



the

Pileated Post

Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society

October 2020
VOLUME 45, NUMBER 2

White-crowned sparrow



Digital collegian

THANK YOU to all who donated to Flathead Audubon in the Great Fish Community Challenge! You and the Flathead community donated an amazing \$15,156 (preliminary total) by the September 18 deadline, soon the Whitefish Community Foundation will add a considerable match to these contributions. We will post the total Great Fish Challenge results on our website and in the next newsletter. Thank you!
Gael Bissell, President

Jewel Basin Update: A Great Start

By all measures, the 13th season of raptor migration surveys at the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch is off to a stellar start. We had conducted 22 surveys through September 17th, tying 2017 for the most surveys conducted at this point in the season. Already nine people have served as the primary observer, and more than 20 people have volunteered their time as additional observers. And the birds have provided both entertainment and wonder to those who have made the trip (see the accompanying article by Denny Olson, page 5).

Our total count of 872 birds is well above average for this point in the season, and our fourth best

in 13 years. And we have already counted above-average early-season numbers of Ospreys, Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks. Special treats have included 3 Peregrine Falcons, 4 Broad-winged Hawks, a Swainson's Hawk (rare at this count), and 15 Northern Goshawks. Here are our totals for the season to date:



Photo by bj Worth

Turkey Vulture 1	Broad-winged Hawk 4	Prairie Falcon 7
Osprey 8	Swainson's Hawk 1	Unk. Falcon 4
Bald Eagle 13	Red-tailed Hawk 120	Unk. Eagle 2
Northern Harrier 19	Unk Buteo 9	Unk. Raptor 6
Sharp-shinned Hawk 398	Golden Eagle 25	
Cooper's Hawk 151	American Kestrel 48	Total 872
Northern Goshawk 15	Merlin 24	
Unk. Accipiter 14	Peregrine Falcon 3	

As we enter the second half of September, we are entering the peak migration season. Even in an average season, this means there are more than 1,000 Accipiters still to come, and hundreds of Golden

Eagles. As the smoke clears (fingers crossed), we look forward to sunny days with SW winds, time with friends old and new, and a memorable "river of raptors"! Hope to see you there.
by Dan Casey

2020 Elections and How to Vote

Officers will be elected and proposed by-law changes to allow business meetings to be held by electronic means will be voted on. See article on page 4 for details.

OCTOBER FLATHEAD AUDUBON CALENDAR

Monday, October 5, 2020. 6 PM. FAS Board of Directors Meeting, Cherry Hill Yacht Club Clubhouse, 100 Spinnaker Ln, Lakeside. All are welcome. Digital attendance may also be available; please contact Gael Bissell at gael@flatheadaudubon.org if you wish to attend this way.

Sunday, October 11, 2020. 1PM. Special FAS Board of Directors Meeting to count ballots, Lone Pine State Park, Kalispell (pavilion or inside—look for sign).

Monday, October 12, 2020. 7 PM. Flathead Audubon General Meeting, will be held digitally. See page 3 for how to participate.

Jewel Basin Hawk Watch continues. See page 1.

October 1, Sandhill Crane Viewing. See page 6.

Saturday, October 3, 2020. 9 AM. Annual Fall Owen Sowerwine Workday. See page 7.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Little Blue Bill — the Lesser Scaup

by Darcy Thomas

Little Blue Bill emerged from the water with a crayfish in his bill and swam to the edge of the lake near a grassy bank. In a sudden frenzy of splashing water, a Red Fox pounced upon his neck and pulled him from the water. Little Blue Bill became immediately immobile with head extended, eyes open, and wings held close to his side as though feigning death. The fox, being young and inexperienced, was confused by the stillness of his prey and set the duck down. In this moment of inattention Little Blue Bill seized the moment and got away. This is one of the Lesser Scaups interesting behaviors that help it adapt to its' environment and survive.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), known affectionately as Little Blue Bill, is the most abundant and widespread of the North American diving ducks. Lesser Scaup are medium-sized being larger than a Green-winged Teal but smaller than a Canvasback. They tend to use inland lakes more than Greater Scaup. Being social birds, they form large flocks, called rafts, on rivers, lakes, and wetlands throughout the fall and winter. You usually see them flocked with other ducks such as Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Duck and Greater Scaup. They eat aquatic invertebrates such as mollusks and crustaceans as well as plants

and seeds.

