



the Flatheaded Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 21

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October 1996

This is National Wildlife Refuge Week

Where can you find a great diversity and abundance of wildlife and its habitat? In your own neighborhood, in a National Wildlife Refuge. While most Auduboners are very familiar with wildlife refuges, many Americans are not aware of the refuge system, and their lack of knowledge could imperil its very existence. Last year, the second week of October was declared National Wildlife Refuge Week in an effort to promote knowledge, understanding and concern for the system.

The focus of this year's (October 5 - 13) activities will be on stewardship of the land, combined with opportunities for compatible, wildlife-dependent recreation. The theme is "sharing an appreciation for the natural world". The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will be showcasing the importance and significance of the Refuge System during this highlighted week.

The NWRS had its origins at the beginning of the century, in 1903. Early Audubon members and other conservationists mobilized to stop the wanton pillaging of birds by plume hunters. When local Audubon members were unable to purchase land from the federal government in order to protect nesting bird colonies, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an Executive Order to set aside as a refuge 3-acre Pelican Island in eastern Florida's Indian River. Pelican Island, at the time, contained the last remaining breeding colony for brown pelicans on the Atlantic coast. It is still a refuge today, the first refuge in a system that now incorporates more than 92 million acres.

From those modest beginnings, the system has grown to include 508 units in 50 states and several U.S. territories. No other network of federal lands comprises such a diverse spectrum of habitat — from arctic tundra to tropical forests, from prairies to seashores, from wetlands to desert. It is one of the most comprehensive protectors of our nation's biological diversity and

the only network of federal public lands to be established specifically to conserve wildlife.

The recent sweeping passage in the House of the harmful "National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act" (H.R. 1675), demonstrates just how imperative it is to build a larger base of public support for the system. By and large, the American public does not understand the mission of the Refuge System, and the important role it plays with respect to protecting migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. The National Audubon campaign seeks to reach out to natural constituencies (birders, school children and families) who will give the system a louder and more diverse voice.

To rekindle your appreciation of the Refuge System, visit one (or all) of the refuges in the Flathead Audubon area, such as Swan River, Ninepipe or Pablo. You don't have to reserve the trip for Refuge Week — go anytime.

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The editor's spotting scope

What counts and doesn't count?

When an unfamiliar bird flies across your backyard and lands on the fence, can you add it to your life list?

If the bird is a species recognized by the American Ornithologists Union as one which breeds in North America, you can add it to the list. There are variances, of course, but we won't get into them at this time. Your field guide generally follows the specifics established by the AOU.

My daughter's grandson recently hit the big 2 and the family gathered in Kalispell's Woodland Park for a picnic to celebrate. Cousins swarmed everywhere, aunts prepared lunch, uncles barbecued hot dogs and burgers and grandparents (okay, also a great-grandparent) kept an eye on everything.

In very short order, we were invaded by the ducks of Woodland Park: mallards, wigeons, wood ducks, mergansers, and a couple of etceteras which swam by to see what they could get just for being affable. The kids grabbed hot dog buns and spent a delightful time feeding them. For the very young, this was their introduction to birding.

If they were starting a life list, could the ducks be counted, since they were nearly domesticated? No one is going to investigate and establish where they were born or how they got to the park. But they meet the criteria of the AOU, their species can be found in the field guide and they weren't penned or fettered. So if the kids want to start a life list, more power to them.

On the other hand there was a phone call earlier in the month from a Charlo member who reported seeing a Ruddy Shelduck. (It was also reported seen at the Ninepipe Refuge.) This was a rare sighting

and one worthy of sharing, but don't get overly excited. If it's to be added to a list, it would be scribbled in the margin.

According to the National Geographic Field Guide, the Ruddy Shelduck is a Eurasian species, common to zoos and private collections, and is considered to be an exotic waterfowl. These birds occasionally escape from captivity, but seldom become established in the wild, so they aren't recognized and wouldn't be added to a life list — except in the margin.

For those of us who are not purists, but just nature lovers, we don't care where they originate as long as we can watch and enjoy them, whether swimming in a park stream, resting in a reservoir or flying, free-spirited, overhead.

Sharon Bergman

Take note —

✓October General Meeting

Monday, October 14, 1996

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.

490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell

Mtg: 7:30 pm - Program: 8:00 pm

Program: A panel discussion on "Flathead Urbanization vs. Wildlife Habitat: Conflicts & Solutions." A slide and graphics presentation will provide the latest information on population and urban growth in the Flathead. Panelists will pinpoint the problems caused by the conflict between human and wildlife needs, and report on approaches currently being used to solve them.

