



Darling Bird Studios, ©2007 UNA

The Hooter

Kittitas Audubon Society

December 2009

Christmas Bird Count (& Potluck!) replaces program/meeting

Cle Elum ~ Monday, December 14th

Michael Hobbs, Cle Elum CBC Compiler: BirdMarymoor@verizon.net

Ellensburg ~ Saturday, December 19th

Contact Gloria Baldi for information: 933-1558 (see Page 8)

Call for photos for 2010 program:

Steve Moore has suggested a program for early next year, a collection of members' favorite/best photos of birds or bird- or nature-related images. They will be assembled in a PowerPoint presentation. Those who submit photos ~ either digital ("jpeg" preferably at least 200 KB and less than 1 MB) via email or print copies ~ should include a brief description of the photo: who, what, where, when, story? You may submit as many as you like. When we see how many we have, we'll limit each person to a selected number of photos, so you might want to rate your photos (If you submit 8 photos, and we choose only 4, numbers 1-4 would be in the show) or you can let us choose. If you can be present at the meeting for the presentation, you may speak about your slide or, if you're shy, we can read the description that you provide. Send to:

Steve Moore, 712 E 2nd Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926 or s.moore@kvalley.com

This might become an annual event! This first time, you can submit photos from any time, but in future years we might want to limit it to photos taken in the past year.

We don't have a date for this program; it will be in February, March, or May. You start sending your entries anytime, but we'll announce a deadline at some point.

Future Programs

(mark your calendar!)

January 21st ~ Professor Kristina Ernest (CWU Biology Dept.) will give a presentation on the pika, a diminutive cousin of rabbits and hares, that lives in mountain rock piles, and how it relates to the highway I-90 new construction.

All Audubon meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May (except December), are open to the public, so feel free to come and meet with us. A brief business session precedes the program. Stay afterwards for juice, treats and conversation.



The Editor wishes to thank everyone who submitted articles, reports, photos, commentary, even jokes, for The Hooter in the past year! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I hope to hear from you in the coming year, 2010!



KAS BOARD MEMBERS

President – Tom Gauron	968-3175
Vice President – Gloria Lindstrom	925-1807
Secretary – Jim Briggs	933-2231
Treasurer – Denee Scribner	933-2550
Conservation – Janet Nelson	509-674-6165
Education – Beth Rogers	509-674-1855
Field Trip Coordinator- Jeb Baldi	933-1558
Newsletter – Jan Demorest	933-1179
Historian – Marianne Gordon	964-2320
Program Coordinator – Hal Lindstrom	925-1807
Publicity – Gerry Sorenson	968-4857
Wildlife Habitat – Joe Meuchel	933-3011
Bluebird boxes – Jan Demorest	933-1179
Past President – Gloria Baldi	933-1558

Membership – VACANT

*Christmas Bird Count – Phil Mattocks	962-2191
*Librarian - Ginger Jensen	925-5816
*Social/Greeter – Kay Forsythe	925-2356

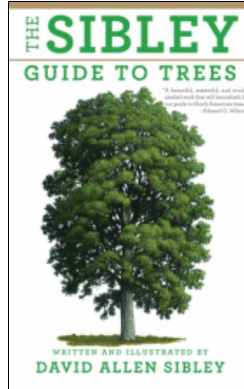
*NON-VOTING VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

KAS Board Meetings are held at 4:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month on the third floor of the CWU Science Bldg, Room 301 (above the elephant desk). These meetings are open to the public and all Audubon members; please come and join in the discussions. Meetings adjourn by 6:00 or 6:30, after which we all go out for a sociable dinner ~ NO business discussion allowed!

Send in your stories & photos!

The Hooter is the newsletter of the Kittitas Audubon Society, published monthly except for July.

The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, and/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.



***The Sibley Guide to Trees* 2009**

Flexibound or hardbound: 426 pages

Looks like David Sibley has done it again: a comprehensive field guide to over 600 trees of North America

"I am delighted that the very talented David Sibley has 'branched out' to include trees. His illustrations are ideal, and the fact that he chooses to give more examples and variations than other guides will make this a very useful handbook." – Robert Bateman, author of *Birds*

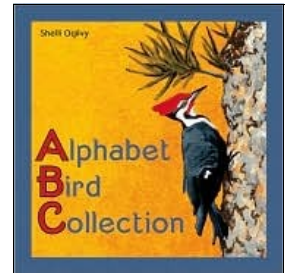
"A wonderful companion volume to David Sibley's superb bird books, with the same beautifully precise species illustrations and concise, clear descriptions and range maps—together an invaluable contribution to our nature literature."

