



the Pelented Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 23

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October 1998

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK OCTOBER 11-17TH, 1998

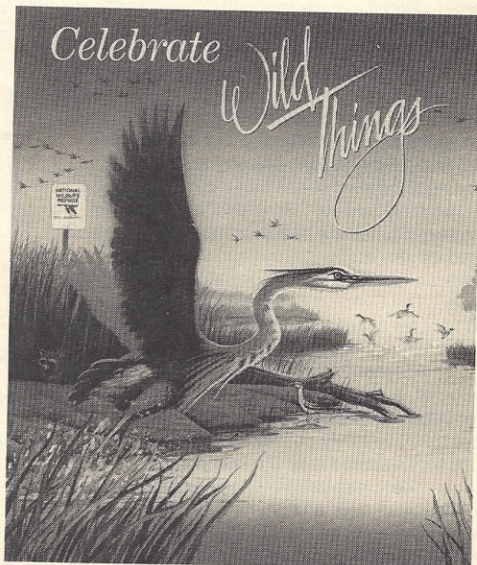
President Theodore Roosevelt established the first National Wildlife Refuge on March 14, 1903, the Pelican Island Federal Bird Reservation in Florida. At the turn of the century thousands of birds were being killed for their feathers, which were used to decorate fashionable women's hats. Many kinds of birds were threatened with extinction because of a fashion trend. By the time President Roosevelt had left office he had established 53 additional refuges around the country whose purpose was to protect not only birds but other wildlife species by protecting their habitat.

Today, 95 years later the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) has evolved into the world's most comprehensive system of lands devoted to wildlife protection and management. The NWRS manages 540 National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts and thousands of small prairie wetland areas, over 92 million acres.

Most of the refuges have been created to protect migratory waterfowl and other bird species. Most of the refuges in the NWRS are located along flyways used by migratory birds giving

them a network of safe havens on their travels north in the spring and south in the fall. Refuges are equally important as breeding and wintering grounds for waterfowl and other wildlife, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects.

Continued on Page 6





Chickadee Chatter

Fall! It's finally here, all the signs are present. The days start fresh and somewhat nippy, the sun comes up through banks of misty fog, there are a million birds singing. The days start later, the sun doesn't poke its nose up over the mountains until after 7:30AM and the birds with their songs always beat the sun.

Even though it is getting cold I still can't bear to close my window at night. I have become accustomed to the fresh air and the sounds of the morning. There is a mother deer and her nearly grown fawn that prowl around in the bushes outside of the window. I often get up in the early morning twilight and watch them. She is a pretty animal, all tawny and sleek and the little one has finally lost his spots. This summer has been good to them, they both look healthy and ready for the cold and snow to come.

I am not good at identifying bird song but I can figure out most of the locals. The osprey usually are the first ones up in the morning, they are mostly gone now, except for one lonely one. I am sure he, too, will be gone soon. A small, loud flock of Eastern Blue Jays has replaced the Ospreys distinctive call. They seem to delight in early morning conversation. There are six or eight of those fearless birds around at the moment. They have been trying to figure out how to get sunflower seed out of my feeders.

I can hear the House Finches and the Pine Siskins fighting over space at the feeder. Most of the Pine Siskins are on the ground gleaning sunflower seeds that the messy House Finches have spilled. They have been here all summer. Some new peeps brought me to the window a few mornings ago and a flock of American Goldfinches had descended on the feeder. The Evening Grosbeaks would come and fight for space at the feeder as well although I haven't heard or seen them for a week or so.

Another early morning song I hear is the chatter of a Belted Kingfisher, this fellow has been around since last year but he has become more talkative lately (or my ear has become more sophisticated over the last year).

There has been a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers here all summer, this year they had two young ones. All of them come to visit the little patch of trees just outside of my window, not only do they proceed to talk to each

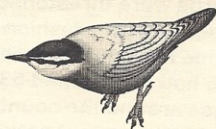
other but they, also, have breakfast. You can well imagine on such mornings I am wide awake without the benefit of my alarm clock. What a racket! It is pretty much the same scenario when the Northern Flickers come to visit.

