



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

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October 1997

Living in the Landscape

"Living in the Landscape", a Flathead Community Celebration, is a unique experience for the whole family. Through a series of special events and activities planned for 1998, people in the Flathead are invited to share their individual and collective perspectives and insights on the area, and to explore the Flathead's distinctive environment in a variety of ways.

Things are happening already. The concept grew out of a wish to mark significant milestones for two distinguished local research sites — the 50th anniversary of the start of research at Coram Experimental Forest and the 30th year at Miller Creek Demonstration Forest. These internationally recognized facilities provide essential knowledge of west larch and the effects of forest fires. Their work is part of a network of ongoing research efforts in the area which not only benefit us, but also provide scientists worldwide with cutting edge information on subjects ranging from freshwater ecology to gray wolf behavior.

To launch "Living in the Landscape" bright young science students in some local schools have begun one-or two-year mentored research projects of their own. The students' innovative work, adding to our knowledge of the Flathead, will be featured in public presentations and field tours in 1998, along with many other celebration events and activities.

And that's just the beginning!

"Landscape" participants have a lot to look forward to. Studies help us understand how our economy, society and environment function, but as individuals we also have uniquely personal relationships with our surroundings. There are areas in our communities, in the mountains or along the rivers and lakes which are special to us. "Living in the Landscape" activities honor those relationships and celebrate our ties with the land.

Plans for summer, 1998 include: walking tours of areas of particular environmental interest;

concerts, exhibits and performances, held in cooperation with area art organizations; discussion evenings or series at Flathead Valley Community College; publication of a "Landscape" book, an anthology of residents' reflections on their community and environment; and placement of permanent informational signs at local sites of historic and environmental significance.

How do you get involved? The community volunteers planning the celebration welcome your participation. If your group would like to sponsor a hike, exhibit, performance other event or activity with a "Landscape" theme, let them know. The more, the better. If you have time to work on an ongoing project, or if you have a project idea of your own, you're needed. Any donations to help offset costs such as printing, postage, advertising or signage will be welcome and are tax-deductible.

For more information, call or write:

"Living in the Landscape"

15 Depot Park

Kalispell, MT 59901

(406) 756-8548.

Few areas are as abundantly blessed as the Flathead with world class natural attractions. From the distant reaches of Glacier Parks' alpine highlands to the shimmering, clear waters of Flathead Lake, this one-of-a-kind setting nurtures a remarkable diversity of native plants and wildlife. Plan to celebrate "Living in the Landscape" and enjoy an exciting, informative and entertaining summer of '98 in the Flathead

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The editor's spotting scope

I have always stood in awe of tall trees — perhaps because I grew up with cactus, date palms and citrus trees. For me, the Sequoia National Park is one of Nature's true wonders.

As an adult, moving to Montana was a dream come true and I settled in to raise my family among the firs and the pines of the Bitterroot Valley. On a camping trip in the back country the dream became nightmarish, when a short hike from the pristine campsite revealed the remains of a clearcut. The land was scarred and I felt the pain. I became an environmentalist.

Now, years later, changes have come about in the forests around us and I am now living among the firs and pines of the Big Arm area. There are several old growth pines and Douglas firs in my neighborhood and I feel comfortably at home in my surroundings.

And then I decided to have a garage built. A monstrous pine tree grew in the only logical site available for a garage/spare room building. The contractor said it had to go. (Gulp!) I agreed and removed the bird house from the trunk in preparation.

The tree cutter and his crew arrived and the tree went down with a resounding THUD. He estimated that the tree was over 100 years old. I'd lost a friend — and an old friend at that. The tree hauler tried to persuade me to sell two other old friends, to give a young spruce more room to grow, and I wouldn't give it a second thought.

The garage/spare room is almost finished now and I'm quite pleased with the end result, although I still occasionally have a pang of conscience.

A week ago or so I found myself on Highway 56, headed for Libby. It was drizzling rain when we turned off the main road and headed for the Ross Creek Giant Cedars Scenic Area. Giant trees, many of them over 500 years old and 250 feet tall, reached to the sky. A well-tended trail wound through the grove, and even though it was raining, those of us who had no choice but to walk the trail were not

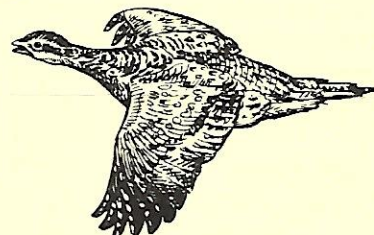
disappointed. This was balm for the soul.

