



the Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

Volume 24

Number 5

May, 1999

THE RETURN OF THE LITTLE JEWELS!

May is an exciting time, with the greening of our landscape and the arrival of migrants. Hummingbirds should be on their way to Montana and we'll be seeing them in our yards soon. We have several different species of hummers here in the Flathead Valley, most of us are familiar with the gregarious Rufous Hummingbird but we also have Black-chinned, the tiny Calliope and the occasional Broad-winged Hummingbird gracing our feeders and yards.

As with all species, there is some overlap of habitats and each hummingbird species has its niche. Generally, Calliopes choose wooded canyons, mountains in higher elevations and open grasslands. They prefer forest openings following fires or logging. Rufous also are found in high mountains are prefer secondary growth in forests, streambanks and forest edges. The Black-chinned hummingbirds tend to go to riparian groves and dry canyons near streambeds.

The hummingbirds we see in Montana have begun their migration from Mexico and fly thousands of miles to raise their families here. Hummers migrate great distances for their body size. Bill Calder, a hummingbird researcher at the University of Arizona, reported that the Rufous Hummingbird has "the distinction of flying the longest migration of any hummingbird and, in almost 49 million body lengths, the longest migration of any bird". Apparently, the migration is later than usual this year, a hummingbird watcher near Tucson, Arizona reported her first Rufous on April 12th this year several weeks late. We normally see our first hummers here in the Valley by the end of April. There is some concern that the severe weather in Mexico and the devastating fires last fall may have affected the hummingbird population.

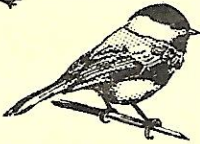
We can help welcome back these bright vagabonds by having our hummingbird feeders clean and full of nectar. We must feed these uncanny birds well! The nectar formula is one part ordinary table sugar to four parts water. Please omit red food coloring. Boil the solution for one or two minutes. This formula is a close approximation of that found in flowers and the nectar of flowers has no coloring. When there are fewer birds about fill bottles less full and freeze the extra. Try to hang the feeders in the shade to slow the fermentation process. Hummers love overhanging eaves and several feeders out of sight of each other will help divert the aggressive Rufous hummers. Change the nectar every few days and keep feeders very clean! Ants bothering the feeders can be trapped by a special device, which holds water and is attached to the feeder stem. Some folks have luck putting Vaseline on the stem. Yellow jackets avoid vegetable oil applied to the outer edge of feeding portals.

The males make their way to Montana first and females follow shortly thereafter. They stay together only a short time and the female builds the nest, lays the eggs, defends the nest and nestlings and raises the young. By the end of July the male hummers have started their southward journey, the females follow in August and the immature birds leave as soon as they have enough fat reserves built up to make the long flight south.

These bright little birds give us such joy in the short time they are among us. It is important that we take good care of them, fresh nectar and clean feeders will ensure that they stay healthy while they are here and continue to give us the pleasure of their lovely company.

BY ELLY JONES





CHICKADEE CHATTER

Everything is right with the world, the leaves on the trees get a little bit bigger each day, the Osprey are here, two pairs quite close by, and a trio of Tree Swallows have appeared in the last few days. These are things I look forward to all winter long, I long to hear the calls of the Osprey and the sweet talk of the Tree Swallows. I look forward to watching the swallows fly in their effortless dances of courtship and obtaining breakfast. I can watch the osprey soaring above me for as long as they care to soar.

The Osprey always have a lot to say in the early morning and the swallows talk all day long. There are other spring sounds as well, the Pileated Woodpecker has found an empty metal barrel in the backyard and has been merrily banging away at it, I certainly hope he impresses his wife-to-be soon, he is making quite a racket. The House Finches are singing their beautiful spring songs and an entire flock of Red-winged Blackbirds has taken up residence in the cottonwood trees on the riverbank. There are Robins flitting around all over the place eating worms in the yard in the early morning and building a nest next to one of the buildings. A pair of Red-shafted Flickers tried to drill a hole through the wall of that same building, they made good progress until I went and bought a Flicker house and put it over the hole. The flickers didn't find the house to be as good of an idea as I did but something has moved in, it is dark and speedy and as yet unknown.