With Fall here flocks of geese and ducks have been flying overhead. The geese usually honk to one another as their flight progresses. The ducks give an occasional quack. If you listen carefully you can hear them flying, their wings beating through the cool morning air. The ducks often land in the river and you can hear them sliding through the water as they land.

One of the songs that I enjoy the most is that of the Red-breasted Nuthatch. They come to the feeder all morning, their high pitched beeps are very distinctive. You can tell when they are grumpy about waiting for their turn at the feeder as they beep very loudly.

Of course, there is also chickadee chatter. That is probably my favorite of all the songs I can hear outside my window. It is the songs of the Black-capped and Mountain Chickadee that gives me the sense of rightness, that all is well with the world and it will soon be time to throw the covers off and face the new day.

Leslie Kehoe



OCTOBER MEETING

Monday, October 12, 1998
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg.
490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell
Business Meeting starts at 5:15PM
General Meeting starts at 7:30PM

PROGRAM: Glacier Lilies and Grizzly Bears: Interactions in Sub-Alpine Meadows, a slide presentation by Sandy Tardiff will be presented. Sandy Tardiff is a research specialist at the Flathead Lake Biological Station (U of M). Tardiff is just finishing a study of the effects of grizzly bear digging on plant communities and soil nitrogen in the area of Logan Pass in Glacier National Park. She will report on the findings of her study and talk about when and why grizzlies resort to ground foraging.



LOONS AND BALD EAGLES PROTECTED IN THOMPSON CHAIN OF LAKES

Next spring, the Common Loons and Bald Eagles of the Thompson Chain of Lakes will have an easier time nesting and raising their young, thanks to a new set of boating regulations recently approved by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission.

For several weeks the Region 1 Office of FWP has been developing a plan for regulations on high speed boating in some of the lakes in the Thompson Chain for reasons of safety and resource preservation. Included in the plan is a no-wake speed restriction on lakes in the chain that are less than about 30 acres in size.

Also included are several clauses that provide protection for loons and eagles. Boating will be restricted to two lobes of Upper Thompson Lake to protect the two pairs of loons that nest and raise the young on these lobes and boating will be excluded from areas around the loons' nesting sites during the nesting period. A voluntary restriction will be placed on Loon Lake because it is a potential loon nesting site. Loons have been seen on this lake in recent years and the plan calls for seasonal closures around the nesting sites if loon nest there again. An area around the Bald Eagle nest on Horseshoe Lake will be closed to boating during the eagles' nesting period.

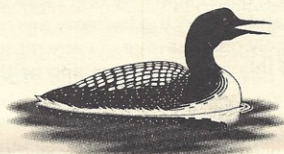
The plan received overwhelming support from the public. By the end of August almost 500 public comments had been received and of these comments 75% were in favor of the plan.

At their September 11 meeting, the FWP Commission voted 4 in favor, none against, with one abstention, to adopt the proposed restrictions. The new regulations are scheduled to take force in the spring of 1999.

The Region 1 Office of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is to be congratulated for taking the initiative in providing needed protection for sensitive birds and bird habitat in Northwest Montana. The adoption of these boating regulations for the Thompson Chain of

Lakes marks an important step forward for the agency in their attempt to protect and preserve the native wildlife of this region.

Dan Vincent, head of Region 1 Office, reports that this winter the FWP will be looking the possibility of developing a comprehensive plan for placing similar regulations on high speed boating for lakes throughout Region 1, and possibly throughout the state. Public input during the process will be crucial to the success of their attempt, and a strong showing of public support for an appropriately crafted plan will be crucial to its passage. Watch your local newspaper and this newsletter for more information, and keep your eyes open for the opportunity to do your part when the time comes. By Linda Winnie



BOOK REVIEW: Misplaced Blame by Alan Their Durning, Northwest Environment Watch, July 1997.

Alan Durning's Misplaced Blame briefly analyzes the causes of human population growth in the Pacific Northwest, the area of focus for the authors group, Northwest Environment Watch. Since the region includes western Montana, many readers may find his conclusions valuable in seeking courses of action to stem the tide of humanity that threatens our environment and quality of life. Durning presents a short chapter on each of the following values: Child Poverty, Sexual Abuse, Inadequate Family Planning Services, Subsidies to Domestic Migration, and Misguided Immigration Laws.

