



OCTOBER 2006

EDITOR — CRICKET WEBB

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No on Initiative 933

Normally we do not advise people how to vote, but until the November elections occur, we feel we must warn you about **I-933**. Billed as property rights to mislead voters, **I-933** threatens to undo years and years of work towards protecting communities for people and habitats for fish and wildlife. In truth, a few benefit while whole communities lose **their** property rights. **I-933** will create a bureaucratic mess and legal disputes across the state that will be paid for by taxpayers, draining money away from programs we rely on, such as education or public safety.

Special interests from out-of-state are behind I-933 and have crafted loopholes to force Washingtonians to choose between paying billions of taxpayer dollars to a small group of property owners or forcing communities to **waive safeguards** against irresponsible development. In other words, 'pay or waive'! For instance, if a law prevents a landowner from subdividing farmland, putting a gravel mine next to residential property, or build in a sensitive habitat, the landowner can have taxpayers pay him potentially millions of dollars to make up for the "value" of his land.

I-933 will dismantle protections for rivers and streams, clean water, wetlands, forests and shorelines. **Please vote NO on I-933!** For more information go to www.NOon933.org.

"A Walk on the Wild Side": October Clymer Museum Art Show

Kittitas Audubon is co-sponsoring the October art show at the Clymer Museum--and we hope you will join us on **Friday evening, October 6th, from 5:00 to 7:30 PM** for the opening of the show.

The Clymer is featuring three artists' works, and Marianne Gordon from KAS will also have a few watercolor pieces for sale. An exhibition of bird art and collections owned by Kittitas Audubon members

NEXT MEETING

Lake Baikal--Siberia's Sacred Sea

DATE	THURSDAY October 20th	TIME	7:00 PM
PLACE	ELLENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ROOM - 232		

Our October program will feature the Executive Director of *Audubon Washington*, Nina Carter and her husband, Tom Rainey, who will share their impressions of the changes in natural resource and wildlife management in Russia under a changing political regime. Specifically the program addresses **Lake Baikal** in the remote area of Siberia where Tom and Nina recently traveled with other eco-tourists to understand how the world's largest freshwater lake is being managed and preserved.

Tom is a retired professor from The Evergreen State College and specialist in Russian environmental history and policy who has traveled often since 1965 to the former Soviet Union and Russia. Nina, whose specialty is environmental policy and politics will also brief KAS members on issues in Olympia's legislative session this winter.

. All Audubon meetings and field trips are open to the public, so feel free to come and meet us with us. Stay after the meeting for juice, treats and conversation.

This year programs are held at the Ellensburg High School, Room 232 on the second floor. Enter from the 3rd Avenue entrance and follow signs.

October 7th: First Saturday BirdWalk 8:00 AM at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, bridge parking lot. A good variety of migrating birds are presently along Wilson Creek--Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Dark-eyed Juncos. Who knows what we will find along the Yakima River? Bring a friend to help us find the birds because the more eyes, the better. Time is about 2 to 3 hours of easy walking on uneven ground. Dress for the weather and bring optics and bird ID guides.

October 8th: Sunday--all day trip! Because the following weekend is the opening of the general hunting season, we chose Sunday for a field trip. Meet at 9:00

AM at the west end of Super One parking lot to car pool. We will check a number of ponds at the lower end of the valley, then head up the Umtaneum for forest birds, continuing over to Wenas Lake for late shore birds. Bring a lunch, water, and money for dinner at the end of the trip, possibly in Selah. Dress for the weather and bring your optics. Please remember that the carpool fee is 20 cents per mile divided by the number of people in the car. For more details or questions call 933-1558.

November 18th: Field Trip to Columbia Basin NWR. Watch for details in the November Hooter..

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP TO ENTIAT RIDGE - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

"There it goes! It's a Sharpie!"

"How do you know?"

"Look at the short square tail, short neck, small head, and flapping wings--different from a Cooper".

"To your right--quick--on top of Sugar Loaf. There's another one coming in!"