The area is preserved and it isn't likely that anyone will propose to build a garage here and take out even one tree. That's a great consolation and a gift to all of us.

Sharon Bergman

Hotline highlites ☼ ☼ ☼

This is a great time of year to get out in the field for some quality birding. Look around the local ponds and reservoirs, as the shore bird migration is still underway. Yellowlegs and young Great Blue Herons are evident in various locations. Look to the sky when you're in the Big Mountain area, as the fall raptor migration is beginning. Watch for Kestrels and Rough-legged Hawks in particular. For more complete information, call the Flathead Audubon Hotline at 756-5595.



TAKE NOTE—

October General Meeting

Monday, October 13, 1997
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.
490 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Program: A special program providing a 1997 update on "Flathead Urbanization & Wildlife Habitat" will be presented.

Speakers will be Carol Daly, president of the Sunrift Center for Sustainable Communities, and Gail Bissell, wildlife biologist with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Daly and her Center have updated the Flathead Gauges for 1997 and she will provide a report on Long Term Trends in Sustainability, emphasizing population and urban growth. Bissell, acclaimed for her mitigation efforts, will update wildlife habitat and land use issues.



Population/habitat campaign

Members of the Population/Habitat Campaign Committee spent two brain-demanding and butt-taxing days in late August at a retreat at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' great facilities on the beautiful Beartooth Game Management Unit in the Gates of the Mountains area.

The purpose was to review what has been accomplished, what still needs to be done this year and what should be done next year, starting in January. I think we were successful if we can make it all come together.

As agreed, a couple of the best steps to be taken, to help people understand the connection between the problems we face, (especially the loss of wildlife habitat to development) and our human population explosion is to talk it up. This can be done by attending city council, county commission, growth management, land-use planning meetings and similar formal occasions, and letting the officials know when the root cause for the matters they are dealing with is population pressure. A surprising number of them are.

Better yet, advocates should get elected to a position on one of these boards, or get a sympathetic friend to run. At least, the candidate you vote for should have a good understanding of this linkage. Finally, don't hesitate to make the connection when conversing. It is truly amazing how often you will be able to do this.

The more people who understand the cause and effect relationship of population and present-day problems, the sooner we can truly and affectively preserve habitat and restore equilibrium for future generations.

Members of the Population and Habitat Committee want you to know who

serves and will do this by introducing themselves as they take turns writing articles for the monthly newsletters.

This member is from Missoula and a member of the Five Valleys Audubon chapter. I have also been a member of the Yellowstone Valley and Flathead chapters. I am presently chair of the committee and am a past president of the Montana Audubon Council (now Montana Audubon). I want my granddaughters to experience the great quality of life I have enjoyed in Montana and believe that working on the committee is the best way to do this.

Bob Ballou



Board backs the bears

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposes to establish an experimental population rule and reintroduce grizzly bears into the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

Four alternative plans of action are being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement: #1 - Reintroduction of a Nonessential Experimental Population; #2 - No Action - Natural Recovery; #3 - No Grizzly Bear recovery; and #4 - Reintroduction of a Threatened Population with Full Protection of the ESA.

At the last meeting of the Flathead Audubon Board of Directors, the board voted in favor of supporting Alternative #1, which would accomplish grizzly bear recovery by reintroducing grizzly bears designated as a nonessential experimental population to central Idaho.





President's Page ➤➤

Any normal person would be fishing on a day like this. The sky is electric blue. Trees are bursting into gold. A Steller's Jay sails over on translucent wings, and I can't help but wonder what else of Nature's glory I am missing on such a perfect day as this.

I people my imagination with trout. Out there between the sun-filled mountains a cool river takes its time. Willows dance on a soft breeze. Rainbow trout are slapping at grasshoppers with the nonchalance of well-fed fish. The river's silvery form shatters in a dozen places at once while the trout collect this extravagant harvest of summer's closing day.

I take a moment from my pile of unsplit logs to embellish the scene... A boat drifts into view, gliding quietly downstream. The fishermen cast with precision and exuberance, yet, like the trout, unhurriedly, almost softly, in keeping with the magic of the day. Their fly lines loop and whirl like spun webs floating on the breeze. When a line goes taut and a trout is played to the boat, the river erupts into a brilliant shower. There are words and soft laughter as the fisherman leans over to slip the hook free.