The title, Misplaced Blame, refers to the first chapter in which Durning debunks the conventional wisdom that welfare (Continued on Page 6)



FROM THE PRESIDENT



The whole face of the country was covered with herds of Buffalo, Elk & Antelopes; deer are also abundant, but keep themselves more concealed in the woodland. The buffalo, Elk and Antelope are so gentle that we pass near them while feeding, without appearing to excite any alarm among them; and when we attract their attention, they frequently approach us more nearly to discover what we are...

Meriwether Lewis, April 25, 1805

The recent PBS documentary on Lewis and Clark by Ken Burns prompted me to reread the captains' narrative of their epic journey. Recollections from my first time through their journals emphasized the dramatic occurrences such as Lewis' close call with the Blackfeet and his narrow escape from a charging grizzly or Sacajawea's emotional reunion with her brother which are difficult to forget.

What I found most intriguing in my second reading was the detailed descriptions of the landscape and wildlife that Lewis and Clark encountered during the course of the expedition. The captains dutifully recorded observations ranging from "the prickly pears are so abundant that we could scarcely find room to lie," and "the country on each side of the Missouri is rich high and but full the bottoms are extensive with a great deal of timber on them." To, "we can scarcely cast our eyes in any direction without perceiving Elk Buffalo or antelopes," and, "the Air of this quarter is pure and healthy."

Passage after passage, I was awestruck with each journal entry that preserved a glimpse of how Montana once was, and of course, provided some insight into how much Montana has changed since the captains passed through in 1805 and 1806. Large tracts of prickly pear and native grasses have been replaced by fields of wheat; gone are the vast herds of bison; and certainly the remaining elk are not so tame (at least that has been my experience during hunting season).

Reading the Lewis and Clark journals reminds us that we live in a human-dominated landscape. Although all species modify their surroundings, the human animal is particularly adept at converting the natural environment into agricultural and industrial landscapes. The use of the land to produce goods and services has substantially altered Montana's ecosystems. As the human population continues to grow, this land transformation threatens to cause irreversible losses in species diversity. Indeed, in some instances, it already has.

A possible antidote for these rather depressing thoughts is to visit the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge. The relatively level valley floor is covered by reeds and grasses with smaller forest patches of old growth fir, spruce, cedar, and larch while large cottonwood trees line the river bank. Of course, it is the refuge's inhabitants that provide solace against the human encroachment that we experience in the Flathead Valley.

A good place to start is the recently constructed wildlife viewing platform (paid for in part by Flathead Audubon) where you are likely to be greeted by the resident marsh wrens, song sparrows, and yellow-headed blackbirds. Good views of waterfowl, birds of prey, white-tailed deer and other mammals - both large and small, can be experienced by the patient visitor. The keen-eyed observer might even catch a glimpse of the secretive sora or Virginia rail.

Although it is inevitable that we will continue to utilize Montana's natural resources, we must do so in only a sustainable manner - being careful not to rob from our children's' Continued on page 5...



FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

childrens' inheritance. But we can do even more. New developments in restoration ecology and innovative management strategies in conservation biology promise to rebuild natural habitats, clean up degraded landscapes, and increase biodiversity. Montana is especially well-suited for these kinds of recovery efforts since much of what Lewis and Clark described is still here.

With this I mind, I must confess to finding some comfort in what was perhaps the captains' most frequent comment: "The musketoes are extreemly troublesome to us." At least some things haven't changed.

By Jim Rogers



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

For those readers unfamiliar with Audubon Adventures, it is a wonderful education resource aimed at the third through sixth grade level. With each classroom kit the teacher receives a booklet of in-depth information and each student receives a newspaper type publication for each of the topics covered. The subjects covered by Audubon Adventures include caterpillars, frogs, migratory birds, elk, trees, and many other environmental education themes. Kim Davis is the Chair for Audubon Adventures for Flathead Audubon, over the years he has received letters from teachers and students about how much they enjoy having Audubon Adventures in their classroom.