– Peter Matthiessen, author of *Shadow Country*

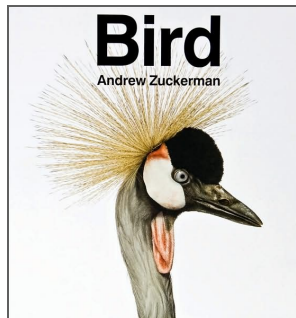
***Alphabet Bird Collection* by Shelli Ogilvy ~ hardcover, 56 pages, 2009**

(Age Range: 3 to 8)

Wonderful paintings of birds from A to Z for kids of all ages, but especially 3 to 8.



***Bird* by Andrew Zuckerman ~ hardcover, 300 pages, 2009**



Turning his camera to the world of birds, Andrew Zuckerman has created a new body of work showcasing more than 200 stunning photographs of nearly 75 different species. These winged creatures from exotic parrots to everyday sparrows, and endangered penguins to woody owls are captured with Zuckerman's painstaking perspective against a stark white background to reveal the vivid colors, textures, and

personalities of each subject in extraordinary and exquisite detail. The ultimate art book for ornithologists and nature enthusiasts alike, *Bird* is a volume of sublime beauty.

(Review from Barnes & Noble website)

...more on page 7....

GET YOUR HOOTER ONLINE

Save paper, printing, postage. If you would prefer to receive the electronic version, send 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.

First Saturday BirdWalk ~ Nov. 1st

Temperature was 40° when we started out, and by the time we got back to the cars, it was in the high 50s, with no wind, and blue skies. The usual nice group of folks showed up, minus some regulars (some were in Argentina looking at birds!). We picked up a new enthusiast for part of the walk who had always wanted to go on the bird walk, but had never actually done it intentionally.

In order of when we saw them, 18 species: Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, European Starling, House Finch, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, magpie, California Quail, Belted Kingfisher, Oregon Junco, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed

Hawk, American Robin, Bald Eagle, Northern Flicker, Sharp-shinned Hawk.

We saw a number of old oriole nests, hanging in the bare trees and someone asked if the returning birds used the old nests. Cricket did some research:

Although replacement nests may be built near old nests, nests are rarely reused; if reused, nests are refurbished from the previous year. Birds may use materials from an old nest in constructing a new one. No information on nest maintenance. Old oriole nests may be relined and used by House Finches or House Wrens.

Cricket & Jan

Bird Song Greeting Cards!

Open a card from a new series of collectible greetings and out pop cheeps, peeps, whistles, and croaks from a variety of beautiful birds. The cards are produced by the U.K.'s Really Wild Cards and their authentic bird recordings come from the Macaulay Library archive at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Each card features an elegant painting selected from the Cornell Lab's art collection and contains information about the bird.

<http://www.reallywildcards.com>, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>

<http://www.macaulaylibrary.org> , <http://www.sapsuckerwoods.com/category/RWSC.html>

Ed: I went to the Really Wild Cards website and these are beautiful. A bit pricey for use as your Christmas card general mailing, but might make a special gift or greeting for a birder friend or potential birder.

Songbirds of America



Web photo

Bad Bird Joke

"No one can say that a woodpecker never suffers from a headache, but no woodpecker has ever been seen purchasing aspirin. (Bulletin Board notes: Four out of five woodpeckers prefer Adbill.)

From an online daily column;
submitted by Beth Rogers

Pelican Removed from Endangered List

Interior Department officials are taking the Brown Pelican off the endangered species list, after a nearly four-decade struggle to keep the bird's population afloat. The bird, now prevalent



across Florida, the Gulf, Pacific coasts, and the Caribbean, was declared an endangered species in 1970, after its population, much like those of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, was decimated by the use of the pesticide DDT. The chemical, consumed when the pelican ate tainted fish, caused it to lay eggs with shells so thin they broke during incubation. The pelican's recovery is largely due to a 1972 ban on DDT, coupled with efforts by states and conservation groups to protect its nesting sites and monitor its population, Interior Department officials said. "Today we can say the Brown Pelican is back," said Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in a conference call with reporters in Washington. The official announcement came earlier at a news conference at Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, which is nicknamed the Pelican State.