The moderator will be Carol Daly, of the Sunrift Center for Sustainable Communities. Other panelists include Dan Casey, MFWP, Avian Specialist; Gail Bissell, MFWP, Riparian Areas and Land Use; and Tim Manley, MFWP, Bear Management Specialist.

Audience participation will be encouraged.



1996 Birdathon Report

Flathead Audubon was able to raise over \$1,200 with the Birdathon project this year. This was four times more than was raised last year!

Special thanks go to those who went out and raised pledges with a birdathon. Dan and Susannah Casey, with the help of their friends Paul and Amanda, get top honors for the most species seen — about 160 in one day — and the most money earned. The hot line crew had a new all-time one-day high of 116 species and raised the second highest amount. Elly Jones won the prize for the best individual effort, and Ferne Cohen gets recognition for the funds raised with her bird walk. Betty Kuropat and Jane Kollmeyer raised the most for a rookie team, while Ben Long and Karen had their first "big day".

National Audubon sent really great prizes for everyone who participated, from books to birdbaths, plus everyone will get a 1996 Birdathon pin.

Half of the \$1,200 was sent to National Audubon, designated to be spent on environmental issues. We requested that half of these funds be sent directly to Montana Audubon for their support. Over \$600 stayed here to support Flathead Audubon's wetland protection efforts, and hopefully someday help build an observation platform at the Swan River Wildlife Preserve.

Thanks to all who participated through having Birdathon events and/or making contributions.

Liz Hill



♻️ Recycle for buck\$\$\$\$

Flathead Audubon's treasurer, Susan Hitchcox, recently reported that she had just collected \$16 from **Valley Recycling**. The money had accumulated for the chapter through the recycling efforts of our members, their friends and families.

Valley Recycling pays cash for recycled items and will give credit to Flathead Audubon when directed to do so at the time of delivery to the company.

There is no glass recycling in the valley, because the cost to ship recycled glass to Portland makes the practice prohibitive. However, the following are acceptable.

Aluminum cans	Cardboard
Magazines	Mixed office paper
Newspaper	Plastics

So clean out your attic, garage and storeroom and haul those recyclables out to 1410 Hwy 2, Kalispell (phone: 257-2574), and tell them to give credit to Flathead Audubon. Thank you for recycling and for donating.



The MCI Nature Network

The National Audubon Society is part of a special partnership with MCI and The Nature Conservancy known as the MCI Nature Network. Through The Nature Network, MCI has donated nearly \$400,000 to NAS over the past three years.

The Network is a corporate affinity program that gives businesses across the country an easy way to support the preservation and protection of our natural resources through their telecommunications service. When a company enrolls in the program, MCI donates 2-to-5 percent of the company's net long distance usage to either or both the National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. More than 5,000 companies are enrolled in this program.

For more information, write or fax: Barbara Hamlin, Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations, National Audubon, 700 Broadway, 6th Floor, NY, NY 10003. Fax: (212) 353-0321.



The President's Page >>

Not only was our September meeting exceptional for the fascinating and beautiful program on harlequin ducks, but it was a real treat to have Jack & Ruth White join us again.

Jack and Ruth go way back with the Flathead Audubon Society, back to before 1974, in fact, when we were still simply the Bigfork Bird Club. As founding members of that club, Jack and Ruth, along with several other Bigfork natives - Jack and Ursula Whitney, the Trembaths and Barbara Baxter, to name a few - were active in acquiring a charter from National Audubon to become Flathead Audubon in 1974. For the next 20 years, Flathead Audubon remained loyal to the Bigfork community as its center of operations. The meetings were always somewhere in Bigfork, and many of the original members were able to stay active with the chapter through the years.

One of the toughest decisions the Board of Directors ever struggled over was to make the move from Bigfork. But two years ago we realized it was time to better serve the expanding membership with a more centrally located meeting place. So, in September, 1994, (coincidentally my first meeting as president) we took the plunge and moved the meetings, the Post Office box and even the bank account to Kalispell. While the Fish, Wildlife & Parks location has served us well, as feared, we lost several of our founding members; members like the Whitneys and the Whites who, as senior citizens, have had a hard enough time getting out to meetings at all.

Believe me, we've missed them. That's why it was so nice to see Jack and Ruth again. But even when we don't see them at the meetings, we feel our older members are still with us in spirit.