This year, Audubon Adventures has extended its reach into a few new areas and a number of new schools. This year thirty-six classrooms will be receiving Audubon Adventures. Somewhere between one third and one half of these classrooms share the publication with one or more other classrooms. It is great to have this resource available to more teachers and students in the area, but this does come with some financial burden to the Flathead Audubon organization. The Flathead Audubon Society has always strongly supported education and has covered the cost of Audubon Adventures over the years. At \$35.00 per classroom, it is a considerable cost. Classrooms and parent organizations have begun to raise some funds to help reduce some of the burden on

Flathead Audubon, but we could use some additional help. If you, or anyone you know, would like to sponsor a classroom, the contribution would be greatly appreciated. Kim Davis has a list of all the classrooms receiving the publication and he would be happy to choose one for you or have you choose a particular classroom to sponsor.

Anyone wishing to have a look at the type of materials provided by Audubon Adventures is encouraged to Kim Davis at 755-1311.

By Kim Davis



PRECYCLE CELEBRATION

Precycle/Smart Shopping Program is celebrating five years of successful presentations to the public to reduce waste and save habitat. Thirty-two volunteers are invited to meet on Saturday, October 24, 10AM to Noon at the home of the coordinator, Ferne Cohen at 160 Kalner Lane in Whitefish. A new recycling program in Whitefish will be described and future plans for the Precycle Program will be discussed. Precycling is a joint project of Citizens for a Better Flathead, The Whitefish Woman's Club and Flathead Audubon Society. If you are interested please contact Ferne Cohen, Quality of Life Chair for Flathead Audubon, at 862-2028.

**BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 3**

encourages high birth rates among its recipients. Durning concludes that our efforts to reform welfare by reducing it will result in greater child poverty, causing higher rather than lower birth rates. Because most of the factors Durning addresses have political solutions, his provides useful data for discussions of the population issue with legislators.

An annual membership in Northwest Environment Watch cost a reasonable \$15 which includes copies of this and other books on environmental and social issues in our area. Call (206) 447-1880 for more information or access

<http://www.speakeasy.org/new> on the web.

The preceding book review was written by Bill Hager for the Montana Audubon Population and Habitat Committee. Retired to Hamilton five years ago, Bill Hager is fulfilling a life-long dream to live near the Selway-Bitterroot. He is a part-time fishing guide with property on the Bitterroot, and is active on wetlands and river issues as well.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

October is one of the best times to visit our local National Wildlife Refuges. We are fortunate to have several Refuges in our area. The 1568acre Swan River National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Swan Valley and was adopted by the Flathead Audubon Society in 1981 under the National Audubon Society's Adopt-A-Refuge Program. Just this year a Wildlife Viewing Platform was built at the Refuge with the help of Flathead Audubon Society. One might hear the calls of an American Bittern, a Belted Kingfisher or a Common Snipe. One hundred seventy one bird species have been observed as well as elk, deer, moose and bear.

You might like to venture south of Polson and visit either the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge or the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge. Both of these Refuges were established especially to function "as a refuge and breeding ground for native

birds". At the Pablo NWR you might see a Trumpeter Swan, ten young birds were released in the Refuge this summer in the hopes of reestablishing an area roost for Trumpeter Swans. In the middle of October in the Mission Valley one might see Great Blue Herons, Ring-Necked Pheasants, a sandpiper or two, and hundreds if not thousands of migrating waterfowl of all varieties.

If you are planning an outing to one of the National Wildlife Refuges in the area soon and have a few questions you may contact: The National Bison Range (which is also managed by the National Wildlife Refuge System) at 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 59824. Phone: (406) 644-2211. Bird lists and information is available for each of the Refuges.