(from AP, printed in the New York Times)

Thanks to Jim Briggs for submitting this article.

Interesting Website for Traveling Birders

<http://www.birdingpal.org/> ~ visit this website and you'll find a map to click on any country in the world which brings up a page with local birders willing to take you out and find birds, professional birding guides, as well as links to related information, maps, history, birding organizations. What a way to plan your next international vacation!

~ thanks to Barb Masburg for this tip

Teanaway Valley Development

An issue that KAS is concerned about, the Teanaway Valley development, is coming to a boiling point. I just read Saturday's **Daily Record** and then went to the website www.friendsoftheteanaway.org. Some very interesting comments to consider. Also went to the **Daily Record** web, or blog or what ever it is called, and read the 11/5/09 article on the Teanaway issue. I suggest that if you are not reading the **Record** that you might to go to this website and at least review what is happening in the development of the Teanaway, including the solar project.

Jeb Baldi



"DON'T SLAM THE DOOR!"

~ Tips for wildlife viewing

Get a good wildlife guidebook. Getting outdoors in the Northwest is certain to bring sightings of rarer creatures than deer, elk and the like. You'll need a guide to identify them: Was that a river otter or sea otter in the water near Port Angeles? Recommended guides: *Audubon Society's Pacific Coast* and *Western Forest* books. Each is comprehensive, from lichens to redwoods and insects to animals.

Early morning and evening are best. That's when animals are most active, though you can certainly see wild creatures at any time throughout the day.

Start a life list. Bird-watchers do this, of course, but why not maintain a list of all the animals you've seen? It heightens interest in wildlife watching, spurs greater research into wildlife ecology, and, well, it's fun.

Silence Is golden. Don't slam the car door, turn the stereo off, talk in low tones and (unless



Copyright-free image 1879

you're in grizzly bear country) hike quietly. When wildlife watching from your car on a road, stay in the car when you first see animals; they usually tend to regard cars as nonthreatening.

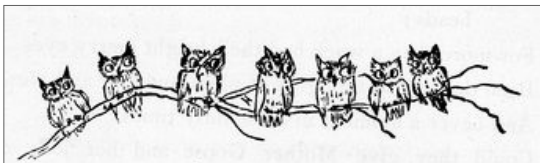
Don't feed them. This bears repeating: **Do not feed wild animals anything, ever.** It's bad for them (their diets should not include people food) and it habituates them to people.

Don't feed yourself to them. Wild animals can be dangerous. Do not approach bears, deer, elk, coyotes, raccoons, rattlesnakes or anything of the sort—all of which injure nu-

merous airheaded humans every year because the humans harass the animals. A respectful distance is not only the safe approach, it's the right approach.—Eric Lucas in *Western Journey* magazine.

Western Journey is the AAA of Washington magazine.

Thanks to Marianne Gordon for this article



Maybe you all are already aware that there have been one or two great horned owls hanging out in a willow tree on the CWU campus. They've attracted a lot of attention, but many people also pass right under them obliviously. They're right above the bridge that crosses the irrigation canal southeast of the library.

Gerard Hogan

Has everyone heard about this? They are juveniles from a nest on Dean Hall this year. The parents have left leaving the young to fend for themselves.

Beth Rogers

The Hooter is now printed on "Grays Harbor 100" paper ~ 100% post-consumer waste, manufactured in Washington State, using 100% renewable, zero-carbon-footprint energy.



Check out the Grays Harbor Paper website at:
<http://www.ghplp.com/index.html>

Your KAS membership dues working for a better environment!

Let us know what you think!

Here's a selection of recent listings from our very own regional "BirdKitt", an online "listserve" for all birders interested in bird sightings in Kittitas County.