And that's the way the chatter went for almost four hours on Saturday September 23 for 8 of us who joined several other people from the west side on top of Entiat Ridge to look for migrating hawks, falcons and accipiters. Bud Anderson from the Falcon Research Group led the group and provided the same kind of enthusiasm and knowledge that we enjoyed so much at the October meeting when he was the guest speaker.

We had all been warned to dress warmly since we would be viewing birds at 5000 feet elevation. And what a surprise! It was a beautiful day, clear skies, very few clouds, bright sunshine, and warm! T-Shirts were the dress "du jour".

The view was magnificent: to the east we could see the Columbia River, to the south we faced the Stuart

Range; and in between were Sugar Loaf Mt., Glacier Peak, innumerable valleys and canyons, the houses of Leavenworth, and of course, the red plastic owl sitting on top of a tall pole which became one of our sighting markers. We stood on the ridge overlooking the banding station below where two people were attempting to lure the birds into a specially designed net, using a pigeon as a decoy. When birds were caught, they were carefully measured, banded, and released to continue on their way. At one point, the workers brought three Cooper Hawks (one male, one female and one immature) up to where we were so we could take pictures and really see the difference between the Sharp-shinned and the Cooper Hawks.

During the morning birds came from every direction as they took advantage of the thermal updrafts; many circled overhead, occasionally streamed down and were caught in the net but more often just circled and swooped toward the south. We saw lots of Sharpies, several Coopers, a few Red tailed Hawks, a northern Harrier, and just to keep things in perspective the occasional Raven that periodically appeared. It was a great morning for viewing----no wind, clear skies and cooperative birds!

One of the biggest thrills of the day was the sighting of a Golden Eagle. High overhead, circling and gliding, majestic in its size and color, it lingered long enough for us to get a good look before it headed for the Stuart Range and eventually out of sight. It was worth the whole trip!

By noon, bird activity definitely slowed down and we decided to wend our way back down the mountain.

Always on a field trip we bird from the time we get into the car until we're back at the parking lot. This trip was no exception. Besides the excitement of seeing

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Have you ever noticed that Kittitas Audubon never has to spend time or effort conducting major fund raising events? It is because of the thoughtfulness of a dear supporter and former Ellensburg High School teacher of sciences, Bea Buzzetti. When Bea passed away at the age of 94 in June, 1992, she bequeathed her small residence on Chestnut Street near Capital Avenue to **Kittitas Audubon**. From 1992 until 1998 the house was rented, with a small group of people performing the repair and cleaning duties. A decision was made to sell the house and KAS did so in July of 1998. Thus, Bea Buzzetti became the benefactor of **Kittitas Audubon Society**.

Recently KAS had a tile added to the Honor Wall at Ellensburg High School remembering Bea. She was "the science department" teaching biology, physics and chemistry from years 1926-1943. We hope you will stop to view it-- maybe at the next Audubon meeting--across from the cafeteria on the main floor. Perhaps the way to picture Bea best, is the sharing of a tribute written by Peggy Schnebly, charter member of KAS, and former student and friend of Bea.

BEA BUZZETTI: TEACHER AND FRIEND

"Oh--the trail forks! Which way shall we go? You decide! Let's go that way!" In one quick breath our snowshoes took us where she directed, but for a brief second we thought we had a choice. After her retirement, Bea frequently stated that school teachers were so used to control and telling students what to do that teachers could become very dictatorial and bossy and that she had "no intention of falling into that trap!"

She loved outings of all types, be it on foot, horseback, snowshoes or skis. No kind of weather deterred her. It was all part of nature and therefore there was joy to be found in being part of it.

Bea knew where the first buttercups bloomed on the south slopes of the old Vantage Highway. Many shut-ins received a dish garden of glistening plant tucked into any discarded bit of litter that would serve the purpose. (Improving our environment was an opportunity she never missed).

She knew at which milepost the first and largest colony of Simpsoni cactus bloomed, when the carpets of pink and lavender phlox were at their peak in the blue-green sage, and where the tiny Calypso orchid hid. She kept detailed records of the exact distances and places and dates so that she knew where and when the flowering and fruiting were taking place. Waptus Trail, Cooper River Trail, Thorp Mountain, the Pacific Crest Trail, all had areas noted of where she had found Morel, Chantarelle, or the prized Matsutake mushrooms, as well as the best huckleberries.