Lesser Scaup look like they forgot to comb their hair, having a pointed rear crown. Their black heads have gloss that can vary from purple to green depending on the angle. These black and white diving ducks (females are chocolatey-brown with a white patch next to the bill) with blue bill and yellow eye present a difficult ID due to their similarity to the Greater Scaup. Luckily, these two are often seen together which allows the birder to compare the two and note their differences. Field ID tips such as taking time to watch them, observing several birds in the same flock, looking at the birds while they are at rest, and viewing them from various angles can help you learn to confidently identify the Lesser Scaup. It can also be helpful to have a spotting scope, so grab a friend who has one to go birding with you if you do not own one.

Most Lesser Scaup will migrate to winter grounds in the Gulf of Mexico or Central America by December, returning to Montana and other northern locales for the breeding season beginning in March. Choosing a new mate every year, they build nests on the ground hidden in tall vegetation. Eggs are laid before the nest is even finished and the final touches are added soon after. Lesser Scaup have one brood yearly with 6-14 eggs.

The population of Lesser Scaup has been declining for reasons that are not entirely clear. At Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge near Malta, 25,000 Lesser Scaup were counted in November 1949. Since then, there has been a cumulative decline of 59%. At Freezout Lake near Fairfield, the major cause of unsuccessful nests is skunk predation. Other causes for *continued on page 8*



Characteristic	Greater Scaup	Lesser Scaup
Size	18-20 inches	16-18 inches
Bill	Broad, prominent black nail	Narrower, more delicate nail
Head Shape	Rounded, highest point near forehead	Oval, highest point near back, notch at rear
Iridescence	Green only	Green or purple
Plumage	Narrow back barring, plain white flanks	Heavier barring, barring extends onto flanks
Wing Pattern	White extends across secondary and primary feathers	White only on secondary feathers
Range	Northern, saltwater, coastal, also in Eurasia	More southern, inland freshwater, North America only
Hatchlings	First flight in 36-40 days	First flight in 45-50 days

October Program

BIOMECHANICS, AERODYNAMICS AND THERMAL BALANCE IN THE FLIGHT OF HUMMINGBIRDS

presented by Bret Tobalske

Flathead Audubon will present an online program on Monday, October 12 at 7 PM. Dr. Bret Tobalske, Professor of Organismal Biology, Ecology and Evolution in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana and he is Director of the Field Research Station at Fort Missoula. He will explore the diverse aspects of the hummingbird's biological form and function that facilitate their prowess in flight. Details on how to log on to the presentation will be available on the Flathead Audubon website: www.flatheadaudubon.org.



Hummingbirds are unique among birds in converging upon the capacity of insects for indefinite hovering and remarkable maneuvering during flight. They also are adept at forward flight and some species migrate. The flight performance of hummingbirds represents an extreme with limits imposed by evolution as a

vertebrate and it provides a useful model for the development of bioinspired, autonomous flying vehicles.

Dr. Tobalske received his PhD at the University of Montana in 1994 and pursued post-doctoral work at Harvard University. He was on the faculty of the University of Portland in Oregon from 1999-2008 whereupon he returned to the University of Montana. As a comparative biomechanist, he explores how the form and function of organisms has evolved in relation to the attributes of the physical world. Most of his research explores avian flight, but he has diverse interests that are united by fundamental questions about fluid dynamics and the effects of body size including, for example, the costs and uses of sexually-selected weapons in beetles and the evolution of polar gigantism in sea spiders.

The program is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the Flathead Audubon website: www.flatheadaudubon.org

How to Attend the October 12 FAS General Meeting

The October 12 FAS meeting will be available to all electronically, via Zoom. To join the meeting insert the following meeting link into the address bar of your browser and hit enter, or go directly by clicking on the meeting link. The meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81026781002>. If this is the first time you've used Zoom it may take a few minutes to load the program on your computer (and you'll likely need to give it permission to load the program). Use your computer's audio (preferred), or get the audio by phone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), 810 2678 1002#

You should eventually be let into a "waiting room" where you will then be added to the meeting by the host. Please sign in with your name when they enter the room so we know to admit you. You will be muted when you first join the meeting. You can use your computer's microphone and speakers (most computers have both, whether you see them or not), and this is the preferred way to join.

You can also get an audio connection to the meeting without the Zoom visual capability by using the above phone number and passcode.

