Selah Raptor House Rehab Center ~ *Come meet hawks & owls!*

**DATE**  
THURSDAY  
October 16th

**PLACE**  
ELLENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

**TIME**  
7:00 PM

**ROOM**  
232

Marsha Flamm, Director of the Raptor House Rehabilitation Center in Selah, with her husband, Mark, founded the Raptor House eleven years ago, dedicated to the care of injured, sick, and orphaned birds.

When these birds are brought to the Raptor House, local veterinarians donate their services and medications. The birds are housed in flight pens designed especially for a given species, for exercise and recuperation. Eventually, those that can survive on their own are released. Those that cannot survive in the wild are used in Marsha’s traveling education programs that teach children and adults throughout the state the importance of raptors and conservation.

Marsha will bring several raptors to the meeting, including hawks, falcons, and owls, to share with us. You can learn more about the Raptor House on their website:  
[www.raptorhouse.org](http://www.raptorhouse.org)

"Oracle" - an African Auger Buzzard

All Audubon meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except December), and field trips are open to the public, so feel free to come and meet with us. Stay after the meeting for juice, treats and conversation.
**Upcoming KAS Field Trips**

**October 4th**: First Saturday Bird Walk at 8:00 AM at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. Meet at the bridge parking lot for about a two and a half hour walk on uneven ground. Great for local birds. Bring a friend, optics, and we will find birds.

**October 18th**: Umptanum Falls hike with Tom Gauron. We’ll meet at the West end of the Super One parking lot at 9 am to car pool. This is a fairly easy walk (about a mile) & we’ll take lots of breaks along the way to bird & gawk. Folks can bring lunch/snacks if they want but I hope to be back to Super One by 1 or 2 pm. I’m hoping that it’s not too early to get some fall colors. Of course, with fall comes hunting season, so it’s a good idea to wear bright colors.

**November 1st**: First Saturday Bird Walk (see above)

---

**Field Trip reports**

**First Saturday Bird Walk** on September 6th had perfect sunny weather with a temperature of 60 to 75 degrees--and a group of 17 birders. Wow! We did find 26 species, some of which had not yet migrated to warmer climates, like the Turkey Vulture, an Osprey, and a Spotted Sandpiper. These birds are not found in Ellensburg during the winter. However, the rest were our local familiar species, some where we find them almost every time, some flying overhead. Lots of camaraderie as 17 pairs of eyes searched the trees, sky, and riverbanks. The October Bird Walk will begin the seventh year of this monthly First Saturday event. Come join us!

**September 13th President Tom’s Annual Columbia River Float**

A group of 14 loaded up into kayaks, a canoe, and Tom’s electric motorboat at Wanapum State Park. On the way upriver and upwind, we saw a red-tailed hawk and a Cooper’s hawk. Along the shore were several yellow-rumped warblers, a kingfisher and a northern flicker. A sandpiper was busy on shore, staying just a little ahead of the flotilla for quite a while before he finally gave up and flew away.

When we stopped to share lunch in the islands, we also shared wine and brownies in celebration of Tom and Diane’s 28th wedding anniversary!

Drifting in the warm sun, on calm waterways, we could hear only bird calls and crickets. But we did hear a distant lonely call, and later were able to spot the common loon. Overhead we saw an osprey, Foster’s terns, barn swallows, Canada geese, a double crested cormorant, and of course, many gulls. What from a distance appeared to be a large shoal turned out to be a massive flock of coots. After we disturbed them, we were rewarded with a flying marbled murrelet, which was a first for me.

On the way back down the river, those using muscle power were again paddling against the wind (except when they were getting a tow from the President!). In all we spotted 24 species ~ a very rewarding trip.

*Charlotte Johnson*

---

**The Hooter**

The Hooter is the newsletter of the Kittitas Audubon Society, published monthly except for July. Submissions from readers are most welcome and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, or suitability.

Email text and/or photos to bobcat@kvalley.com, or snail mail to Jan Demorest, Hooter Editor, 1009 North B Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Submissions need to be in by the 15th of the preceding month.

---

**GET YOUR E-HOOTER HERE!!!!**

Save paper, printing, postage. If you would prefer to receive the electronic version, send us your name, mailing address, & email address to:

info@kittitasaudubon.org

At the beginning of each month we’ll send you an email with quick link to the new Hooter.
Fall migrants are arriving, along with crisp mornings, at the feeders outside our kitchen windows: a couple of white-crowned sparrows showed up on September 12th, after passing through the middle of May, and I saw my first Oregon junco this morning (9/25)! Pine siskin “gang wars” are in full swing with mobs of these striped warriors vying for spots on the Niger thistle sock feeders, like feisty feathered kung-fu artists - looks like they expend more energy fighting over food than they take in!!! The last goldfinches departed around September 4th. The seasons revolve again and we mark them, in part, by the comings and goings of our feathered friends.