Bea could take you over the old Wenas road knowing the exact date (and bush) from which one could witness the high arcing courtship of our tiniest bird -- the Calliope Hummingbird. She knew when the Mountain Bluebirds migrated through the Reecer Creek area, and went up there every day for two weeks in 1973 just for the joy of seeing the heavenly flashes of blue through the Sagebrush. She watched for the migration of Waxwings and Grosbeaks through town and knew the yards and very trees that they preferred.

Only wild plants, shrubs and trees were planted in her own private wilderness on Chestnut Street, with special thoughts given to what might benefit her birds. She had a window in her kitchen made of one-way glass so that she could view them at her feeder -- a feeder made in part from a piece of beaver-cut limb she had carried home. Those of us who were lucky enough to be gifted with a book from her large collection of nature and scientific books could almost count on finding a handmade bookmark (recycled from a nature card) with a sentence or two of philosophy typed on the back ranging from Kahlil Gibran to Author Unknown.

Because she never stopped learning, she never stopped teaching. It delighted her to 'key-out' an unknown flower or mushroom brought to her door. Teaching was the love of her life and for many of us she was still doing that at the end of her ninety-fourth year-- and it is on-going. This poem which she taught her classes so long ago now spans four generations of our family:

Pick, if you must, one flower face
If nine more flowers are left in place.
Two feet square must hold that many;
Otherwise look, but don't pick any.

There were numerous "trails" Bea visualized and walked alone. We chose to walk the beautiful ones marked
TEACHER and FRIEND. (Fall 1992)

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so many hawks during the morning, en route we also saw migrating passerines and Turkey Vultures.

On the way home we took a side trip to The Sleeping Lady outside of Leavenworth, explored the grounds, marveled at the beauty of the Chuhuil sculpture, and picked up brochures for future reference. A side trip to the Icicle Fish Hatchery was also included.

A long day, great company, wonderful weather, outstanding "hawking", and one of the most knowledgeable leaders we could possibly have had, Bud Anderson of the Falcon Research Group.

by Alice Yee

We are blessed in this county to have 3 of the 4 Nuthatches found in the United States. The Brown Headed Nuthatch is found only in the South and SE. The characteristics that they all share is walking head down-ward on large branches and trunks, probing crevices in bark for its seed and insect prey. They also uses such crevices to hold fast large seeds and nuts, which the bird then hacks open with its bill. The name "nuthatch" is presumably derived from this behavior.



The **White Breasted Nuthatch**, topping the scales at about 20 grams and 5.75 inches long, is the largest of the 3 we have here in Kittitas county. Found mostly in deciduous forests or

mixed deciduous and coniferous. While there may be some limited migratory/irruptive movement, for the most part pairs establish permanent territories with nests in natural holes in large old trees. White Breasted Nuthatches are distributed throughout most of the US and much of western Canada, absent only from the arid desert and shrub steppe habitat. Best place to find them in our area, Roslyn/Ronald area, Robinson Canyon and the Umptaneum Road between the falls and Ellensburg pass.

This was the first bird I saw this year and since it chose to pose so nicely, I took it's picture.

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LICENSE PLATE BIRDING Jim Briggs

A couple of years ago KAS hosted the semi-annual Audubon Clubs of Washington (ACOW) meeting and our co-chairs, Gloria Baldi and Gloria Lindstrom asked me to chair one of the sessions. As I was trying to come up with a creative way to introduce the session, I noticed a plethora of bumper stickers and personalized license plates in the parking lot. I took out a note pad and wrote them down.

When I began my introduction I told the audience that if they had seen me in the parking lot with a notepad, not to worry, I wasn't from the FBI. I then gave them a run-down of what I had found and how a group's bumper stickers and license plates lends it a degree of cohesiveness. And some of them were downright clever.

For example one said: *We All Live Downstream*. Another said: *Endangered Species Act-Love it or Lose it*. There was a Columbia Land Trust bumper sticker and several Audubon ones. I won't even mention all the

political statements but it was just before the last Gubernatorial election.