CHIRPS & SQUAWKS

Highlights from the September 8, 2020 Board meeting

- ◆ Jan Metzmaker reported on our current results for the Great Fish fundraising event, and reminded that all donations must be in by September 18 at 5 PM.
- ◆ The Newsletter Committee and the Membership Committee are both looking for an apprentice who could "learn the ropes", and serve as a back-up to current members.
- ◆ It was decided that the September and October meetings will be held virtually, but that our November meeting can safely be held in the larger meeting room at United Way.
- ◆ Details were clarified: for the mail-in ballot in October, for the OSNA Work Day on October 3, for the October newsletter, and for how future field trips can safely be conducted.
- ◆ Cory Davis reported on the status of the negotiations with DNRC, seeking a long-term solution for the management of Owen Sowerwine. They reviewed a draft version of a potential Flathead Land Trust Conservation Easement for the area.

2020 Elections Instructions

As you are probably aware by now, the elections for Flathead Audubon are taking place by proxy. The procedure for proxy voting is fairly simple. Anyone who was a FAS member as of May 2020 is eligible to vote; individual members are allowed 1 vote, families who are members (either those with a National Audubon Family Membership or have signed up as a family for a Flathead Audubon Basic or Supporting Membership) are allowed 2 votes. Our usual voting procedure is a voice vote, so anonymity will not be maintained, and we are asking that you sign your ballot. If your membership is for your family, please indicate this on the ballot, enter the names of the two family members who are voting and include their signatures, and cast 2 votes for the candidate of their choice.

Print the ballot provided below, make your selection(s) and add needed information and signatures, and mail the ballot to PO Box 9173, Kalispell MT 59904. Gael Bissell, as President, is calling a special Board meeting on 11 October at 1:00 PM at Lone Pine State Park where the proxy ballots will be counted. Ballots must be received by Saturday, 10 October 2020 to be eligible. Election will be for those candidates that receive a majority of the proxy votes. Our usual voting procedure is a voice vote, so anonymity will not be maintained, and we are asking that you

sign your ballot. In an effort to encourage voting, all signed ballots will go into a drawing for 1 of 2 bluebird houses generously donated by Pam Willison. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Lee at 406-270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net.

There are two issues to be addressed: election of Officers and Directors and a change to the ByLaws to allow business meetings to be conducted by electronic means (such as Zoom). The Officer positions are Secretary and Treasurer. There is only one candidate per officer position on this ballot; please select the candidate or select ALL to vote for both. The slate of Director candidates are listed on the ballot. Vote for each individually or select ALL to vote for the entire slate. You may also write in a candidate(s) in either category. The change to the ByLaws is also on the ballot. Vote FOR to add the change to allow electronic meetings; vote AGAINST to not allow electronic meetings.

Note that Mike Fanning has been added to the ballot. Mike has been a long-time member of FAs and has served on the Board for many years in many capacities. Currently he is the chair of the Membership Committee and his main task is berating people into paying their dues. Mike would like to continue in this capacity. *by Bob Lee*

**FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY
Proxy Ballot – Elections 2020**

I hereby give permission to Robert M. Lee, III, as Chair of the Nominations Committee, to cast my proxy for the following candidates and issues:

- _____ All Officer Candidates
- _____ Pam Willison, Secretary
- _____ Rod Walette, Treasurer

- _____ All Director Candidates
- _____ Joe Batts
- _____ Carole Jorgenson
- _____ Mike Fanning
- _____ Bob Lee
- _____ Cindy Roberts
- _____ Tom Roberts



A new Article III, Section 7, to the Flathead Audubon Society bylaws to read: **"Wherever in these bylaws it is stated that a meeting may be conducted in person or by any other means of stated communication or attendance, participation by remote communication, including but not limited to video conferencing, shall constitute presence in person at a meeting."**

_____ FOR the bylaw change _____ AGAINST the bylaw change

Voting as an individual (1 vote) Voting as a family (2 votes)

Printed Name(s): _____

Signed Name(s): _____

Date: _____



Conservation Educator's Niche

By Denny Olson

Virtually everything seems, well, virtual. Sequestered at home, for the most part, I have been scrambling to convert most of my education efforts -- programs, PowerPoint presentations, new video productions to complement *Birds Rock!*, dredging out the non-hands-on parts of our educational trunks so at least part of them will be useful -- I am beginning to empathize with other social beings about the need for human contact. Teachers teach, and the closer the quarters, the more effective they can be. It's frustrating.

