



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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From Montana Audubon

Grants for wildlife. Montana Audubon will be offering grants totaling \$1,000 in 1997 to fund projects which benefit wildlife. Preference will be given to research and education projects which benefit nongame wildlife and their habitats. The funds can be used for mileage, supplies, equipment, printing and communications.

Applications must be postmarked on or before Monday, December 2, 1996. Grant recipients will be announced by March 1, 1997.

Requests for project guidelines should be made by mail to: Audubon Wildlife Fund, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, or by phone: 443:3949.

Montana Audubon Logo Contest

Montana Audubon is soliciting a design for a new logo depicting a Black-billed Magpie. The contest is open to both Audubon members and non-members. A \$250 prize will be awarded for the winning entry and the artist will receive recognition for the design. The new logo will become the exclusive property of MT Audubon.

The design must include a Black-billed Magpie or Magpies and must be black and white. The submitted design must be able to be suitably reduced to 1.5 x 1.5 inches. Shading may be used, but it must be compatible with computer usage. For further information, call the Helena Audubon office at 443-3949.

Mail entries to: Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624. Entries must be received by December 15, 1996. Selection will be made by mid-January. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to have the entry returned.

Update on The Endangered Species Act

National Audubon reports that the likelihood of the Endangered Species Act being reauthorized in the 104th Congress is minimal. Although there was a late push in both the House and the Senate for ESA reauthorization, Audubon and the conservation community succeeded in slowing down and eventually stopping the process. The drafters in the House and Senate (Representatives Saxton (NJ), Gilchrest (MD) Deal (GA) and Kingston (GA); and Senators Chaffe (RI), Baucus (MT), Kempthorne ((ID) and Reid (NV)) did not anticipate the broad disapproval that their proposed Legislation received. However, both the House and the Senate remained poised to re-light the reauthorization fire early in the 105th Congress.



**Your Vote Counts -
But Only if You go to the Polls!
VOTE ON NOV. 5**

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**Don't forget to send your bird
seed order in by 11/9.**



The editor's spotting scope

Most of us live within an easy drive of Glacier Park and often view the park as our own special playground. In the spring and summer we hike its many trails and float the Flathead River on the park's border. Some of us pitch a tent and stay awhile. The more adventuresome of us go into the back country. In winter we cross-country ski and enjoy the white perspective of this natural wonder. When we have out-of-state visitors, we make a decided effort to take them to the park, to share our pride and joy with them. And always, year round, we can go birding.

It goes without saying that anything as awesome as Glacier Park would attract people like chickadees to sunflower seeds, and it's been going on for decades. The wear and tear is beginning to show.

Now there are community meetings in response to the proposed plan to make changes in park policies and procedures. The public's reaction to the proposal, to control traffic and visitors and preserve the park for future generations of animals and humans, has not been one of whole-hearted support. But everyone needs to simmer down and take another look. A long hard look.

My first reaction to the suggestion of leaving my car in a parking lot and going through the park on a bus was total rejection. Later, I recalled I did that very thing two years ago in Sabino Canyon near Tucson and wasn't irate about it. We were told we could get off and walk at any time and could always catch the next bus. It was reasonable and practical and I did both: rode some and walked some.

It's obvious we can't post signs at the Glacier Park entrances saying "Montanans and Their Guests Only." There has to be a logical solution to the problem. If the timber issues

could be resolved by the parties concerned, similar results could be affected for our national parks with input by the government, commercial and environmental entities, as well as citizen groups.

It's our special playground. We should do what we can to preserve it for the bears, the eagles, the marmots, out-of-state visitors and most decidedly - us. I'd ride a bus any day rather than lose it.

Sharon Bergman



Hotline highlights

Fall weather has brought flocks of migrating birds through the Flathead in good numbers.

Pipits were reported in grain fields east of Kalispell and **Blue Jays** have been appearing at bird feeders. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were spotted along the lower Swan River and on the shores of local ponds. Hawk sightings are shifting from **Red-tails** to **Rough-legged** and **Peregrine Falcons** have been seen near Creston and Shelter Valley. For information on local birding hotspots, call the Hotline at 756-5595.

Liz Hill

Take note!

November General Meeting

Monday, November 11, 1996
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.
490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Program: Ralph Walcott, a naturalist with The Nature Conservancy at Pine Butte Preserve and Guest Ranch, will be the featured speaker. His program, "**The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem**," will be illustrated with slides depicting the season, wildflowers, wildlife and human issues in the ecosystem.

Walcott, who is also a professional photographer and writer, has logged over 7,500 miles of foot travel in Montana's back country.



Quality of Life report

All work and no play does not describe the challenging NAS retreat of the Human Population & Resource Use Dept. at Whiskey Basin in Wyoming last August. Participants were Audubon staff and chapter representatives from all over the United States.

The goal was to create understanding of the interaction between population and the environment. Consultants assisted in assessing public attitudes and surveying advocates of population and environmental issues. We worked on communication skills and development of a public media campaign.

Consensus building techniques and conflict resolution was the focus for an entire day. We balanced the workshop with early morning and evening bird walks, canoeing, wildlife observations and hiking and observing Petroglyphs.

The Montana Audubon Quality of Life Committee will be emphasizing population and environmental issues in all Montana chapters. Programs on population and the environment may be arranged for your church or organization. One or more of the following videos may be borrowed

Growing Pains - Managing population growth in the west. MSU and U of Ariz. Extension Service.

People Count: Facts of Life- Pew Global Stewardship Initiative.

Population - Audubon - How to make a difference video.