However by far the most creative messages were on the personalized license plates. To do this you have to give it some thought and fork out some extra bucks every year. Also you can't exceed seven characters so there are some creative abbreviations and contractions like these:

- CHICKA-D
- T SWANS
- TOWHEE
- DENALI
- GLDFINCH
- CLIMATE
- KCHNRLC

The last one took me a while to figure out but it finally dawned on me that it belonged to a sporting

fisherman who believes in Catch and Release. It turned out to belong to Gary Kohler, the cougar biologist who I was about to introduce.

I was reminded of a license plate that an environmental educator had in New York. It was UNLESS. Not being very literary, I had to ask him what it meant and he said "haven't you read the *Lorax* by Dr. Seuss?" He then went on to quote the final passage: "Unless somebody like you cares a whole awful lot, it's not going to get better, it's not." He often used this as a way to connect with young people in his environmental education work.

Since the meeting I have found a few more in Ellensburg. There is one around town that says BRDFPRY and another brand new one that seems to describe its owner, our Hooter Editor, Crickett Webb: BRD NRD.

*Ed note * Dr Seuss also was the first to coin the term "Nerd"*

Subtitled— At first I didn't see it and then it flew away.

Walking through a birding section of a book store there are some names that appear over & over, Peterson, Sibley and Kaufmann. If you want to learn about birds and birders while you laugh and cry, I recommend you read one of Peter Dunn's books.

He is just as funny and informative in person. It was a joy and an honor to get the chance to bird with him last week in Cape May, NJ. I felt a bit like a befuddled beagle puppy following him around but there was a pack of us, all trying hard not to appear too dense.

The bird walk was at the Rea Farm, a private working farm that has preserved the property and by selling the development rights to the government has insured that the land will be either farmed or preserved for the future. To bird this land you must be a member of the Cape May Bird Observatory. That privilege alone is worth the price of membership. Plus you get discounts and free stuff. (And you can justify the expense because you are helping to fund this organization is adding so much to our understanding of birds and migration,) I can't begin to list it all here. Oh yeah - it's tax deductible too.

Before we left the parking lot we learned that the challenge in Cape May this year is to learn to ID birds with the naked eye while they fly by based on flight pattern only. Indigo Bunting and Blue Jay were demonstrated immediately. Pete promised to not do that anymore. A promise he admitted he would not be able to keep. He was right, he broke it before we got in the gate.

We all walked up to a thick copse of trees and brush. Once we were gathered behind him, Pete began to Pish. I've seen pishing done with some limited success. This guy is the pied piper of dicky birds. With a pish pish pish and a few chips, the warblers and flycatchers did everything short of rolling out a welcome mat and brewing a pot of tea.

Walking on to the next spot, the next lesson was where to pish. Wait until you are up close and everyone is ready to watch for the movement. Then pish them in.



Later in the walk Peter described the best choice for a plot to pish in. (Sorry—his pun not mine) Works best on a cool (not cold) morning, find a spot where the sun is warming the brush. The birds prefer the warmth and it also stirs up more bugs (remember bugs attract a lot of types of birds.)

Try for a spot sheltered from the wind. This will reduce the number of "leave birds" you see moving about. This spot may be a bit more of a challenge to find in Kittitas County than it is in Cape May.

The cover should be thick enough to allow the birds to feel safe but open enough to be able to see them. I wasted a good bit of time trying to figure out what was hopping back and forth in front of a small hole in the Porcelain Berry (very thick Kudzu or ivy like plant.) Once it finally flew out for a tenth of second I saw it was a Common Yellow Throat. This bird actually was common in the fields we were in.

With all this wonderful help to bring in the birds—I still missed a lot of them. Hence the subtitle of this article. That statement was made repeatedly by more than one person.

The birds seen by others but not by me were Cardinal, Philadelphia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Carolina Chickadee, Blackburnian Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Tufted Titmouse, Magnolia Warbler and Bobolink. All would have been life birds for me.