This morning there were several Belted Kingfishers flying through the trees at the edge of the river, their distinctive chatter echoing over the water as they flew. I have never found where they nest but it must be close by as I see them all summer long, it is always good to see the solitary one I have heard and glimpsed all winter long with company of its own kind.

The Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees have been singing their spring songs for weeks now and even now I hear their exuberant calls ... "phoebe, phoebe". My father used to tell me that it was the secretive Phoebe Bird that had come to visit and even into my adulthood I had thought he was right.

He and I would listen to those songs and he would smile and I would listen hard and try even harder to see what a Phoebe

Bird looked like. I never saw one but every spring my father and I would listen to the calls of that elusive bird and know that all was right with the world. It was hard to admit it was 'just a amorous chickadee'. It is difficult to shake those childhood beliefs, even now when I hear the first tentative 'phoebe's' of the new season I think: 'oh the Phoebe birds have come back' and I think about my father and his first days of spring smile. I'm still not sure if my father was telling me stories or if he honestly thought there was a Phoebe bird. I tend to think it was the former, my father had lived most of his life here in the Flathead Valley and knew more about the world around him than most. He also used to have a particular sparkle in his eye when a story was being told. The most important thing is that when we heard that call we both knew that spring would soon be here. The fresh green of spring leaves the song of birds we hadn't heard in months and the warm breezes restored our faith and we knew all would be right in our little corner of the world.

I hope all of you, my readers, have a wonderful summer. Watch the birds and relax in the warmth that summer will soon bring and hope all will be right in your little corner of the world.



Leslie Kehoe

MAY MEETING

Monday, May 10, 1999

Lone Pine State Park

Visitor's Center

Short Board Meeting at 5:00PM

Potluck Supper at 6:00PM

Program begins at 7:00PM

Bring a potluck dish and your own service

Please bring a nature oriented

Silent-auction item.

Board and Officer elections will be held during the business meeting.

PROGRAM: Avian Guano, Professor of ornithology, will reveal unusual things about his feathered friends. Professor Guano's presentation will include bird songs, slides and audience participation. Guano has been studying birds for a long time - too long, according to some. Many have said that Guano looks (and behaves) like a cross between a professor and a bird. Others think he looks suspiciously like Bigfork author and actor Denny Olson.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



TERRA INCOGNITA

...what a field to feed the imagination, what a number of ideas rushes in at once, to call for the means to investigate a country so interesting.

Edward Smith, Northwest Territories, March 1825

For those with vivid imaginations, it is not difficult to picture fur trader Edward Smith of the Hudson's Bay Company recording his thoughts in the post journal during the lingering deep chill of a northern winter. Dim lamp light reveals the huddled figure pausing to place the bottle of ink under his coat to thaw. A wispy trail of frozen breath betrays the bitter cold. He winces at its subarctic sharpness. When he is finished with the daily log, Smith slowly gets up to stretch his aching back. Needing some fresh air, he stumbles over the door of the smoke-filled cabin. It requires both hands and much of his weight to break open the seal of hoarfrost and wind-blown snow. As Smith gazes upon the icy black landscape, perhaps the fire of his imagination brings a feeling of warmth and a slight smile to his face.

While Edward Smith's fanciful designs for the coming summer's adventures seemed unlimited and full of promise, the demanding and unforgiving terrain of the Far Northwest proved to be much more severe than he imagined. Seemingly endless stretches of rugged mountains and hazardous rivers wrecked the best laid plans, and offered few routes across the unknown territory. Efforts to "investigate a country so interesting" involved separating the usually harsh reality of exploration from the sense of hope and conjecture.

The "mind's eye" has guided geographic curiosity since the first time someone wondered what was beyond the distant horizon. That first time represented the initial attempt to understand our world through the process of exploration. Fundamental to any search for geographical knowledge is how the terrae incognitae - or unknown lands - are imagined. As the eminent geographer John Kirkland Wright (1946) observed "...the unknown stimulates the imagination to conjure up mental images of what to look for within it, and the more that is found, the more the imagination suggests for further search."