Threatened by Success- Population and consumption issues for conservation - Izaak Walton League of America.

In the Flathead, the Precycling Program in local grocery stores will continue encouraging shoppers to consume less and reduce waste.

Please contact me regarding your interest in the precycling programs and/or the videos.

Ferne Cohen
862-2028

About the population

What if President Kennedy had not declared the intention of the United States to land a man on the moon? Would we have accomplished that amazing feat?

Perhaps. Perhaps not. But by doing so, this nation, despite considerable opposition, was able to focus its energies on getting the job done and in an amazingly short time.

What if our next president, or the one after that, were to declare to the world that there is a human overpopulation crisis and that the United States would begin to take measures to stabilize its own population, and perhaps even stating target dates and numbers?

What is the likelihood that one of the next two presidents would do that? At the moment, not very great. True, there are organizations (like Audubon) and prominent citizens (like Vice president Gore) who have been advocating to Congress and the Administration that we need a population policy. They generally get a sympathetic audience, but the politics aren't right. There is strong vocal opposition from certain groups - religious and radical right-wingers - and not enough support from the rest of us.

We have got to let our elected officials (and our friends and neighbors) know how we feel and what is at stake. We have to tell them it is highly unlikely our wilderness areas can withstand the demands of twice as many people, that wildlife refuges will not be able to remain as sanctuaries where wildlife comes first. We must point out that wetlands will succumb to the demands of agriculture to feed more people and house them and wildlife species will disappear ever faster as people destroy forests and other habitat here and in the tropics. And there's a whole host of other consequences of a runaway population that contributes to social unrest and global instability.

Let's resolve to add this concern to the many we already have and let's begin to do something about it.

Bob Ballou
Montana Audubon
Quality of Life Committee





The President's Page

Have you been to the Kalispell Wal-Mart lately? More importantly, what does this have to do with birds? Let me explain.

First of all, being an avowed non-consumer of most Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Shopko type goods, I seldom visited these stores. That is, until our daughter Linnaea was born. Now, with shoes and play clothes always on the shopping list, we more frequently find ourselves skulking into one of the discount stores for their "popular" pricing on all those necessities. Well, so much for principles.

Last summer was my first visit to the new Wal-Mart and I must say I was delighted. Not with the store, mind you, but with, of all things, the parking lot! More precisely, with the view from the parking lot. The back fence, which runs the length of the south side of the parking lot, bordered the most pristine, most serene, the deepest, darkest, greenest grove of ancient spruce and cottonwood river bottom forest still to grace the city of Kalispell.

That first visit I clung to the fence and savored the beauty of the forest for a long moment. The spruce rose clear, straight and strong as columns. The cottonwood, like caricatures of old men, lumbered irreverently among them. A maze of birch and fresh, young conifers infused the understory.

I easily imagined the birds: Swainson's Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Townsend's Warbler, Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Pygmy Owl, Sharp-shinned Hawk, maybe even the rare Northern Goshawk - all those beautiful, elusive and wondrous birds of old-growth forests. Amidst the discord and clutter looming behind me, this remnant woodland seemed like a sanctuary; for birds, of course, but also for the heart and soul of anyone who would linger a moment on a busy day.

I should know better than to fall in love with a place like this. These days it seems no sooner do I discover a special woodland, wetland or any odd, forgotten corner full of brush and birds, but the next time I come by it's gone; leveled, bulldozed, sold off.

Change is omnipresent in our booming valley and, as I've often said, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Merely by our presence, we each contribute to growth and change. I know this in my head, have come to expect the changes, but with each additional loss of habitat my heart sinks and the Flathead Valley loses another fraction of its irreplaceable beauty.

So I should not have been surprised, yet can't help but be deeply saddened, when I returned to Wal-Mart the other day and found the woodland behind the

fence reduced to piles of smoldering slash. The big logs were laid in long piles, ready to be hauled away. Their huge stumps stood like barrels among the debris of fallen forest. Trucks and skidders rumbled in congruously where it was once nothing but quiet. The sanctuary I had briefly known was gone.

Now I would like to pose a question: what is our role at Flathead Audubon, as appreciators of wildness, as spokes-people for nature, as bird lovers? What is our role in the face of these changes?

We watchdog wetlands through the 404 permitting process; we testify at resource oriented public hearings and keep up a stream of written comments; we've contributed to the planning process which has focused directly on these quality of life issues. We keep the lease current on the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Can we do more? Quite possibly.

There is an opportunity that keeps tapping on our shoulder. After nearly 20 years of continuous operation, Flathead Audubon has acquired - through donations, bequests, sales and prudent investments - some significant funds, some working capital. Later this month, the Board of Directors will convene a special meeting to discuss, envision and brainstorm a plan for these funds.

A few ideas keep cropping up: purchase of a conservation easement, perhaps outright purchase of habitat for a Flathead Audubon Sanctuary, or partnering with other conservation organizations (or even landowners) thereby enhancing our potential. Given the cost of Flathead real estate, our means are certainly modest. But our hopes can be big - and we have to start somewhere.

We invite your thoughts, your suggestions and ideas, even your contributions. Please contact any of the officers and directors listed on the last page of this newsletter.

At Flathead Audubon we know we're part of the problem. We'd also like to take responsibility for being part of the solution.

Leo Keane





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:

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 & 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
Hospitality	Betty Winzenburg (see above)	
	Debbi Rossi, 480 5th Ave. EN, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	892-1317
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. The regular meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a featured guest who will present a conservation or nature program. 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.



Address Correction Requested

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	\$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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