If you are not already signed up, here's how to do it: send an email to subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Reply to the first email about Birdkitt that you receive from "yahoogroups". To unsubscribe: send email to birdkitt

- unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you have difficulty, email Beth Rogers kittittasadudbon@inland.net or Chris Caviezel chris.caviezel@gmail.com

Thanks to Beth Rogers and Cricket Webb for getting this up and running! This is a great resource for finding places to look for birds in the valley.

Sunday 11-1-09 ~ The following I sent to Tweeters. Some nice notable birds. Thought people might be interested. For those not familiar with Sentinel Bluffs, it is a wonderful riparian strip next to the Columbia River just south of Mattawa. (across the bridge at Vantage and south, in Grant County)

Spent a wonderful day in Kittitas County today with some time at Sentinel Bluffs. Of special note was that the water at Vantage was glass-like and even warm enough to have quite a number of flying insects out!

Many highlights. Nothing rare. Below are some of the notables:

Teanaway Bridge-Hwy. 10- Bewick's Wren. This is the furthest west in the county I have found this species to date.

Kittitas Valley-many Rough-legged Hawks beginning to move in. A total of 8 counted. Also present among a mixed flock of Horned Lark and American Pipit was a LAPLAND LONGSPUR in a grassy field on Robbins Rd. First alerted to its presence by its flight call as the flock flew past me.

Sorenson Pond (just south of I-90) off of Berry Rd. in Ellensburg. Jan Demorest found an immature SNOW GOOSE on Friday and the bird was still present today along with a wonderful mixed flock of Cackling and Canada Goose. At least 2 different races of Cacklers including several minima. Also present here were 4 Western Grebes.

Sentinel Bluffs (Grant County side of the Columbia)-

1 Clark's Grebe, 2 Eared Grebe, 1 Greater White-fronted goose (imm.), 2 Herring Gull, 1 Pacific

Loon, 1 Winter Wren, 1 immature BAND-TAILED PIGEON **

**The Band-tailed Pigeon was completely missing its tail, meaning it likely won't be leaving anytime soon. It was found at the south end of the trail at Sentinel Bluffs, I first flushed the bird off the ground and it managed to get itself up into the cottonwood where it perched while I watched it for the next 5 minutes. A nice unexpected bird for the Columbia River!

Wanapum St. Park-

Huge rafts of waterfowl, most quite a ways out in the river. Notables: Red-breasted Merganser - 1, Surf Scoter- 3, White-winged Scoter - 2, Clark's Grebe - 1, Bonaparte's Gull -4, Varied Thrush -12 (nice flock in the day-use area)

Wanapum Dam-

Common Loon-13 (notable number), Surf Scoter-1

A wonderful day!

Scott Downes (Yakima)

11/2/09 ~ Wow. I better get down to Sorensen's Pond. I went on the Ice Age Trail field trip to Vantage/Mattawa and while we were mainly looking for glacial erratics I did manage to see 5 Common Loons (in keeping with Scott Downes report) and three White Pelicans. By the way the boulder field in Mattawa is incredible.

Jim Briggs

11/4/09 ~ Hi Kittens, I added a new yard bird in a most dramatic fashion. I heard one of the Hairy Woodpeckers that are regulars "cheeping" away in the trees and turned to look

at him. I also heard a more distinct rap than I was used to hearing coming from higher up the tree. As I looked up to find out what the other Hairy was doing to make that noise both birds flew to the suet block. "Hairy" landed on the left side and the White-headed Woodpecker landed on the right side. Neither of them appeared to be pleased to see the other and a wing slapping contest ensued. Hairy won but



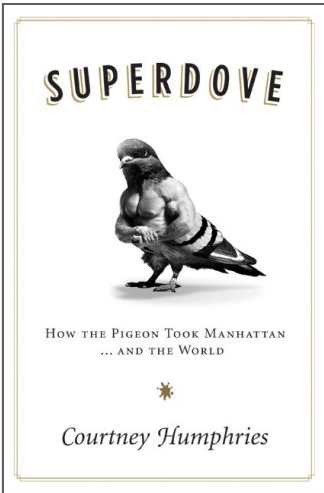
White-headed Woodpecker

Cricket Webb photo

the White-headed only flew to the trunk of the tree. I think he would have waited around if the dogs had not chosen that moment to remind me I promised cookies and a walk. When we returned I heard the same sharper/louder rap, so the White-headed is still in that same grove of firs and pines. Now where's my camera?