Thanks to all who contributed writing and photos for this issue. Keep those cards and letters coming!  

Jan

FIELD TRIPS: A Call For Help!

This is a call to help Kittitas Audubon with the next series of field trips for fall and winter (October 2008 to July 2009). Gloria and I will be happy to continue with the First Saturday Bird Walks. However, we are in need of new blood and spirit for the chapter trips.

This past year, June 30, 2007 to July 1, 2008, KAS conducted 28 trips. Our chapter could be stronger, and additional interest created, if we could have additional leaders.

Yes, field trips are usually for birds, but they do not have to be every time. If you have special knowledge (geology, plants, stars, insects) or a special place to observe natural history, and you want to share, please let me know. I will be happy to put a schedule together and promote the trip.

Trips can be any place or length you want. We have done an 800-mile trip over several days to S.W. Washington, spent several days at Malhuer in Oregon, and have had overnight trips to Turnbull NWR, and to Klickitat County the past two springs with Steve and Jan. But we also enjoy day trips—or even half day trips!

So be creative, and share your interests in field trips with me via email baldi@kvalley.com or by phone: 933-1558. I am looking forward to your help to make KAS trips fun and inspirational for all.  

Jeb Baldi ~ Field Trip Coordinator

Results of my first request for field trip leaders:

Oct. 4th ~ First Saturday Bird Walk – Gloria & Jeb
Oct. 18 ~ Umptanum Falls – Tom Gauron
Nov. 1st ~ First Saturday Bird Walk – Gloria & Jeb
Dec. 6th ~ First Saturday Bird Walk – Gloria & Jeb
Dec. 20th (?) ~ Christmas Bird Count – Phil Mattocks

2009

Jan/Feb/March/April/May/June/July ~ First Saturday Bird Walk – Gloria & Jeb

Jan. or Feb. ~ Steve Moore will lead a birding trip to Lower Columbia Country

April or May ~ Steve & Jan will lead a half-day hike in Winegar Canyon

July ~ Kay & Tuck Forsythe will lead a plant trip/day hike of 6 miles to Grass Camp Loop with 50-60 plant species.

Cricket Webb & Marianne Gordon ~ Each month will lead a half-day trip to one of the birding sites on the new Kittitas County Birding map.

I believe we need more trips than what I have to date. Are there any KAS members interested in leading a trip?

Jeb Baldi ~ Field Trip Coordinator

From the editor’s desk:  

Fall migrants are arriving, along with crisp mornings, at the feeders outside our kitchen windows: a couple of white-crowned sparrows showed up on September 12th, after passing through the middle of May, and I saw my first Oregon junco this morning (9/25)! Pine siskin “gang wars” are in full swing with mobs of these striped warriors vying for spots on the Niger thistle sock feeders, like feisty feathered kung-fu artists - looks like they expend more energy fighting over food than they take in!!! The last goldfinches departed around September 4th. The seasons revolve again and we mark them, in part, by the comings and goings of our feathered friends.

Thanks to all who contributed writing and photos for this issue. Keep those cards and letters coming!  

Jan
National Wildlife Federation Certifies the Nation’s 100,000th Wildlife Habitat

It is with great pride and excitement that the Habitats Program announces the certification of the US Botanic Garden’s National Garden as the 100,000 Certified Wildlife Habitat™.

Located in our nation’s capital, the National Garden contains a Regional Garden that is a showcase for native plants from both the Piedmont and Atlantic Coastal Plain geographical areas. In arranging the plantings, great emphasis was placed on “right plant, right place”, in order to reduce the need for supplemental irrigation. The Butterfly Garden is an excellent educational resource for attracting butterflies. The National Garden will officially receive its certification by the National Wildlife Federation on Saturday, September 27. For more information about the National Garden, go to NationalGarden on the NWF website: NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org

Cascade Land Conservancy
First Friday Art Walk
October 3rd, 2008, 7 to 9 PM

Topographical Drawings
by
Jan Demorest
On display October & November
Proceeds from sales will be donated to KEEN
Come out and enjoy a stroll around our downtown in the crisp fall air; chat with the CLC staff about current and upcoming issues and projects. There will be treats, too!

Marianne Gordon
Cascade Land Conservancy
First Friday Art Walk
October 3rd, 2008, 7 to 9 PM
Topographical Drawings
by
Jan Demorest
On display October & November
Proceeds from sales will be donated to KEEN
Come out and enjoy a stroll around our downtown in the crisp fall air; chat with the CLC staff about current and upcoming issues and projects. There will be treats, too!