It was 9/11, a somber day in an equally somber time. I rose early to meet Pam Willison at (COVID-appropriately) Camp Misery in the Jewel Basin. She promised to protect me from the grizzlies, or maybe it was "sacrifice me to"-- I can't remember. The walk-up to Hawkwatch is an hour-and-a half gradual grind -- still relatively easy for me in my advanced state of decay. We set up the chair and the owl decoy, and punched in data on the phone to ready ourselves. It was a flat-out gorgeous day on Aeneas Ridge -- nary a cloud (some smoke from our merciless reminders of climate havoc to the west) -- and the raptors were steady and diverse. 70 raptors today. The breeze was a bit light (5-10 mph) for an all-out deluge of birds, but it was a diverse day, at least for me. Highlights were eight Merlins -- all pugnacious about a one-eyed owl, an adult Prairie Falcon that was thinking about being pugnacious twenty feet over our heads, but had last-

minute second thoughts.. We had a juvie Broad-winged Hawk (my first here in the West) and a beautiful intermediate phase adult Swainson's Hawk directly overhead (Holy rufous!). A couple each of juvie Goshawks and Harriers rounded out the usual suspects.

Pam Willison hung in there all day spotting the deep divers below us in the west valley, and Kristi Rein and Karen Downs visited in the morning. Watching their curiosity change into excitement when the birds forgot their social-distancing was a joy to the teacher in me. Connie Johnson, George Loslaben and Barb Boorman visited all afternoon. Michelle Tohtz spent about 5 hours with us as an absolute "hawkeye" spotter.

From isolation to the top of the world is what it felt like. Our beautiful land and it's awe-inspiring inhabitants reminded me again that the real world does not revolve around us. The temporary inconvenience of our pandemic is meaningless to the much larger picture, which was on display on Aeneas Ridge. The word will be fine, if they have anything to say about it. Our defecations into our own nest is the issue, along with the hubris that can't accept our own vulnerability - - so toxic that we can't even wear face masks to help out the even more vulnerable. Maybe, just maybe, this uniquely human pandemic problem might pound some sense into us. I'm still waiting. The birds? They'll keep flying, like they always have. Whether we are here or not. Get up there, if you are at all able. It is a guaranteed attitude adjustment.

Flathead Valley Bird Report

by Joshua Covill

Rare and Notables – September 2020

08/22 – the **YELLOW-BILLED LOON** (immature) found on Dickey Lake by Nikki M. on July 5th was last reported August 22nd.

08/22 – 3 **Sanderling** at the Creston Wetland pond (Craig H.)

08/31 – **American Golden-Plover** around the ponds in the West Valley on Clark Rd. (Craig H.)

09/01 – **PARASITIC JAEGAR** (light morph adult) found in the West Valley Ponds area, it flew south just after discovery and was not refound. (Curtis M.)

09/07 – A late-lingering **Black Tern** in the West Valley Ponds area (Curtis M.)

09/07 – 1 **Black-bellied Plover** at the pond on Farm Rd in the Lower Valley (Curtis M.)

What to Expect – October 2020

October is (unofficially) Sparrow Month! Hundreds of White-crowned Sparrows move south through the Flathead Valley, and among them you can

find a White-throated or even a Harris's Sparrow. Check hedgerows, thickets with berry bushes, and active bird feeders. The rare Swamp Sparrow could be found along marshy spots with dense tall grass and cattails. The hoards of Savannah Sparrows in the West Valley start to disperse and head south while Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs start to return. Surf and White-winged Scoters start to show up at random on larger bodies of water; check Foy's Lake, Lake Mary Ronan, Lake McDonald, etc. with a scope for these large seaducks. The raptor numbers at the Jewel Basin Hawkwatch shift from small hawks to Golden Eagles in October. On a good day up there, one can see 50 migrating Golden Eagles! Keeping a well-maintained hummingbird feeder up may pay off with a wayward Anna's Hummingbird. This chunky hummingbird from the west coast has a pattern of vagrancy in western Montana starting in October, and some have stayed until December!

FALL FIELD TRIPS FOR YOU!

