with an impressive range of benefits.

AUDUBON magazine. Enjoy a year, six bimonthly issues, of our award-winning publication. Experience the photography and articles that transport you to the natural wonders of the world.

Free membership in your local Audubon chapter. Audubon members across the country have formed more than 500 local chapters, through which they are a voice for conservation in their communities. Chapters offer the opportunity to get active at the local level through conservation

and wildlife programs, birding field trips, and other activities. **Become an Activist.** Pledge to call and write your elected officials, and receive the *Audubon Activist*.

Audubon Travel. From the icy mountains of Antarctica to the giant turtles of the Galapagos.

Offers on Audubon products. From calendars to bird feeders to collectibles. **A strong voice in Congress.** Audubon is your voice on environmental issues. **Plus a host of other benefits.**

Free! Our Bonus Gift! *A Selection of Familiar Birds of North America* filled with up-close photos and fascinating facts. It's yours **FREE** upon receipt of membership dues.



JOIN NOW AND RECEIVE

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of North America* - **FREE!**

Enter my one year membership in the National Audubon Society at the special rate of \$20. That's \$15 off the regular \$35 membership dues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

N54 7XCHA

Chapter No. _____

7AYA1

☐ Payment enclosed.

☐ Please bill me.

Make checks payable to The National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001

\$10 of dues is for AUDUBON magazine. Canadian and foreign members, please add \$10. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue of AUDUBON.





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 14, in

Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐

or on Sunday, October 15, in Polson ☐

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Are you a member ☐ or non-member ☐ ?



Send your order & check by October 7 to: Flathead Audubon

c/o June Ash

(Do NOT send order to Kalispell!)

P.O. Box 1129

Condon, MT 59826

Remember 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 educational 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.

DELIVERY LOCATIONS: After completing the order, 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**
for arrangements

✓ **Kalispell: Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
Saturday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm; 756-8130

✓ **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



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

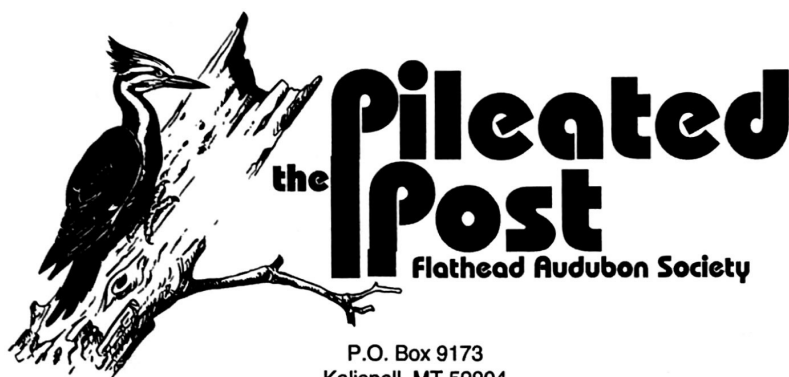
OFFICE	Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
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BIRDING HOTLINE: 756-5595

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 \$10.00 per year.

Deadline for newsletter copy: the 20th of each month.



P.O. Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

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 \$10 ☐

to: Flathead Audubon Society Membership;

P.O. Box 1129
Condon, Montana 59826

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

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