Put another way, the human imagination is a critical element of the exploratory process. Indeed, it is likely that the earliest migrations to North America via the land bridge were in response to northeastern Asians dreaming about the new hunting territories that lay ahead. Writing at the beginning of the Christian era, the Greek geographical thinker Strabo noted, "...wherever we have not been able to learn by the evidence of our senses, there reason points the way." This reliance on knowledge and deduction was intrinsic to the Greek way of thinking. Based on concepts of symmetry and perfection, the earth's shape was determined to be round. Since the most symmetrical shape is a sphere, and the world was created in perfect form, the Greeks reasoned that the earth must be spherical. Both Pythagoras and Plato held this view.

Of course, not everything reasoned or imagined is necessarily accurate. It was not until the fourth century B.C. that the Greek approach to learning about the natural environment began to change. Largely responsible for this new method was Aristotle, who also believed that the earth was a sphere. However, he sought evidence - based on observations - to support the theory. Noting the increase in the height of stars above the horizon as one travels north and the circular shape of the earth's shadow on the moon during an eclipse, Aristotle slowly built the case for a round world based on something more than just ideas.

Going even further, it was left to a new breed of explorer to go out and seek answers to questions that could not be solved by limited observations or reason alone. The daring voyage of Pytheas beyond the Pillars of Hercules (Straits of Gibraltar) were among the earliest attempts to extend the Greek view of the world beyond the Mediterranean region. Seeking knowledge for its own sake, Pytheas outfitted a ship and crew at his own expense, and sailed into the open Atlantic sometime between 330 and 300 B.C. After exploring the Tin Islands, known today as the United Kingdom, Pytheas continued north until his progress was eventually halted by the frozen ocean. Foreshadowing the inception of the Northwest Passage myth was Pytheas' report of the strong, river-like forces he encountered while at sea. These tidal motions were new to the sailors whose previous experience was restricted to the Mediterranean basin where the ebb and flow of the tides were too small to notice. By putting theory into practice, Pytheas showed what first-hand observation could accomplish and pointed the way for those bold enough to follow. Demonstrating the scientific nature of his journey, Pytheas was the first Greek to observe the tides and connect them to the phases of the moon. But he did even more. Pytheas single-handedly removed a small part of conjecture from the map of antiquity.

Of all the activities that have been responsible for developing paradigms of knowledge about the nature and content of the world, none have been quite as significant as geographical exploration. In time, many things now unknown will become known. We will learn more about our oceans, what lies below the surface of the earth, and perhaps, whether or not global warming is because of us. The quest for data on climate, vegetation, landscape, and a variety of cultural phenomena is now part of our geographical heritage - all gained from centuries of exploration.

The consequence of this exploratory process has been that many today have a reasonably accurate perception of our surroundings. Never before have we known so much on which we can act. As caretakers of our common future, we have the responsibility to seek scientifically sound solutions for the environmental challenges that confront us. So like Pytheas, the imagination evokes certain responses from those who would explore. Hopefully, the next millennium's

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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explorers - and their imaginations - are up to the task, for as T.S. Eliot observed:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.



P.S. I am off to the terra incognita of organizing a new Audubon chapter based in the Polson-Ronan area. In resigning as your president, I have experienced a strong sense of reflection and excitement about my involvement in Flathead Audubon. For one, I discovered that the Audubon cause has grown near and dear to my heart. I also found a noble, well-intentioned group that enabled me to connect with other kindred spirits that shared similar concerns about the environment.

To my fellow officers and directors, I extend my sincere admiration and gratitude. Your genial camaraderie, thoughtful insights, and hard work are what make Flathead Audubon a pleasurable and rewarding experience.

To the general membership, THANK YOU, and please consider the importance of what Flathead Audubon is trying to accomplish and contact an officer or director with your suggestions and willingness to lend a hand. If we contact you, take a deep breath and say "YES", I can help with that. The rewards will be immense, and to be sure, new friendships will be made for all involved.

BY JIM ROGERS

annual infusion of cash. It goes without saying that the more we raise, the more we have to spend for conservation. So we love to sell lots of seeds! You would suppose then that I should request you to feed the birds as much as you can—and hope for another invasion of evening grosbeaks to bolster our sales.

It's true, I do hope the grosbeaks return one of these winters. As for feeding the birds as much as you can, I have a different theory.

