PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.
   1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
   1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
   Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;
   Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies,

   (Continued on page 5)

A GOOD REMINDER

PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Marte Fallshore will be doing a presentation on her experiences banding birds in Hungary. This is what she has to say about her program.

I have been birding in Hungary two times: once in 2002 in conjunction with an EarthWatch expedition and once just last year on my own. Both times, I worked at a wildlife preserve in a small town called Öcsa, retrieving birds from mist nets and helping at the banding station. Needless to say, as we were handling the birds, I have some pretty good pictures.

In addition to introducing people to EarthWatch and Öcsa, I will also show some pictures from a birding trip in and around Ljubljana, Slovenia.

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.
**FIELD TRIPS**

**April 28th:** Lower Crab Creek and Columbia National Wildlife Refuge. Mostly an auto tour. As many as 76 species have been seen on this trip. Call leader Marianne Gordon at 964-2320 for details.

**May 5th:** *First Saturday BirdWalk* at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park parking lot. Walking about 2.5 hours on uneven ground. Dress for the weather, and bring optics and a friend. Open to the public. Cricket Webb will be the leader.

**May 19 & 20th:** Explore Klickitat Counties’ distinctive grassland, oak-pine woodland and canyon country over a two day period. We will “camp out” at a private home near Goldendale. Stops include short hikes of one to two miles, with uneven/steep ground likely. Chance of poison oak & ticks. Limit of three cars. What to bring: Optics, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, pillow, towel, overnight bag, food for two field lunches, one quick kitchen breakfast, liquids, sunscreen and tick repellent. For more details contact leaders: Jan Demorest & Steve Moore 509-933-1179 bobcat@kvalley.com

**June 2nd:** *First Saturday BirdWalk* at 8:00 AM at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park parking lot. Gerry Sorenson will be our leader. Open to the public.

**June 9th:** Kayak up the Columbia River. Paddle north from Vantage along the west shoreline, then return. Last time we found both Prairie & Peregrine falcons. Leader Mark Benedict. Limited number so sign up early. Call 933-1558.

**June 16th:** A Saturday birding experience with expert birder and past KAS president Steve Hall. Location TBA.

**Field Trip information:** Usual meeting place is the west end of Super 1 parking lot to car pool, but check with the leader. Car pool fee is 20 cents/mile divided by the number of people in the car. We save gas, have less impact on the environment, and enjoy a good time. Jeb

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**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

You have heard that the early bird gets the worm. Well, at *First Saturday BirdWalk* on April 7th, those who were early (or on time) at the Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park saw the first sitting ever in four and half years of BirdWalks of, not a worm, but a pair of Wood Ducks acting as if they were looking for a nesting sight. If they were, they are in luck because several KAS members got things moving. Tom Gauron got a wood duck box in order. Gloria Baldi received written permission to install a bird box from Ellensburg City Parks Director, Brad Case, and by Tuesday Kay Forsythe, Gloria B. and Jeb had the box in a tree. Now will the birds find it? We hope so! Watch for future reports.

Sixteen people eager to see what a mild spring morning with no wind and the scent of cotonwoods in the air would bring, found a total of 29 species. Neotropic migrants are arriving, as we had Tree Swallows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Again bird boxes for the swallows (or Downy Woodpeckers) were added to the park because there had been an unusual amount of 'cavity' tree blow-down during the winter. Tom and Diane Gauron, with Jeb and Gloria Baldi, made six boxes in Tom’s shop. Battling brush we erected the boxes across the canal from the entrance road. A second view of the Great-horned Owl was our reward!! (He must have a nest nearby.) The month of May should bring even more migrants, and participants will be able to monitor any activity in the boxes. Come join us. Cricket is to be our leader.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.**

Sorry—gone birdin' afar! Back to business next month. Gloria B
OTHER THINGS TO DO

Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe!!

On Saturday, May 12, 2007 get ready to hop, soar, swim, skip, or slither your way to the 8th annual Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe (GISS). Join KEEN (Kittitas Environmental Education Network), along with co-sponsor Y-ELF, (Yakima Environmental Learning Foundation) for a full day of fun exploration of the unique shrub-steppe environment. Held at the base of Umtanum Canyon outside Ellensburg, WA, participants are surrounded on all sides by a range of outdoor education events including field trips, exhibits, hands-on activities, and possibly a wildlife sighting or two.

From 9am-2pm there will be a series of guided field trips that will included everything from bird watching, snake sneaking, beaver tales, geology, native plants, and homesteads. Also on hand will be a wide variety of hands-on exhibitors such as the Wildlife Bridges Coalition and the USDA Forest Service that will help participants gain a fuller understand of the amazing ecosystems of Kittitas County, WA.

GISS provides a chance for the whole family to explore one of the unique ecosystems connected to the Yakima Watershed. Kids can participate in a wide variety of hands-on activities and crafts like fish print making, nature scavenger hunts, and a chance to get down and dirty exploring the aquatic life of the Yakima River.