All Flathead Audubon field trips are free and open to the public and are geared for all ages and levels of field experience. They are led by area biologists, retired professionals, and some of the best birders in the region. Please read our field trip guidelines at www.FlatheadAudubon.org. For all Field Trips, dress for the weather, bring binoculars or spotting scope if you have them, wear sturdy footwear, and drive and pull off the road safely. All drivers must have their own vehicle insurance. For more information, contact the individual field trip leader listed below. Also, a free brochure, "Birding Hotspots of the Flathead" is available at the Flathead Audubon general meetings and on www.FlatheadAudubon.org. Check the FAS webpage at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/activities-and-field-trips/> for updated information on upcoming field trips.



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic we are taking precautions to ensure safety for all participants. Masks and respect for others' personal space will be required, and we ask you to not share binoculars or spotting scopes. The number of participants allowed on trips will be limited as will carpooling.

SANDHILL CRANE VIEWING Thursday October 1. Join Flathead Audubon to view Sandhill Cranes as they stage in the West Valley on their fall migration. See these magnificent birds as they fly in from feeding in agricultural fields to roost for the night in pothole wetland ponds around sunset. Join Denny Olson of Flathead Audubon for a Sandhill Crane watching field trip on Thursday, Oct. 1. Please e-mail Denny to sign up at docwild.mt@gmail.com.



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK-RAPTOR MIGRATION-TBA. When weather and migration conditions are favorable, join us for a viewing of the Glacier Park raptor migration in the parking lot of Jammer Joes in Glacier National Park. Because the migration is very dependent on weather conditions and other variables, we are planning to be spontaneous. If interested, your name can be added to a list and you will be called a day or two ahead if conditions are promising for Golden Eagles to be moving through the area (likely dates Oct. 5-17). Please contact KR at mkat67@gmail.com or (406) 837-3837. A telephone number is needed for contact. Ample parking is available and bring binoculars or a spotting scope. Since the birds are pretty high, details are not visible, but seeing dozens of Golden Eagles moving through at a time is quite exciting.

Lead Bullets and Wildlife

By Lewis Young and Kate Stone

Big game hunting season is approaching. If you are hunter using lead bullets you can help wildlife by switching to non-lead bullets. Lead bullets, even copper jacketed lead bullets, fired from high velocity guns fragment on impact losing 20-40% of their mass when they hit an object. As many as 200 fragments disperse throughout the carcass and are often too small to see. The fragments may permeate the meat you bring home and often riddle the gut piles and carcasses left in the field.



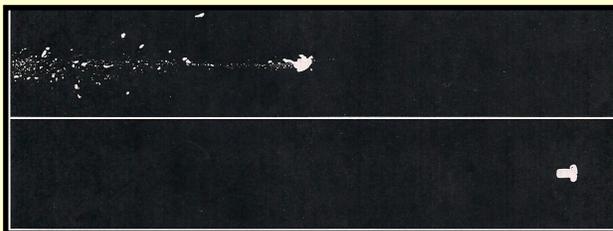
Found near Hamilton MT, 2014, this Bald Eagle died from lead poisoning. It exhibited clinical signs of lead poisoning such as head and wing droop, muscle tremors, and anorexia. Photo courtesy Brooke Tanner, Wild Skies Raptor Center.

Why are lead fragments a problem? Avian and mammalian scavengers feed on the gut piles and carcasses and ingest the lead fragments. Overwintering eagles in many parts of Montana test positive for elevated lead levels and several die each year from acute lead poisoning. Evidence from multiple studies points to lead fragments as the culprit behind elevated lead levels in eagles and other scavengers. What can be done? It's fairly sim-

ple. Switch to a non-lead bullet. They are available in factory loaded ammunition and multiple choices are available to those who handload their own ammunition. Non-lead bullets are normally all copper or copper alloys and retain virtually 100% of their weight upon impact. Non-lead ammunition costs about the same as premium lead bullets.

Does switching to non-lead bullets make a difference? A voluntary program in the Jackson Hole area of Wyoming in 2009-2010 to get hunters to switch to non-lead bullets resulted in a corresponding decrease in the blood-lead levels of eagles using the area so it can make a difference,

Give our eagles and other wildlife a break and consider switching to non-lead bullets.



X-ray images of lead (top) and non-lead (bottom) bullets shot into a ballistics gel. Photo courtesy Jeremy Roberts/ Conservation Media.