Unless you were vacationing in Timbuktu last fall you heard about, or experienced, our bear problems. Bears were all over the valleys and foothills; marauding garbage cans, compost heaps, apple and plum trees, pet food—and backyard bird feeders. Time and time again Fish, Wildlife and Parks bear biologists were called out to capture and relocate "problem" bears, and I think they got blue in the face telling us, time and time again, that a habituated bear is usually a dead bear. How about the "wildlife photographer" up the North Fork who was essentially using bird feed as bait for attracting grizzly and black bears, deer and mountain lions? I wonder how many bear casualties he might be responsible for.

The point is, summertime feeding of birds, though enjoyable for bird viewing, has become a major attractant for hungry bears, luring them into a close enough proximity to homes and towns to become a nuisance, in the case of black bears, and dangerous, in the case of grizzlies. In either case, all too often this leads to the demise of the bear. And this is not to mention the proliferation of bird predators, such as skunks and raccoons, due to the abundant food source of bird feed. As conservationists, or simply nature lovers, we are shooting ourselves in the foot on this one. Summertime feeding creates more problems than it is worth.

Therefore, Audubon must take the lead in promoting responsible bird feeding. If you live in bear country, or where other wildlife, like skunks and raccoons, will be attracted to bird feeders, curtail your feeding during the warm months. Clean up the area all around the feeders, and put your feeders away. Not only do the birds not need the summertime feeding, but also quite possibly it disrupts their natural dispersion at this time of year.

So when can we feed birds and enjoy them visiting our back yards? Doug Chadwick, a bear conservationist and environmental writer from Whitefish, and who also alerted me to the seriousness of this problem, says that for the bear's sake remove all temptation when the bears are most hungry. Of course bears are always hungry, so that means when they are not hibernating—April through October, minimum.

That puts a dent in our feeding season doesn't it? Possibly a dent in our seed sales too, but for wildlife it is the right thing to do. Fortunately, we still accept your donation!

BY LEO KEANE

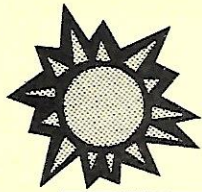
DON'T FEED THE BIRDS!

What d'ya mean don't feed the birds, Leo? Are you crazy? How can you call yourself a nature advocate, bird lover, plus an Audubon member (and officer) while in the same breath suggest such nonsense as "Don't feed the birds?"

Very good questions. Let me explain. First of all, the sale of bird seeds, through our annual autumn sunflower seed sale, is Flathead Audubon's primary fundraiser. We earn from \$3,000 to \$6,000 annually from this sale, and these funds go right into our conservation and education programs. With that money we have been supporting loon and rough-legged hawk research, seeing to it that Audubon Adventures is available to any classroom that will use it, providing seed money for the protection of old-growth forests on State Lands, funding scholarships to appropriate natural history oriented "camps" such as the Glacier Institute and the American Birding Association. This is just a sample. We appreciate every bit of that money, and we put it to good use.

While the sale of sunflower seeds is just a facet of our fund raising effort it is also our largest





Flathead Audubon Society

1999 Spring/Summer Field Trips & Events**The public is invited to all trips – come and enjoy!**

Standard equipment for ALL trips includes comfortable SHOES, BINOCULARS, SCOPES, FIELD GUIDES, FOUL WEATHER GEAR, and a SACK LUNCH or SNACK. Special requirements for some trips are noted below. When possible, car pooling for trips will be arranged at the meeting site.

Be sure to check the Flathead Audubon BIRD HOTLINE for updates (756-5595)

Saturday, May 8th International Migratory Bird Day at the National Bison Range

Contact: Ms. Pat Jamieson (644-2211)

Call ahead to pre-register for one of several birding trips to be led by Bison Range employees. Depending on how many people register, trips may include a beginning bird walk, birding along the Trisky Creek (normally closed to public use), and a car caravan bird trip over the mountain. The Red Sleep Mountain Drive is scheduled to open to the public on this date.

Saturday, May 15th Harlequin Ducks and American Dippers

Leader: John Ashley (892-3825)

See firsthand the amazing adaptations of Harlequin Ducks, one of the rarest birds in Montana. We will watch them courting in rapids alongside the American Dipper, a hearty year-round resident. Easy, all-morning trip with short, level walks (Glacier Nat. Park entrance fee or pass required). Number of participants will be limited to minimize disturbance to these shy ducks. Call John to register and arrange a meeting time & place.