GISS 2007 promises to be an educationally and recreationally diverse event, with activities to satisfy the most curious and adventurous souls. For more information and a full schedule of the days events see below or check KEEN’s website www.kittitasee.net after May 1st.

INVITATION TO ALL KAS MEMBERS

On Saturday, May 12th, at Rotary Pavilion (the bull) is the place to be from 10:00-4:00 because Ellensburg is to have a celebration called 'Destination Ellensburg' in recognition by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of this year's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Organizations that hold various community events (First Saturday BirdWalk) have been invited to have a booth and Kittitas Audubon will be there. Of course we will have a bird theme. Come join us—or if you want to be part of the crew, call Gloria Lindstrom 925-1807. She will find a task that needs your talents.

SARAH SPURGEON GALLERY

CWU Campus, Randall Hall on 14th Avenue
May 4—11 2007
Opening Reception:
First Friday May 4 5:00—7:00 pm

Admission to the gallery is free
Gallery hours are
Mon.— Fri. 10am—3pm
Weekends 1—4pm
This little streaky finch with the yellow wing bars is generally an inhabitant of coniferous or mixed coniferous-deciduous forests. The Pine Siskin breeds as far north as central Alaska and northern Canada but also ranges south in suitable habitat to northern Baja California and through the Mexican highlands to Guatemala. Known to many of us as an unpredictable winter visitant, it is an irruptive species abundant in a given locality one year and often absent the next. Presumably this pattern is related in some way to annual variation in the distribution and abundance of seeds that make up the bulk of its diet. Reproductive schedule and attachment to a particular breeding area appear to be less rigidly fixed in the Pine Siskin than in many other songbirds.

The opportunistic nature of the species and its partial indifference to constraints of time and space mean that the bird feeders in Kittitas County get to share this bird seasonally. In the good years, the upper county gets BIG flocks all summer long. The portions of the lower county that have treed areas have them a winter visitors.

Physical description:
Contour feathers heavily streaked with dusky brown to blackish on drab to brown background on upperparts and on pale neutral gray to white on underparts. Wings and tail dusky brown or blackish. Generally, 2 buff wing-bars fading to white with time. Basal portions of remiges (wing flight feathers) and all but central rectrices (tail flight feathers) pale spectrum yellow to sulphur yellow. Yellow most evident in flight; otherwise often concealed. Sexes not reliably identified by plumage characters or size, though greater amount and brightness of yellow may distinguish approximately a third of males. Sibley notes a dark brown outlined semicircle on the auiculurs (the side of the "face"). Similar to female Cassins Finch Among North American representatives of Carduelis (the smallest of the finches), streaked appearance distinguishes siskins from goldfinches. Yellow in flight-feathers, heavily streaked breast, and absence of red spot on crown and of black area on throat separates this species from redpolls (e.g., Common Redpoll [Carduelis flammea]). Both birds pictured here are males but I have only learned to tell the sexes apart from a lot of close up views and even then, I am not sure I have it right all the time. Distinctive flight call is an explosive zwee or psee, harsher and not rising compared with similar call of goldfinch and redpoll. The chatter from my trees is like the auditorium of a girls school. The name Siskin is derived from its sound or chirp. Thus, this bird’s common name is really “pine chirper”

Small seeds, especially thistle, red alder, birch, and spruce seeds, make up the majority of the Pine Siskin’s diet. They will also eat both the Black Oil Sunflower seeds and the hulled chips. In summer, they will eat insects, especially aphids, which they feed to the young, but seeds dominate their diet.

Although considered Washington's most common finch, the Pine Siskin has suffered a significant annual decline in population since 1966, according to the Breeding Bird Survey. Due to the irruptive nature of this species, populations vary widely from year to year, and trends can be difficult to interpret. Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds can have a significant impact on Pine Siskin productivity, and forest fragmentation has increased their contact with cowbirds. Maintaining large tracts of coniferous forest will help keep this bird common. 

Excepts from North American Birds On-line, Wikipedia and BirdWeb
roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for ex-
tended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage
of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird,
its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, distur-
bance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nest-
ing birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a mini-
mum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.
2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and
abroad.
2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate
goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.
3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds
continually during harsh weather.
3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats
and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.
Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2,
has responsibilities as a Group Member.
4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other
legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c)
applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it pru-
dent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason,
to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or or-
ganizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].
4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using
the same area.
4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and prac-
tises this code.
4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circum-
stances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no
tape recorders allowed).
4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies
bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of
birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of
the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders
should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual
occurrences, and submit records to appropriate or-
ganizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS
Board meeting  April 5, 2007