The river is wide awake today after a long, sleepy summer, and the boat and fishermen are in the middle of it all — a flurry of bugs, luminescent willows, wild mint flavoring the air. And bird life. Always the birds that bring the river to life.

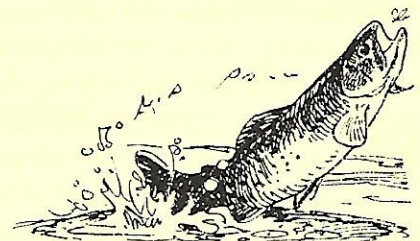
Today hawks are on the wing. Red-tails sail in and out of sight, as though in their own current high above. Sharp-shins flap and glide, flap and glide low over treetops like busy commuters. An odd kettle of nighthawks, out of place in this bright sky, swirl confusedly southward.

Early migrants — the hawks, the shorebirds. A flock of teal explode in glistening spray as the boat drifts past a green backwater, blue wings catching the sun. Peet-weets are piping from gravel bars and, more distantly, Yellowlegs whistle loudly, echoing up the riverbanks. A heron croaks, as rusty as an old barn door.

Ah, but that is not the startling croak of a heron that snaps me back. That's Skippy, our bossy pine squirrel barking at me from atop the woodshed. I've unearthed his mossy nest from our pile of saw logs and now I'm getting scolded. Or pressured. Once this pile is split and stacked in the woodshed, Skippy will quickly rebuild in that shelter and, of course, I'm not getting the job done.

You don't have to tell me, Skippy. Back to work. Tomorrow is the first day of fall and much as I love my chores around the homestead, I'll be loading up the boat to find that river. I'll be the fisherman releasing trout, watching birds, and thanking God for this wonderful time of year.

Leo Keane





All Bird TV on tap

13-part series to be only national television program solely devoted to birding

They have been worshipped as gods and are the representatives of great nations. They are the heralds of the seasons, the symbols of major corporations and the scourge of freshly washed cars. Today, in the United States alone, more than 62 million people spend at least some of their leisure time trying to find them.

And, beginning in its 1997 Fall Season, Animal Planet will offer the only television program devoted to the burgeoning birding pastime with the world television premiere of "All Bird TV". The unique series will be shown on cable's Animal Planet on Saturdays from 3:30-4 pm and 6:30-7 pm (ET).

Produced by Animal Planet, the National Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy, "All Bird TV" promises to change the conventional view of bird watching as a sedentary, aristocratic hobby. Instead, viewers will be invited to accompany the program's host, professor and bird expert Ken Dial, as he takes them on a series of off-beat birding adventures in exotic locales across the country.

"All Bird TV" is going to be one of our most unique new shows," said Clark Bunting, senior vice president and general manager of Animal Planet. "It will not only be a great resource for bird lovers, it will also provide entertainment for everyone from the most experienced expert to the person who doesn't know the difference between a pigeon and an eagle."

"Audubon is pleased to be able to offer viewers a show like "All Bird TV" commented Katherine Carpenter, executive producer of Audubon Productions. "We are proud of this collaborative effort that brings

interesting people and valuable information to the general public. This is a program that make birding very accessible and can be enjoyed by all people of all interests."

In each episode, Dial will strive to provide an intimate human's-eye-view of the avian world. Not content to observe from a distance with binoculars, Dial will shatter the usual image of birders as he scales trees, climbs mountains, takes to the skies and dives into swamps, rivers and streams in search of his elusive subjects. The show will also highlight the host's enthusiastic perspective through segments featuring his personal demonstration of bird behavior — from nesting techniques to differences in mating calls — as he seeks to provide information for everyone from the novice birder to the sagest expert.

Dial will also provide insights about the evolution, lifestyle, science and societies of the birds he encounters. He will introduce viewers to some of the nation's foremost experts and bird enthusiasts while he explores the diverse world of our fine feathered friends.

"All Bird TV" is produced for Animal Planet by Big Rock Productions and Zmedia Production in association with the Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society.

Animal Planet is the new "all animals, all the time cable" network from Discovery Networks, U.S. Launched in 1996, Animal Planet offers a wide range of programming for animal lovers of all ages, including documentaries, news coverage, children's programs, dramatic reality-based series, magazine shows, game shows and more.

Discovery Networks operates and manages Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and Animal Planet. The Web site address for Animal Planet is:

www.animal.discovery.com



The Forest Carnivores

On Tuesday, October 7, a slide presentation will be given in Kalispell which explores the world of the forest carnivores — the lynx, wolverine, fisher and marten. It will be held at the Visitors Center of the Lone Pine State Park, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Presented by Predator Project, a Bozeman-based conservation group, the slide show will provide an intimate look at the natural history and ecology of four rare creatures, seen only by a few wilderness travelers, researchers and fur trappers. A question-and-answer period will be conducted at the conclusion of the 40-minute presentation.