Friday, May 21st Hummingbird Biology & Banding

Leader: Elly Jones (837-1080)

Elly, an experienced bander, will teach us about hummingbird biology and demonstrate how she captures her tiny subjects. If the weather and birds cooperate, we will have birds in hand! Call to sign up and get driving directions.

Saturday, May 22nd Bird Ecology in Burned Areas of the North Fork

Leader: Dr. Elaine Caton (793-5038)

Join Elaine for a half-day birding trip in the Red Bench and other burned areas of the North Fork. Learn about the many bird species that are adapted to the natural cycle of wildfire, and why they move into newly burned areas. In older burned areas, see how the bird community changes as young trees quickly fill in between the snags. Meet at the Northern Lights Saloon in Polebridge at 9:00 a.m. Come prepared to walk off-trail for approximately one-half mile. This trip is free, but there is a fee to enter Glacier Nat. Park.

Saturday, May 23rd 91st Birthday of the National Bison Range

Contact: Ms. Pat Jamieson (644-2211)

Ever seen a herd of inflatable bison? Well then here's your chance, as the Nat. Bison Range is offering inflatable sculpture, free admission, and other goodies to celebrate yet another birthday. The Red Sleep Mountain Drive will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call Pat if you'd like more information.

1st week in June Bird-a-thon Fundraiser for Audubon

Contact: Lisa Bate (756-0462)

Pick your day to go birding for bucks! Sign up sponsors to pledge per species, then spend one hour or a whole day raising money for Audubon. Half of the proceeds go to national Audubon, half goes to Montana Audubon, and all proceeds are earmarked for protecting wetlands. Call Lisa for pledge sheets.

Wednesday evening, June 2nd Columbia Mountain Evening Stroll

Leader: Rachael Potter (892-2446)

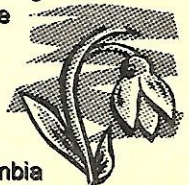
Grab a friend and join Rachael for an evening stroll in the Flathead Nat. Forest near Columbia Falls. Meet at the Columbia Mountain trailhead near the west end of Badrock Canyon, at 7:00 p.m. Call for more information. This hike is sponsored by the MNPS and will focus primarily on plants.

Saturday, June 5th Squeezer Creek Hike

Leaders: Neal & Pattie Brown (837-5018)

Join Neal & Pattie for a birding exploration at one of Montana's best "Watchable Wildlife" sites. The area varies between a perched pothole wetland, a spectacular old growth Ponderosa Pine forest, a recently harvested area, and a reforested area.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

The Squeezer Creek site is near the Goat Creek Ranger Station. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Swan Chapel, located on Hwy. 83 in the Swan Lake townsite. Bring binoculars, field guides, water and lunch. Rain gear is also advised. NOTE — This trail is on Montana State Lands, and a state School Trust Land Access Permit is required. Permits can be purchased everywhere that fishing licenses are sold, including any MT Fish Wildlife & Parks office. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors.

Sunday, June 6th Warbler Walk

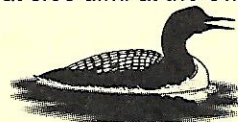
Leader: Leo Keane (862-5807)

This guided birding trip into the Swan Lake Waterfowl Production Area will sharpen your ears. Expect to find and identify a wide variety of migrating warblers by sight and sound. This is a great opportunity for novices to learn from local warbler experts, and for experienced birders to brush up on their warbler calls. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Swan Lake Campground (north of Swan Lake town site).

Saturday, June 19th Loons of the Thompson Lakes Chain

Leader: Lynn Kelly (883-5797)

Montana's preeminent loon expert conducts this tour of known and potential loon nesting lakes in the Thompson Chain of Lakes (Hwy. 2, west of Kalispell). In late June, the loons in this area will be off their nests for 3-6 weeks, and we hope to see loon families with 1-2 chicks. Tour lasts about 5 hours, including driving time.

**Saturday, June 12th Coal Creek Old Growth Hike**

Leaders: Malcolm & Steve Thompson (253-4057)

Hike in to see firsthand a proposed DNRC timber sale that is set in the tallest old growth spruce and larch remaining in the North Fork. Moderate difficulty, 6-7 miles of bushwhacking (no trail) roundtrip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Glacier Bank parking lot in Columbia Falls. This field trip is sponsored by the MNPS, and you must reserve a spot before June 6th.