• Membership is 128 local plus 39 National. Total of 167.
• The sign KAS placed at the Discovery Trail at the summit of Bluett Pass, weathered the winter well.
• There may be some smaller issues of the Hooter in the future. The editor is multitasking well but there are only so many hours in the day.
• Hal Lindstrom has noticed excessive roadkill along Umptanum Road near the Yakima River and has testified at a County Commissioners meeting to have the speed limit lowered.
• The Governor has proposed $70 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a natural resources granting fund. If this comes to pass it will affect conservation efforts in the Teanaway.
• Our 501(c)3 status is almost ready. this will enable donors to take a federal tax deduction.
• Jeb Baldi, Hal Lindstrom, Chris Caveziel and Crickett Webb are serving on the nominating committee for officers.
• Gloria Lindstrom suggested we produce a slick brochure on wildlife viewing in our area. A committee was set up to work on one.
• Chris Caveziel is a member of the Easton Fire Department and they are proposing a new fire station. They would like KAS to submit a letter that there are no environmental concerns at the proposed site. Jim Briggs volunteered to scout the area and reported back that there were no problems he could see.

General meeting  April 19th

Great Presentation from the folks at the Department of Natural Resources. We got a complete education in the mission, the history and the current management philosophy of DNR.
They also discussed a number of special programs of interest to bird and nature lovers. For more details about those check the website www.dnr.wa.gov

Or here are the contacts for the programs
Recreation Program
Vanessa Seldal, 509.925.0902
Natural Areas Program
Jeanne Williams, 509.925.0908
Natural Heritage Program
John Gamon, 360.902.1661
Land exchanges
Jeanne Williams, 509.925.0908

The Stewardship Forester is Todd Bates at 509-925-0969 (he assists people with forested acreage; not sure that applies to a "backyard" program).

From all of us that came to the meeting, thank you to Jeanne and Charlie. For those of you that missed it, sorry you missed a good meeting, see you next month.

Birds in the media.

When the lead detective on Criminal Minds was helped to find the perpetrator by a Black Headed Grosbeak, I realized 2 things: There were a lot more birds in the media these days; and anyone who was trying to ID birds seen flying through a television scene was not getting out to do enough birding. I have been watching some great television and reading some great books about birds, so I thought it was time to share some of what I am finding.

The Kittitas Audubon Society library is now the proud owner of a copy of Winged Migration. It is simply magnificent. Stunning images, from the Snow Geese shot from above as they fly over a flaming red maple forest in New York to the Barnacle Geese repeatedly flashing and disappearing as they fly over flats with pools of water. Suspense, drama and comedy from a birds eye view. The death of one lone migrant on a beach to the escape from a cage of another is a roller coaster ride of emotions. The antics of the Western Grebes dancing on water to the Red Crowned storks slipping on the ice provide comic relief. You will laugh, you will cry and, by the way, did I mention it is a documentary.

Even if you have seen the movie, check out the DVD. The how it was made story is as good as the movie. Not shown in the ‘how to’ are a couple of things that are nice to know. The film crew did not let the crabs eat the bird, they pulled it to safety and substituted a dead fish and the Red-Breasted Goose in the industrial pollution is a staged scene: the film crew placed its "actor" in milk mixed with vegetable coloring to look like oil.

Rent it, buy it or borrow it from the library—but see it. Cricket Webb
Kittitas Audubon Membership includes a subscription to the monthly Hooter, and the opportunity to support local activities for $20.00 per year.

Name ____________________________ ____________________________
Address __________________________ ____________________________
City ____________ State ____________ Zip ____________________________
Phone ____________________________ Email Address ____________________________

Make check payable to Kittitas Audubon Society

Clip coupon and send with your check to:

Kittitas Audubon Membership
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926

National Audubon Membership includes membership in Kittitas Audubon and subscription to both the monthly Hooter and Audubon Magazine (published 6 time a year). Membership is $20.00 for new members. Renewals are $35.00 per year.

Name ____________________________ ____________________________
Address __________________________ ____________________________
City ____________ State ____________ Zip ____________________________
Phone ____________________________ Email Address ____________________________

Make check payable to National Audubon Society

Clip coupon and send with your check to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Code Y22
Chapter Membership Data Center 7XBP
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder CO. 80322-1001

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 $100.00 Great Blue Heron
$50.00 Red-tailed Hawk Other - Donations in any amount are appreciated

Make check payable to Kittitas Audubon Society

Name ____________________________ ____________________________
Address __________________________ ____________________________
City ____________ State ____________ P.O. Box 1443
Zip ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

Membership forms are also available on our website Kittitasaudubon.org.

Webmaster – Mark Whitesell Email markwhitesell@hotmail.com
Inland Internet, Roslyn, Donates internet service for our Website: <http://www.kittitasaudubon.org/>

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

Please attend the meeting on May 17th to vote for a new President and to re-elect our current slate of officers
Vice President – Gloria Lindstrom
Secretary – Jim Briggs
Treasurer – Denee Scribner

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.

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