One who is doubtlessly with us in spirit is Barbara Baxter. We can hardly speak of the early Flathead Audubon Society without remembering Barb. I certainly remember my first meeting.

It was October, 1985, the second Monday of the month even then. President Lynn Kelly presided and stationed to her left, as she always seemed to prefer, Barb Baxter reigned as secretary. Marshall-at-Arms might be a more accurate description of Barb's style. Gesticulating wildly and waving at the clock while barking out her none too modest opinions, it was clearly Barb who kept the ball rolling. And whether or not you appreciated her commanding style, you couldn't help but love the way she called friend and foe alike "Honey".

As I got to know Barb, I always enjoyed how she never let her somewhat tenuous knowledge of bird life ever interfere with her quirky off the wall notions of what wild birds ought to do! Sadly, we never saw Barb's beaming face again after the Kalispell move.

And then, true to form, after writing her own obituary, Barb unceremoniously left this world a little more than a year ago.

As her final act of big-heartedness, Barb left most of her quite substantial estate to a long list of charities, service organizations and conservation groups which she supported. Among these, Flathead Audubon was named as one of the beneficiaries. I am pleased to

announce we recently received a check just under \$10,000 from the estate of Barb Baxter.

We are appreciative beyond words of Barb's generosity. How we ultimately spend or invest the money is yet to be determined, but I know it will be wisely, for the cause of wildlife conservation and habitat preservation and, for heaven's sake, to further our knowledge of bird life. Barb would understand the importance of that one - Honey!

Leo Keane



About the population —

During our last Audubon year (9/95 to 6/96), this column outlined some of the connections between many of the values Audubon members and others hold and what is happening to human populations in America and worldwide. It is clear that unless populations are stabilized, and soon, much of what we have and cherish will disappear or be degraded under the rapidly rising tide of people.

This year it is perhaps appropriate to discuss just exactly what many knowledgeable people believe needs to be done to soften the crunch of ever more people on our environment and on society. These can be grouped, I believe, into four major efforts.

First, the United States needs to develop and adhere to a national policy on population. Recognizing the hazards of letting fate take its course, our country must publicly acknowledge the crisis and lay out what we want to do about it.

Second, here and abroad, we must encourage family planning, and all that it entails, so that families see the advantages of and want to limit their children to no more than two.

Third, we need to restore and increase international population assistance so that people of other countries, such as Haiti, can also be more effective in planning their families.

And fourth, we must achieve a balance so that we allow no more people to immigrate than emigrate.

Each of these proposed actions is loaded with controversy. Nevertheless, in the next few months we will explore them and see where it takes us.

Bob Ballou

Welcome to those new among us —



The following members joined Flathead Audubon since last spring and we bid them welcome to the fold.

Bigfork: Joseph Biby, Craig Hickenbotham, Loyce Huber, Louise Mare and Tioga White; **Columbia Falls:** Barbara Gurn, Joan Vladenburg and Barry Wollenzien; **Condon:** Robert Akin, Brian Parks and Matt Russell; **Dixon:** Alison Rose and Tracy Schmitt; **Eureka:** Sean Boushie, Ken Cavert, Burton Kennedy and Shirley Turner; **Fortune:** Isabella Mustard; **Hot Springs:** Marla Brown; **Hungry Horse:** M. Bresciani and Ronald Stanton; **Kalispell:** Florence Carpenter, Jeff Cupples, J.K. Devine, Jeryl Hollinger, Mark Holston, Dr. Mary Gatzke, Kathy James, Bill Jensen, Marilyn Lee, Joy Mathews, David Nister, Leslie Noel, Mary Pettis, Robert Sherman, Bernice Teigen, Vincent Family, Rod Walette and Carol Williams; **Kila:** Jennifer Cardin and Betty Winzenburg; **Lakeside:** Charlotte Easter, Robert Scott and Carol Stalteri; **Libby:** Andrews Family, Clair Christensen, Howard Posivio, James Rostorfer and Lyle Stephens; **Marion:** Sid Goodrich; **Plains:** Geraldine Larson; **Polebridge:** Andrew Hohnberger and Gerry Stearns; **Polson:** Colleen Kelley, F. Moriarty and Anita Swope; **Rexford:** Sue Fanning; **St. Ignatius:** Marjorie Rollins; **Thompson Falls:** Katherine Jefferies; **Troy:** Mary Campbell; **West Glacier:** Tim Funk and Edna Ridenour; **Whitefish:** C. Buckingham, Paul Darrow, Myrle Haster, Linda Katsuda, Joann Nieman, Susan Richlefs, Ariel Rilomsen, Tanya Swenson, Syndie Watson and Jill Zignego.