Sunday, June 13th Owen Sowerwine Canoe Trip

Leaders: Susannah and Dan Casey (857-3143)

Join Susannah & Dan for a half-day exploration of an island park in the Flathead River near Kalispell. Canoe to the island (easy flat-water paddling) and bushwhack through the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area. Features breeding birds and a close-up look at the diversity of endangered cottonwood communities. Bring canoe and life jackets (one for each person). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Rousar's parking lot in Kalispell. A shuttle back to vehicles will be provided.

Saturday, June 26th Swan River Canoe Trip

Leaders: Karen Nichols & Ben Long (need phone number)

Join Karen and Ben on this canoe trip down the Swan River and across Swan Lake. This is an intermediate-level paddle through rich riparian habitat and wetlands. We'll start at Porcupine Bridge, canoe down the Swan River and, if wind and weather allow a crossing, continue to the Swan Lake boat launch. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Swan Lake Campground boat launch, where we will arrange a shuttle. Pack a lunch, raingear, sunscreen and lifejackets (one for each person). Plan for a full day. We might also explore the Nature Conservancy Oxbow Preserve, if people are interested. Group size is limited, so call Ben or Karen soon to sign up.

Sunday, June 27th Jewel Basin Hike

Leader: Elly Jones (837-1080)

Birds, flowers, and awesome views of the Flathead Valley — three good reasons to get out for this field trip! Meet at the Swan River School at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to the Jewel Basin parking lot. The route will be determined by field conditions, but will likely be the Noisy Creek Notch loop (moderate 4 miles). Call Elly for details.

Saturday, July 3rd Elk Calf Saddle Hike

Leaders: Mary & Gary Sloan (862-3360)

This strenuous trail climbs 2,500 feet in 3.5 miles (one way) to the top of the Continental Divide in the Flathead Nat. Forest, near Marias Pass. The Challenge Fire (a large, stand replacement fire) burned this area last September, so we'll see the first regrowth and answer the burning question, did the fringed onion survive? Call Mary or Gary Sloan at 862-3360 for more information and meeting place for this all day trip. This hike is sponsored by the MNPS and will focus primarily on plants.

Saturday morning, July 10th Squirmy, Scaly Critter Search

Leader: Dan Casey (857-3143)

This is a special invitation for children to join biologists from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the US Forest Service on a search for salamanders, snakes, frogs, turtles, and other fun critters! Bring your favorite youngster of any age, and rubber boots. Meet at the Kalispell office of Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 9 a.m.





FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Saturday night, July 10th Bat Biology & Capture

Leader: Dr. Amy Kuenzi, Contact: John Ashley (892-3825)

Join bat expert Amy Kuenzi for an up-close-and-personal evening with bats in the Kalispell area! A discussion on bat biology will be followed by 2-3 hours of mist-netting to catch bats after dusk. Meet at the Kalispell office of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 8 p.m., and plan to be out until midnight. Wear warm clothes that can get dirty, and bring bug repellent and a headlamp. Call John for more information.

Saturday, July 10th Firebrand Pass Hike

Leader: Maria Mantas (862-3044)



Firebrand Pass, on the east side of Glacier Nat. Park, is an all-day, 9 mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of 1,800 feet. Meet at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. Bring a hearty lunch and lots of water. This trip is sponsored by the MNPS and will focus on alpine plants. Call Maria for more information.

Saturday, July 17th Montana Loon Day

Contacts: Ms. Pat Dolan (721-6807) or Jane Engebretson (257-4246)

Here's your chance to help out with the annual census of Montana's loons. The goal is to count all loons on likely lakes across the state at the same time, so lots of volunteers are needed! Call Pat or Jane if you can spend part of the day visiting one or more lakes. They will provide census forms, and assign lakes to according to your preference.

Sunday, July 18th Flathead River Float

Leaders: Susannah & Dan Casey (857-3143)

Canoe from Presentine Bar Fishing Access to Leisure Island in Kalispell. This beginner level float is an easy 6 hours on the river (no whitewater) through a variety of riparian habitats. Bring canoe, lifejackets (one for each person), lunch, and raingear. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Kalispell K-Mart parking lot.