But don't feel bad for me, the life birds I did see were Redstart, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue Jay, Northern Parula, Carolina Wren, Black Beaked Cuckoo, Black and White Warbler, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and Black Vulture. The rest of the birds seen were Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Common Yellow Throat, Yellow Shafted Flicker, Catbird, American Robin, American Crow, Turkey Vulture, Coopers Hawk, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Red Tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Common Grackle. A total of 34 birds.

Cricket Webb

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The next largest is the **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 4.5 inch long with an average mass is 10 to 11 grams. Once known as the Canada Nuthatch or the Red-bellied Nuthatch, the tinny *yank yank* call is common in fir and spruce forests through out Canada and the US. The only species to undergo regular irruptive movements. These appear to be primarily driven by a shortage of winter food. All Nuthatches cache food in winter so breeding success is more dependant on winter food sources than other birds. Irruptions have scattered birds as far away as Louisiana, Mexico and have even been recorded as a vagrant in Europe. Nesting birds excavate their own nests in snags. They have been known to use existing cavities or nest boxes but this is rare. In what may be a tactic to discourage predation, the entrance to nest cavities are smeared with large amount of conifer resin that parents collect from live trees. Common to bird feeders this cocky little feller is a personal favorite of mine. The subject of this portrait insisted on turning way when the shutter was snapped but the photo still give a good scale of size. This is a standard sized suet block basket. You can also see the color of the "red breast" that extends clear to the under tail coverts. Note the black eye line and white eyebrow.



The last is the smallest, named the **Pygmy Nuthatch**. It is only, on average, less than a half a gram smaller than the Red-breasted and only a 1/4 inch shorter. What this bird lacks in size it more than make up for with noise and busyness. Living in long needle pines, (ponderosa pine in Kittitas county) in large gregarious groups, the frenetic movement head first up and down the trunks of trees, along branches, right-side up and upside down with accompaniment of the constant chatter give the impression of a group of nervous teenage girls shopping for their first dance. Since they feed mainly on weevils and leaf and bark beetles (but also eats pine seeds), and use cavities for both roosting and nesting, they are one of the species aided by the protection of mature pine forests from logging, firewood collection and snag removal. Pygmy Nuthatches are unique in that they are one of the few cooperatively breeding passerines in North America. A third of the breeding pairs have 1-3 male helpers, usually children. Helpers feed incubating females, nestlings, and fledglings and participate in defense of the nest. I have only occasionally seen Pygmy Nuthatches on my property and have not been lucky enough to have had a camera in my hands at the time. I got this photo from a Wikipedia site.



Almost all of the research for this article came from the North American Birds On-line. This is a subscription site that is worth the price to me because I use it every month. If you would like me to research something for you, send an email to KASHooter@KittitasAudubon.org. I do not promise to be prompt but I will get back to you as soon as I can. If there is an emergency and you need the info right away please call. My number is (509) 674-4035. Since we screen calls—please always leave a message. If I can I will pick up right away.

Cricket Webb.

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DONATIONS are appreciated and give you the opportunity to further support and fund KAS Chapter activities. If you have a National Audubon membership, donations are especially important since KAS no longer receives a portion of your National Membership dues to defray cost for the Hooter.

_____ \$15.00 American Goldfinch

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_____ \$ 50.00 Red-tailed Hawk

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Old Mill Country Store, Ellensburg, provides a discount on bird seed to KAS members and prints our county bird lists.

Inland Internet, Roslyn, Donates internet service for our Website: <<http://www.kittitasaudubon.org/>>

WISE OWL TRIVIA

1. What do Red-Breasted Nuthatch use to protect the nest cavity?
2. What did Bea type on her home made book marks?
3. What do you need to bird the Rea Farm?
4. Where is the general meeting being held this year?
5. Bonus trivia question—in the photo on page 2, how many are Coopers Hawks and how many are Sharp-shinned Hawks? Check the web site for color photo if you need it.



Answer to last months Bonus Trivia Question. **Sublingual Pouch**

The mission of Kittitas Audubon Society is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds. The goal for KAS is a vibrant active organization recognized in Kittitas county.

Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1443
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[Http://www.kittitasaudubon.org](http://www.kittitasaudubon.org)