Cricket (Cle Elum)

(ed. She obviously found her camera!)



Superdove: How the Pigeon took Manhattan. . . . and the World
by Courtney Humphries. New York: Harper Collins 2008.

When I saw that a book had been written just about pigeons, I wondered, "How could a whole book be written about those mobs of pests dirtying up every public square in America and Europe? For all I know, they may be on other continents, but I haven't been there to see them myself. Aren't they all the same bird and don't they all do the same thing?"

When I read this book, I found out otherwise. Courtney Humphries has taken us all the way with these birds, from their original homes on the cliffs of northern Sardinia, to the streets of Boston and beyond. She visited with breeders, who were developing the most exotic forms they could from the "raw material" of wild birds. She trailed after pigeon owners training their homing pigeons. She witnessed competitions for the speediest trip home. And yes, sometimes they do get lost, or run into foul (fowl?!) play. She talked to the folks who

would rather the birds didn't dirty up their city, and with those who felt they had to feed the birds, sometimes when they could hardly feed themselves. There is a chapter on Darwin's pet pigeons ~ one of each type that fanciers were breeding at that time.

Miss Humphries includes many other areas of the study of pigeon biology and life. This book provides a fascinating, in-depth look at a bird we take for granted. It will soon be in the KAS library for anybody to borrow.

Marianne Gordon

BECOME AN AUDUBON MEMBER!! (Or renew your membership!)

Receive The Hooter ~ help support education and conservation activities and projects!

____ Become a member of Kittitas Audubon \$20 (you will receive the monthly newsletter)

____ Renew your KAS membership \$20

____ Join as a National Audubon (NAS) member \$20

(includes local membership & monthly newsletter)

(Renew NAS by sending remittance to NAS, using the renewal form they will send directly to you)

____ Make a donation. Amount enclosed \$_____



Mail to: Kittitas Audubon, PO Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Checks payable to Kittitas Audubon

Darling Bird Studios, ©2007 UNA

Kittitas Audubon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational society. All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, ZIP _____

Chapter Code Y22 XBP

Phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Would you like to receive The Hooter electronically?

Yes _____ No, prefer paper edition _____

Webmaster – Mark Whitesell

Email markwhitesell@hotmail.com

Check out our website ~ see The Hooter in color at Kittitasaudubon.org

Upcoming KAS Field Trips

December 5th ~ First Saturday BirdWalk

Meet at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park bridge parking lot at 8:00 AM. Leaves will be gone and we may have some snow and „*What will poor Robin do then, poor thing?*’ Please join us to see what Robin will do while searching for other local wintering birds. Dress for the weather (layers), and bring binoculars. This walk is on uneven ground and usually takes about 2 to 3 hours. As with all Audubon events, the BirdWalk is open to the public, so bring a friend.

December 14th ~ Cle Elum Christmas Bird Count Call Michael Hobbs at 425-318-2105 to participate (or email - see Page 1).

December 19th ~ The KAS 31st Christmas Bird Count

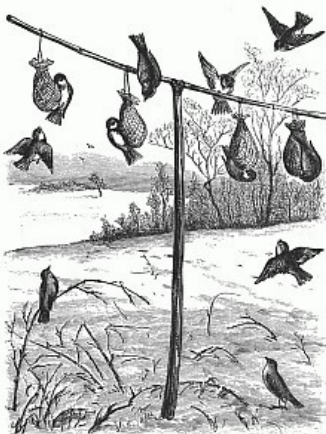
Many of you know that, no matter what the weather, teams of people cover a 15 mile diameter circle in Ellensburg every year in December to count every species and group of birds they are able to find. At the end of the day everybody gathers to enjoy a potluck and hear results. Phil Mattocks is the organizer for this event, and will be contacting the people who have covered a specific area in years past to verify that they will be doing so again this year. After the Count Day, Phil compiles the statistics for National Audubon. **New participants are always welcome, so if you have never been involved and would like to join a group, please call Gloria Baldi at 933-1558 no later than December 9th.**

THANKS TO KITTITAS COUNTY BUSINESSES SUPPORTING KAS!

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. Get your bird seed here!

Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926
<http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>



John L. Shorrey, Franklin Press, 1877

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.