Saturday, August 7th Purple Loosestrife Work Party at Ninepipe Refuge

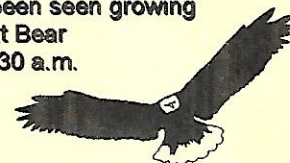
Leaders: Neal & Pattie Brown (837-5018)

Here's an opportunity to participate in a rewarding project that protects valuable wetlands from an invasive weed, purple loosestrife (*Lithrum salicaria*). It's also a chance to learn about and enjoy the full spectrum of animal and plant life in this rich corner of Montana. Bring work gloves and waders/boots that can get wet, binoculars, lunch, water. Meet at 10 a.m. at Allentown (formerly Ninepipes Lodge, 6 miles south of Ronan on Hwy. 93) for a birding exploration of Ninepipe. Regroup at 10:00 a.m. at Allentown for purple loosestrife pull. Pattie will graciously provide gourmet deserts at the noon lunch break. Sponsored jointly with the MNPS, Bill West of the Nat. Bison Range, and John Grant of MT Fish Wildlife & Parks.

Tuesday, August 10th Pioneer Ridge Lookout Hike

Leaders: Terry Divoky (387-5527) and Rachel Potter (892-2446)

The old Pioneer Ridge Lookout is located in the Swan Range, and we will access the trailhead from the Hungry Horse Reservoir west side road at Maizey Creek. Expect an all-day hike, round trip length 7 miles, and a 1,600 foot elevation gain. This trip is sponsored by the MNPS and will focus on ladies tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) that have been seen growing along the ridge among old growth Douglas fir. The ridge features great views of Jewell Basin and the Great Bear Wilderness. Eat lunch at the collapsed lookout. Meet at the Hungry Horse Ranger Station parking lot at 8:30 a.m.



Saturday, August 21st Coal Ridge Lookout Hike

Leader: Betty Karopat (862-0877 or 387-3800)

Bring a bucket for huckleberries on this all-day hike through a subalpine forest to the Coal Ridge Lookout (8 miles round trip, 1600 feet elevation gain). See and discuss old growth forest habitat and sub-alpine wetlands, fire and timber harvest history, and Forest Service road management for wildlife security and water quality. Lunch at the lookout, with views of the Whitefish Range and Glacier Nat. Park. Call Betty to sign up. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Night Owl Restaurant in Columbia Falls. This hike is sponsored by the MNPS and will focus primarily on plants.

Saturday, August 28th Ponderosa Pine Restoration Tour

Leader: Rod Ash (754-2289)

Rod will lead a birding tour of Swan Ecosystem forestry and ponderosa pine demonstration site located in the Swan Valley near Condon. Discussion will include the effects of various logging techniques on wildlife, and light-impact logging methods available to private landowners. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Swan Ecosystem Center in Condon.





Flathead Audubon Society Directory

OFFICERS

President	Jim Rogers, P.O. Box 984, Polson, MT 59860	883-3611
Vice-President	Neal Brown, 560 Wolf Creek Dr., Bigfork, MT 59911	837-5018
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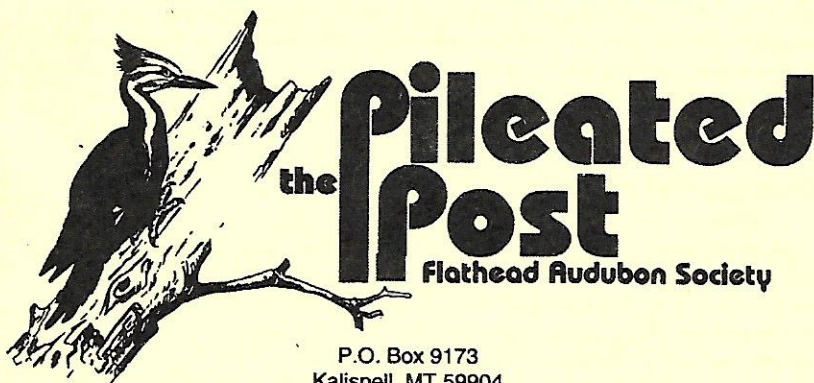
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The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and meets on the second Monday of each month from September through May. The regular meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a featured guest who will present a conservation or nature program. The regular monthly meeting is preceded by the Executive Board meeting. Both meetings are open to all those interested.

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