Coming up —

AERO's Annual Meeting. The Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) will hold its annual meeting on **Saturday, October 12**, at the United Methodist Camp on Flathead Lake. Headquartered in Helena, AERO is a membership- based, non-profit organization which seeks to sustain the future of Montana's agriculture and rural communities.

Starting at 8:30 am, the program topic will be "The Producer/Consumer Connection: Linking People with Food." The keynote speaker will be North Carolina Author and farmer, Andy Lee.

There is a \$10 fee for adults, with \$7 for youth and \$5 for children under 6. For more information, call (406) 443-7272.



Bird seed sale scheduled. Now is the time! Orders for Flathead Audubon's annual sunflower seed sale can be submitted up to, and including, **November 9**. See the order form on page 7. Delivery of the seed is set for the weekend of **November 16 & 17**.

The birdseed sale is the major fund raiser for the chapter, which finances a full range of chapter activities and causes, including nature books for school libraries, wetlands restoration and protection as well as wild bird research and education.

For those in immediate need of sunflower seeds, to hold you until November, the chapter has a quantity of premium sunflower seeds available. Customers should contact Rod Ash, 754-2289; Lynn Kelly, 883-5797; Brent Mitchell, 756-8130 or Ferne Cohen 862-2028.

☕☕ For Sale ☕☕

Flathead Audubon mugs
Colorful — Ceramic
Ideal Gifts — Just \$10
Available at the meeting.

From the board —

Members of the Board of Directors attended a special training session last month on conducting a successful meeting, which was moderated by Montana Audubon's Janet Ellis. The group hopes to pass along to the membership the results of what was learned.

Changes are in the offing. The president will endeavor to start the general meeting on time (at 7:30 pm) in an effort for the special program to start by 8 pm. The program will conclude in about an hour and those who want to stay later for discussion can do so. Those who have a distance to drive will be able to leave right after the program and get home before too late.

The president is in charge of the agenda and those who would like a subject considered will need to notify Leo Keane on **Thursday**, prior to the Monday meeting. For special announcements, the secretary should be notified before the meeting starts and the information will be posted on the bulletin board.

Don't forget the special service provided by Flathead Audubon — **the Birding Hotline**. If you see something noteworthy, call the hotline and share it with others. If you want to know about the birding activity in the area, just dial the hotline: **756-5595**.



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, November 16**, in (check one)

Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐

or on **Sunday, November 17**, in Polson ☐

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Are you a member ☐ or non-member ☐ ? Why not join — it's just \$20.



Send your order & check by **Nov. 9** to:

(Do NOT send order to Kalispell!)

Flathead Audubon
c/o June Ash
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 & date and mark it on your calendar, 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

✓ **Kalispell: Fish, Wildlife & Parks Parking Lot**
Saturday, 12:30-2:30 pm; 756-8130 or 257-4100

✓ **Condon: Call June Ash, 754-2289**
for arrangements

✓ **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	Geoff Poole, 4755 Foothill Road, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4645
Secretary	Gail Sullivan, 932 Columbia Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-5775
Treasurer	Susan Hitchcox, 4755 Foothill Road., Bigfork, 59911	837-4645
Past President	Brent Mitchell, 960 Kienas Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901	756-8130

DIRECTORS

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
1996-99	Sonja Hartman, P.O. Box 1388, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	758-8516
1996-99	Jim Rogers, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611

CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures	Kim Davis, 1230 Rhodes Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901	755-1311
Conservation	Geoff Poole, 4755 Foothill Road, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-4645
Field Trips	Betty Winzenburg, 1436 Rogers Lane, Kila, MT 59920	755-1697
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	Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920	755-1406
Refuge Projects	Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Road, Polson, MT 59860	883-5797
Wetlands/Waterfowl	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018

Montana Audubon

OFFICE	Janet Ellis, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624	443-3949
PRESIDENT	Rod Ash, P.O. Box 1129, Condon, MT 59826	754-2289

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 8:00 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. Newsletter Fax: 849-5486.



the Pileated Post
Flathead Audubon Society

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:

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Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Renewal	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$38	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior	\$15	<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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✿ It's for the Birds! ✿
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