

Flathead Audubon Society (FAS)
Report of Recent and Upcoming Activities for COCEEC Meeting Fall 2009

Owen Sowerwine Natural Area: Work Day on Sept 26 for local Natural Area and Important Bird Area that Flathead and MT Audubon lease and manage.

Jewel Basin Hawk Watch: Contact Dan Casey with American Bird Conservancy to volunteer and assist with monitoring migrating raptors near Mount Aeneas. From August 30 to September 11 there were already 379 raptors counted!

General Meeting Program: October 12th will feature Wetland Scientist Amy Chadwick of Watershed Consulting describing types of wetlands in the Flathead area and their ecological values, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and what we need to do to protect them. Nancy Zapotocki will showcase the Wetlands and Riparian Areas Education Trunk developed with the Flathead Conservation District through funding by the Department of Environmental Quality and also share other Traveling Trunks used for Conservation Education.

Conservation Education: *Summer and Fall 09* activities include:

- School, pre-school and community presentations on birds and habitat and conservation education: Creston Elementary, Bigfork pre-school, Rotary, Kids in Motion Bird Club, MT Audubon Bird Fest Family event, Literacy Volunteers Summer Family Program, NW MT Reading Conference.
- Riparian Media Campaign led and coordinated by Flathead Conservation District. Review of TV and newspaper ads. Filming this summer. Partners: Flathead Conservation District w/ Flathead Audubon, Missoula WQD, Gallatin WQD, Lewis and Clark County WQD, Ravalli and Lake County Enviro Health.
- 3rd Annual Raptor Day in Memory of Rod Ash held Sept 12 at Lone Pine State Park by Flathead Audubon and Lone Pine State Park with partial funding by Art Ortenberg. 200 participants celebrated birds and Rod Ash's life. Live birds, education booths, children's activities, bird walks, workshop and guest speakers.
- Coordinated with MT Watercourse on Wetland and Riparian Educ Trunk re: collaborating on and assisting with developing a similar trunk for other watersheds.
- Pileated Post new "Kidz Korner" on local natural history, includes activities.
- CORE *Watershed Education Committee*. Continued work with graduate student Lori Curtis and Committee on Watershed Source Book, includes natural and cultural history and impacts on the watershed and successes. Due to be completed 2010. Committee also worked on associated website and project funding.
- Glacier High School Native Plant Garden and Bird Habitat Project through MT Audubon Grant. Prep and planting. To be completed October. Partners: Glacier High School, Flathead Audubon, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead National Forest, Windflower Native Plant Nursery and Center for Native Plants. Survey by students of bird use before and after planting and developed bird unit for study.
- COCEEC mini-grant to develop an Indian Education for All (IEFA) Young Adult Book Club Education Trunk, in partnership with Flathead National Forest and Northwest Montana Education Cooperative. The goal of the Education Trunk is to aid teachers in implementing (IEFA) and assist teachers and their students in learning about the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. Sections of the *Crown of the Continent Profile of a Treasured Landscape* being revised to an upper elementary reading level. Indian Education approved natural history story: *Gift of the Bitterroot*. Class set of books. Trunk correlated with MT Content Standards.