Thanks to Pat Jamieson, Outdoor Recreation Planner at the National Bison Range. Information from The Fish and Wildlife Service at www.fws.gov/

**WORLD POPULATION
AWARENESS WEEK IS TO BE
OBSERVED OCTOBER 25 TO 31.**

Some things to think about:

- It is predicted that by the year 2000 there will be 6 billion people on Earth.
- If current growth rates continue the population is projected to be over 12 billion by the year 2050.
- As the population expands across the landscape we degrade or destroy wildlife habitat.
- Extinction of birds and mammals increase as the human population grows. At least 27,000 species are lost each year.
- In the United States we have destroyed at least half of the wetlands that originally existed here in colonial times.
- Since 1830, 98% of our tall-grass prairie has been plowed under.

Excerpted from Population and Habitat in the New Millenium by Ken Strom published by National Audubon Society and The Global Stewardship Initiative.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON'S ANNUAL Sunflower Seed Sale

50 lb sack of Black, Oil Sunflower Seeds - \$17
Highest Quality - Grown in Montana

Feed your feathered friends and support Audubon Projects too!

**This is Flathead Audubon's primary fund raising project.
Proceeds support local conservation and educational programs such as**

- ◆ Distribution of *Audubon Adventures* to local 5th grade classes.
- ◆ Book Purchase Award to local elementary schools for library books on natural history.
- ◆ Scholarships for environmental education.
- ◆ Research grants for field studies of birds and bird habitat.
- ◆ Educational materials for lectures by Audubon members to local school classes and civic groups.
- ◆ Care and upkeep of local refuges such as Ninepipe Reservoir.

Pick Up Locations: Please note your pick-up date, time and place on your calendar!

Bigfork: Lakehills Shopping Center
Saturday, 10-12 noon: 837-5018

Kalispell: Buttrey's Parking Lot - east side
Saturday, 12:30-2:30 pm; 755-2142

Whitefish: Train Depot Parking Lot
Saturday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm; 862-2028

Condon: Call June Ash, 754-2289
for arrangements

Columbia Falls: Glacier Bank
Saturday, 10-12 noon: 387-5527 or 892-3825

Polson: Super 1 Foods Parking Lot
Saturday, 12 noon - 2 pm; 849-5286

✂ CLIP HERE

✂ CLIP HERE

Order Form

Number of Sacks: _____ @ \$17 = Amount enclosed: \$ _____

I will pick up my order **Saturday, November 14** in (check one)

Bigfork ☐ Columbia Falls ☐ Condon ☐ Kalispell ☐ Whitefish ☐
or **Sunday, November 15** in Polson ☐.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Are you a member ☐ non-member? ☐ Why not join? It's just \$20 or \$15 for seniors

☛ Send your order and check by **Nov. 7** to:

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



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Bruce Tannehill, 239 Deer Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937
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883-3611
837-5018
862-5775
862-4548
862-5807

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1997-2000
1997-2000
1998-1999
1998-2000
1998-2001

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William Breen, 335 Mountain Meadow Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901
Sharon DeLong, 2495 Grave Creek Rd., Eureka, MT 59917
Pattie Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Rd., Bigfork, MT 59911
Pat McLaughlin, 223 Goat Trail, Whitefish, MT 59937
Linda Winnie, P.O. Box 220, Kila, MT 59920

758-8516
755-2142
882-4501
837-5018
862-4559
755-1406

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Lois Drobish, 324 Helena Flats Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901
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Ferne Cohen, P.O. Box 1782, Whitefish, MT 59937
Lynn Kelly, 6525 Rocky Point Road, Polson, MT 59860
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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. 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 e-mail ljkehoe@digisys.net

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"/>
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Supporting	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
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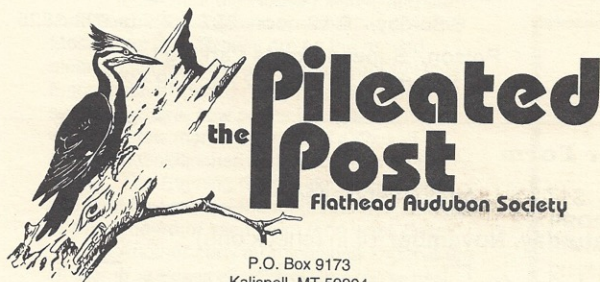
Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001

For Newsletter Only Send \$10 ☐
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