OSNA WORKDAY 2020



Brent Mitchell

The 2020 Owen Sowerwine Workday will take place on Saturday, 3 October 2020. Meet at the Montessori School on Willow Glen at 0900. With all the COVID uncertainty, we will not enter the building

but will gather in the parking lot instead. Will Beyer is coordinating the field projects this year – thanks, Will!!! Projects will be planned so that social distancing can be maintained. Bring your masks as well, please. For more information, comments or suggestions, please call Bob Lee at 270-0371. *By Bob Lee*

OCTOBER BIG DAY and GLOBAL BIRD WEEKEND

On October 17 you can celebrate the birds near you and around the world by participating in Cornell Lab's 2020 October Big Day. To be part of this Big Day just watch birds on Saturday October 17 any time from midnight to midnight in your local time zone, and report what you see to eBird. You can report birds from anywhere in the world, and watch for any amount of time. You don't need to be a bird expert, or go out all day long. Even 10 minutes in your own backyard will help. You can use the eBird website for your reporting or the free eBird Mobile app. If you don't have an eBird account yet, you can sign up at ebird.org. It is easy, and totally free. After you report your sightings, you can watch the sightings roll in from over 150 countries around the world on the ebird.org



[Global Big Day page](http://GlobalBigDayPage). To learn more visit ebird.org.

In addition, this year's October Big Day 2020 is happening during the first Global Bird Weekend. The goal of Global Bird Weekend is to make October 17-18 the biggest ever birding weekend and support Bird Life International's appeal to end

illegal bird trade. To participate, watch birds on both Saturday and Sunday **October 17 and 18** and report your sightings on eBird. And on Sunday take your camera, phone, friends and/or sketch pad along, share your birding places on the Global Bird Weekend social media pages, **and** upload your images to eBird's dedicated Global Bird Weekend page. For more information, including how you can help support Bird Life International's efforts, go to globalbirding.org.

Project Feederwatch

If you enjoy feeding birds in your yard you may be able to turn your love of birds into a citizen science effort by participating in Project FeederWatch. Operated by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, Project FeederWatch is a winter survey of birds that visit backyards as well as nature centers and other locations in communities throughout North America. It's as easy as 1,2,3. Put up a feeder, count birds, and enter your data.

Project FeederWatch begins November 14 and runs through mid-April.

Participants determine when and how often they want to count birds. There is no set schedule, so it is easy to fit into even a busy week.

How do you participate? Just google www.FeederWatch.org where you will find information on joining and access to a free on-line bird identification guide. There is an \$18 fee for U.S. citizens (\$15 for Cornell Lab Members) necessary to analyze data.

by Darcy Thomas



TIME TO RENEW LOCAL MEMBERSHIPS!!

If you have not already renewed your Flat-head Audubon membership please do so ASAP. You must do this before October 15 or you will not receive the Pileated Post next month. Local memberships are a significant part of our FAS budget.

Over 2/3 of our budget expense goes towards our excellent education program. Other activi-

ties include Hawk Watch and management of The Owen Sowerwine Natural Area in Kalispell. Of course the Newsletter, general meeting expense, Warbler Weekend and other activities serving our members are part of our budget. Your membership dues help make this all possible. Please continue your support.

by Mike Fanning, Membership Chair

Books and Videos about Birds for You

From Susan Matter, Director of FVCC Library Services

If you love birds, FVCC library has a lot to offer you. Did you know that as a resident of Flathead Valley you can get a library card? If you are interested in doing this, email library@fvcc.edu or call 756-3856 for more information. Although we have many online resources such as the Cornell Birds of the World database, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the FVCC Library is not open to the public. However, we can provide curbside pickup for books and DVDs. Check out the list below and email or phone us with your requests.