Garden butterfly visitor
Marianne Gordon

Autumn housekeeping for the bluebirds (and wrens & tree swallows!)
Charles cleaning nest boxes on Manastash Ridge trail
Photo by Ginger Jensen

Tandy Leather-Tooling Design

Garden butterfly visitor
Marianne Gordon
In the April Hooter we reported our high hopes for the Vantage bluebird trail. There IS much Mountain bluebird activity, but this map illustrates a couple of problems too. On this GPS map of the Vantage highway between the wind farm entrance and Quilomene road, boxes with solid squares had Mountain bluebird residents in 2008.

House sparrows moving outward from farm houses took over some boxes, causing nest failures between the Big Sage vale and the Whiskey Dick corral. Farther east, many nests suffered abandoned eggs or chicks, especially on second nesting attempts. We are guessing this is due to a high rate of predation on the adults when they are away from the nest (perhaps by prairie falcons?). A couple of boxes on wooden posts were raided by chipmunks; we’ll fix this by moving boxes to metal posts.

Overall, with 48 boxes along this highway, there were 30 nest attempts (including 2nd broods) by Mountain bluebirds in 21 boxes. Each nest attempt produced 2.6 fledglings, on average. Not bad, but if boxes are moved away from the sparrows, maybe this average can be improved.

Steve Moore
A couple of years ago Marianne Gordon circulated an email message to the KAS Board of Directors which listed ten of the top 20 most endangered bird habitats. Apparently we have to wait to find out the other ten and Marianne is hoping they list the shrub steppe, Washington’s most endangered habitat. I have my own nomination for the list.

I recently returned from the Island of Kauai, the northernmost of the Hawaiian Islands. The whole island is in danger of losing its habitat to a number of forces, but the most distressing is in the open, windward areas frequented by albatross, other seabirds, and now, developers: we noticed that a large albatross field near where we stayed had been replaced with Arizona-style townhouses, packed in so closely that I don’t think even the ubiquitous mynah birds (Hawaii’s answer to the starling) could find a niche. I heard that the albatrosses moved to the golf course and I doubt that they were granted membership. The manager said they rope them off and the golfers give them a wide berth. I wonder what happens with a wild slice or hook?

Kauai is experiencing rampant growth. It’s as if all the other islands filled up and this is the last frontier. And now they have a Super-ferry bringing up to 200 cars per day making Kauai an easy day trip from Honolulu. The locals are fighting it but it is just a matter of time before the end of Paradise in Kauai. Drugs, crime, and who knows what new kinds of exotics will arrive? Mongooses, for example, live on all the main islands except Kauai, introduced years ago under the uninformed impression that they would control rats. The problem: rats are nocturnal and mongooses are diurnal! So what do they eat? You guessed it - not rats, but birds. The endangered Nene, Hawaiian state bird, will be the first ground-nesting bird to succumb to the mongoose, followed by the beautiful Hawaiian Stilt, a subspecies of our Black-necked Stilt.

But Kauai is home to other endemic birds who are all in trouble from invaders. Feral pigs root out the forest floor allowing native plants to be displaced by more adaptable exotics. Mosquitoes, probably introduced from water casks of whaling vessels, carry avian malaria, which decimates populations of birds with no resistance. Almost any escaped or released tropical bird will thrive in an environment with very few natural predators.

Things are being done to reverse these trends. Many volunteers are collecting native plant seeds to replant decimated areas. Pig and goat control is under way but hunting interests have prevented biologists from eliminating them completely.

We had the good fortune to tour the area near the island of Niihau, 17 miles from Kauai. This is a private island, reserved for native Hawaiians and therefore, the most pristine. We moored at a smaller island just north of Niihau (they don’t anchor because it causes damage to the reefs, but use pre-placed mooring rings) to snorkel and watch birds (two species of tropicbirds and two species of boobies). The island was over-run with rabbits, courtesy of a Coastguardsman who was stationed there, and denuded of vegetation. The rabbits have now been eliminated and the vegetation is returning. Next project: getting rid of the rats, which prey on sea bird nests.

Another fear is that the Brown Tree Snake, accidentally introduced to Guam from the South Pacific during World War II, will invade the Islands. On Guam, the snakes have completely disrupted the ecosystems, devastating nesting birds. So far they have been kept at bay, but Hawaiians fear an infestation, much as Washingtonians live in fear of the Zebra Mussel gaining a foothold in our state.

So, there is trouble in Paradise but they are trying to do something about it. Come to think of it, isn’t that why we are Audubon members? Oh yes, there is another potential disaster on Kauai. The cottage where Elvis lived in the movie “Blue Hawaii” is deteriorating. Now if that fell down, there would be a real disaster!

Jim Briggs
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
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
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

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 help defray costs 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  ___________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

Membership forms are also available on our Web site: Kittitasaudubon.org.

Webmaster – Mark Whitesell  Email markwhitesell@hotmail.com
Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926
Http://www.kittitasaudubon.org

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
Ellensburg WA 98926
Http://www.kittitasaudubon.org