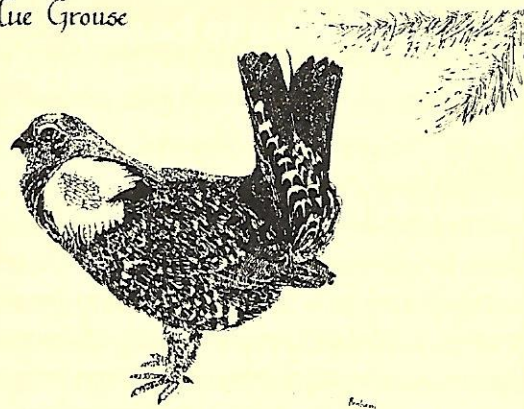
These four animals all use the forest differently, but they share one trait — the tendency to retreat as people and developments push farther into their mountain habitat. The forest carnivores are also easy prey for trappers, both intentionally and unintentionally, and their numbers are dwindling. They depend almost entirely upon old growth forest; and if it isn't protected in sufficient quantity, the creatures may disappear forever.

This program is an engaging look into their world: the agility, hunting prowess, tenacity and grace of the lynx, wolverine, fisher and marten. For more information, contact David Gaillard at (406) 587-3389.

National Wildlife Refuge Week

October 12 - 18 is a time to give thought and appreciation for what we have so close at hand for our use. Head out to one of Montana's National Wildlife Refuge to help celebrate these important public lands. In the Flathead Audubon area, we have the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge and the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge. If you've never been to one of them, what better time than during this commemorative week.

Blue Grouse



New Montana bird checklist

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks recently issued a new list of Montana birds. The updated list includes 401 species, including all birds identified in the 5th edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, four new records officially accepted by the Montana Bird Records Committee and three species that are being considered by the committee. The newly-split Cassin's and Plumbeous Vireo do not appear on the list.

If you want a copy of the new list, stop by any office of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Montana Audubon office.



Cancer & the environment

On Friday, October 10, Sandra Steingraber will speak in Missoula at the Urey Lecture Hall, University of Montana, about her new book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*. Sandra is a biology professor, poet and cancer survivor. Despite the seriousness of her subject, her message is uplifting, as she gives avenues for positive action.

For more details, contact the University or the Montana Audubon office in Helena.



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 15**, in (check one)

Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐

or on **Sunday, November 16**, 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. 8** to:

Flathead Audubon
c/o June Ash
P.O. Box 1129
Condon, MT 59826

(Do NOT send order to Kalispell!)

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

1997-2000	William Breen, 335 Mountain Meadow Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901	755-2142
1997-98	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr, Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
1997-2000	Sharon DeLong, 2495 Grave Creek Rd., Eureka, MT 59917	
1996-99	Sonja Hartman, P.O. Box 1388, Columbia Falls, MT 59912	758-8516
1996-99	Jim Rogers, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611
1997-2000	Bruce Tannehill, 239 Deer Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-4548

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	Jim Rogers, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611
Publicity	Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920	755-1406
Quality of Life	Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937	862-2028
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.

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 _____

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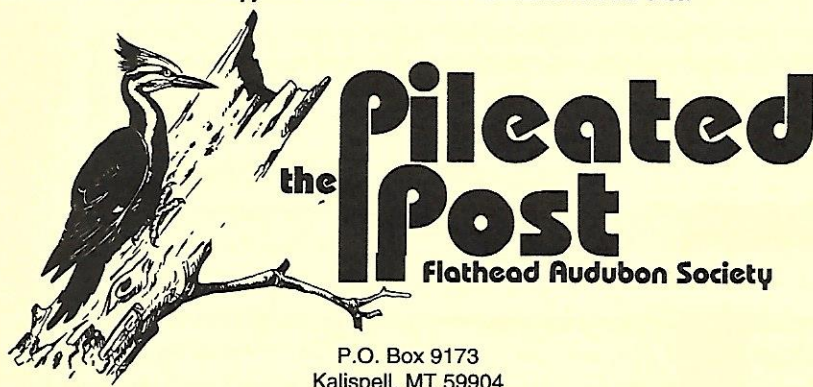
Send this application and your check to:

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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