BOOKS

The atlas of bird migration: tracing the great journeys of the world's birds, Jonathan Elphick. 2007
Attracting birds, butterflies & other winged wonders to your backyard, Kris & Rick Wetherbee. 2005
Audubon birdhouse book: building, placing, and maintaining great homes for great birds, Margaret A Barker, Elissa Wolfson. 2013
Avian architecture: how birds design, engineer & build, Peter Goodfellow, Michael H Hansell. 2011
Bird: the definitive visual guide, David Burnie, Peter Frances. 2007
The bird: a natural history of who birds are, where they came from, and how they live, Colin Tudge. 2008
Bird sense: what it's like to be a bird, Tim Birkhead. 2012
Bird watcher's bible: science, know-how, beauty, lore, Jonathan K Alderfer. 2012
Birding trails Montana: 240 birding trails for the avid birder with GPS coordinates for all locations, Chuck Robbins. 2014
Birds are people, too: humor in the avian world, Kate Davis. 2016
The birds of America, John James Audubon. 1937
Birds of Montana, Jeffrey S. Marks, Paul Hendricks, Daniel Casey. 2016
Birds of Montana: field guide, Stan Tekiela. 2004
Feathers: the evolution of a natural miracle, Thor Hanson. 2011

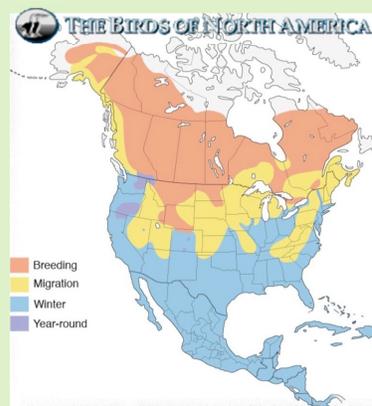
Fire birds: valuing natural wildfires and burned forests, Sneed B Collard. 2015
The genius of birds, Jennifer Ackerman. 2016
Gifts of the crow: how perception, emotion, and thought allow smart birds to behave like humans, John M Marzluff, Tony Angell. 2012
Glacier is for the birds: a trail guide to the birds of Glacier National Park, David P. Benso. 2016
The Lewis & Clark expedition: Montana's first bird inventory through the eyes of Lewis and Clark, Kenneth C Walcheck. 1999
Montana birds, Caleb Putnam, Gregory Kennedy. 2005
National Geographic pocket guide to the birds of North America, Laura Erickson. 2013
Nests, eggs, & nestlings of North American birds, Paul J Baicich, Colin James, Oliver Harrison. 2005
P.D. Skaar's Montana bird distribution, Amy Cilimburg, Janet Ellis, et. al. 2012
Raptors of the Rockies: biology of the birds of prey and species accounts of the raptors of the Rockies, Kate Davis. 2002
The Sibley guide to birds, David Sibley. 2014
Songbird journeys: four seasons in the lives of migratory birds, Miyoko Coco Chu. 2006
Welcome to subirdia: sharing our neighborhoods with wrens, robins, woodpeckers, and other wildlife, John M Marzluff. 2014
What the robin knows: how birds reveal the secrets of the natural world, Jon Young. 2012
Wings over Montana: a celebration of wild birds, Donald M Jones. 2006

VIDEOS

Audubon videoguide to 505 birds of North America, 2 dvds, Michael A. Godfrey, Kenn Kaufman. 2004
Chick flick how birds produce & raise chicks, Ron & Nancy Goor. 2008
Hummingbirds magic in the air, F. Murray Abraham, Ann Prum. 2010

Lesser Scaup continued from page 2

decline may include habitat loss and contaminated diet. It is interesting to note, however, that Lesser Scaup are doing very well at Montana's Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge where they have one of the highest densities of breeding populations than anywhere else in North America. Researchers are studying Lesser Scaup at the refuge to understand why they are faring well there when the numbers have been dropping elsewhere. What they learn may help provide information that will guide conservation efforts to protect these amazing birds from decline.





Thank You!

...to those below who have made donations to Flathead Audubon through August 2020

Supporting Member + Donation

Kellie Nelson
Sefi Knoble

My Own Vision

Patricia Klein



SPECIAL GIFTS

I wish to help make Flathead Audubon's vision a reality. Here is my contribution to the continued success of our chapter.



- Eagle Donation, \$1000+
- Osprey Donation, \$500+
- Snowy Owl Donation, \$250+
- Merlin Donation, \$100+
- Kestrel Donation, \$50+
- My Own Vision, amount my choice

I want my gift to recognize another:

In memory of _____
In honor of _____

Please send a notification of this gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please do not acknowledge my gift in the Post

Please make checks payable to:

Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9173
Kalispell, MT 59904

Your gift is tax deductible.

ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR NEEDED

After 20 years of being membership chair and a couple of trips to the hospital I think it would be wise to have a backup person who can step in if required. The data is kept on an Access data base and is a bit messy so there would be a bit of training required. I would be happy to work with anyone who is interested.

by Mike Fanning

"Bird Notes" – Virtual Birding and ID

Dick Hutto and Sue Reel of Montana University have teamed up to make a series of short YouTube videos while they are out in the field looking and listening for birds. Each video features one Montana species, providing ID tips – visual and audio, and info on behavior and life history. They are fun and packed with information.

See <https://preview.tinyurl.com/y2mpd558> for an overview; check along the side for the species specific videos – 27 of them so far.

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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Vice-President	Cory Davis	cory@flatheadaudubon.org
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DIRECTORS

2018-2021	Jan Metzmaker	jan@flatheadaudubon.org
2018-2021	Jake Bramante	jake@flatheadaudubon.org
2019-2022	Will Beyer	beyer59901@yahoo.com
2019-2022	Margaret Parodi	margaret@flatheadaudubon.org
2019-2022	Dave Manuwal	manuwal2@centurylink.net
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2019-2020	Mike Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net
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2020	Carole Jorgensen	carole@flatheadaudubon.org
2020	Joe Batts	jbatts@me.com
2020	Cindy Roberts	cindy@flatheadaudubon.org
2020	Tom Roberts	yellranger@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR

Denny Olson denny@flatheadaudubon.org

FAS REP ON MT AUDUBON BOARD

Bob Lee bob@flatheadaudubon.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Lewis Young	llyoung@interbel.net
	Carole Jorgensen	carole@flatheadaudubon.org
Education	Cindy Roberts	cindy@flatheadaudubon.org
	Tom Roberts	yellranger@yahoo.com
Field Trips	Kathy Ross	mtkat67@gmail.com
	Margaret Parodi	margaret@flatheadaudubon.org
Finance	Mike Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net
Hospitality	Joe Batts	jbatts@me.com
	Connie Cohen	conniecohen@centurytel.net
Membership	Mike Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net
	Jill Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net
Nominations	Bob Lee	bob@flatheadaudubon.org
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area	Cory Davis	cory@flatheadaudubon.org
	Bob Lee	bob@flatheadaudubon.org
	Pam Willison	pam@flatheadaudubon.org
Newsletter	Linda Winnie	linda@flatheadaudubon.org
	Lewis Young	llyoung@interbel.net
	Darcy Thomas	darcy424@gmail.com
Program	Dave Manuwal	manuwal2@centurylink.net
Publicity	Jan Metzmaker	jan@flatheadaudubon.org
Sales	Jill Fanning	shrdlu@centurytel.net
Refuges	Kathy Ross	mtkat67@gmail.com
Website	Jake Bramante	jake@flatheadaudubon.org



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Newsletter of the Flathead Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9173, Kalispell, MT 59904-9173

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 115
Kalispell, MT
59904-9173

The Flathead Audubon Society is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and Montana Audubon (www.MTAudubon.org). We meet on the second Monday of each month September through May. Meetings start at 7 PM and include a featured guest who presents a conservation or nature program. The Board of Directors meets the Monday preceding the general meeting, at 6 PM. See page 1 for locations. Both meetings are open to all.

THE PILEATED POST is published September through May and is sent to members of Flathead Audubon Society as a membership benefit. To become a member or to renew your membership, go to the FAS website or use the membership form below. **Deadline for newsletter copy is the 18th of each month. Contact newsletter editor at 755-1406; or [lin-](mailto:linda@flatheadaudubon.org)**

Check our website www.FlatheadAudubon.org for
Late breaking FAS news & announcements
Online FAS membership sign up or renewal
Newly scheduled field trips & events



Natural Events To See This Month:

Flocks of Tundra Swans head south and stop in the Flathead.

THE PILEATED POST is delivered BY EMAIL!

So be sure to include your email address when joining or renewing.

If you currently get a paper copy by mail please consider switching to email; send your request to linda@flatheadaudubon.org.

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You will receive occasional short emails with last minute updates, reminders, and breaking FAS news.



FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY Membership Individual or Family

Basic Membership —————\$25

Pays for newsletter and operating costs

Supporting Membership —————\$40

Extra \$15 funds local projects such as
Conservation Education and
Owen Sowerwine Natural Area

Additional Donation of \$ _____

- To: Education Fund
 Owen Sowerwine Fund
 Wherever needed

Total \$ _____

New member? Renewal?

You may renew or join online on our
website: <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/>

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