



Happy New Year!

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# The Hooter

Kittitas Audubon Society

January 2010

## January Program: "Pikas and their Challenges: I-90 & Global Warming"

Presented by Kris Ernest, Professor of Biology at CWU

THURSDAY, January 21st @ 7:00 PM ~ Hal Holmes Center

The natural history and latest research regarding one of the most fascinating small mammals near us, the American pika, will be presented by Kris Ernest, Professor of Biology at CWU. Pikas, known also as "rock rabbits" and "conies", are diminutive relatives of rabbits that live in the western US and Canada. These creatures inhabit mostly higher elevation sites in mountain ranges where talus slopes provide protection from temperature extremes and predators. Global warming has already had impacts on the distribution of pikas in the interior west, and a petition has been filed to list pikas under the Endangered Species Act.



Web photo

Two big challenges for this mammal in the central Washington Cascades are: (1) an expanding and increasingly busy I-90 presenting a potentially significant barrier to dispersal for these small animals, and (2) impacts of climate change. Join us to find out how WA Dept of Transportation is trying to facilitate wildlife (including pika) movement across I-90 in upper Kittitas County, as well as how pikas will fare under climate change.

Kris Ernest has been teaching and conducting research since 1994. Her expertise is in community ecology, especially the study of interactions between plants and the herbivores that consume them. She studied biology at Cornell University (B.S.), did graduate work at the University of Oklahoma (M.S.), University of Arizona, and University of New Mexico (Ph.D.). Several opportunities for travel and work in Latin America and the tropics have influenced her work. Her previous scientific investigations in Washington State have included effects of small mammals and insects on balsamroot, and measuring levels of herbivore damage in forest canopies at the Wind River Canopy Crane site near Carson. Kris's most recent research on the biology of pikas along I-90 returns her to her passion for small mammals.

**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.**



Web photo

### **Future Programs** (mark your calendar!)

February 18th ~ Spotted Owl Update by Stan Sovern

March 18th ~ Members' Showcase Photo Show

April 15th ~ Vaux's Swifts & The Swift Project by Larry Switters

\* Owl print from "Yellow Monday Studios"

### KAS BOARD MEMBERS

President – Tom Gauron	968-3175
Vice President – Gloria Lindstrom	925-1807
Secretary – Jim Briggs	933-2231
Treasurer – Denee Scribner	933-2550
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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.***

*Submissions from readers are most welcome and encouraged!*

***The editor reserves the right to edit for space, grammar, and/or suitability. Email text and/or photos to [bobcat@kvalley.com](mailto: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.***

### *Do you feel a need to volunteer??*



Kittitas Audubon is much in need of a **Membership Chair** starting as soon as possible. You don't need to be a bird expert, but you do need to have an interest in nature and be sup-

portive of our mission as it appears regularly in each **Hooter**, i.e., ".....to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds".

The main qualifications for the position are: reliable internet access, familiarity with Excel databases to update current membership and generate files for newsletter labels, and providing short reports to board members detailing the current membership numbers. Attendance at KAS board meetings at 4:30 PM of the first Thursday of the month would be desirable but is not a requirement. You will be introduced to the position and its responsibilities by a current KAS member.

Please contact President Tom Gauron at 968-3175 if you have an interest in this opportunity.

### **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](mailto:info@kittitasaudubon.org)***

***At the beginning of each month we'll send you an email with quick link to the new Hooter.***

*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 to foster a vibrant active organization recognized in Kittitas County.*





Thirty-one observers in 10 parties, plus five at feeders; 67 party hours, plus 2.5 hours owling. Relatively mild temperatures, 30 to 36 degrees, no wind, snow cover 4-6", but heavy to light fog all day. Highest ever counts and 2 species rarely seen for the 32 years of the Ellensburg CBC are in boldface.

Great Blue Heron	29	N. Flicker	105
Canada Goose	472	<b>Lewis' Woodpecker</b>	<b>1</b>
Cackling Goose	1	Northern Shrike	4
Trumpeter Swan	2	Horned Lark	5
Green-winged Teal	48	Steller's Jay	56
Mallard	153	Black-billed Magpie	379
N. Shoveler	4	Am. Crow	11
Gadwall	3	Common Raven	88
Am. Wigeon	92	Black-capped Chickadee	334
Canvasback	1	Mountain Chickadee	1
Ring-necked Duck	18	Red-breasted Nuthatch	11
Lesser Scaup	4	Brown Creeper	1
Common Goldeneye	1	Bewick's Wren	<b>17</b>
Bufflehead	6	Winter Wren	1
Hooded Merganser	22	Am. Dipper	4
Common Merganser	18	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
duck, sp.	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5
Golden Eagle	1	Am. Robin	87
Bald Eagle	14 (8a,6i)	Varied Thrush	5
N. Harrier	26	Starling	4256
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	waxwing, sp.	4
Cooper's Hawk	<b>24</b>	Spotted Towhee	8
Red-tailed Hawk	174	Tree Sparrow	1
Rough-legged Hawk	19	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	<b>2</b>
Buteo, sp.	5	Fox Sparrow	3
Am. Kestrel	<b>81</b>	Song Sparrow	141
Merlin	<b>6</b>	White-crowned Sparrow	165
Prairie Falcon	4	Golden-crowned Sparrow	25
Wild Turkey	13	Dark-eyed Junco	1308
Gray Partridge	35	"Slate-colored Junco"	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	Red-winged Blackbird	130
California Quail	1430	Brewer's Blackbird	217
Killdeer	1	Western Meadowlark	26
Common Snipe	5	House Finch	1163
Rock Pigeon	222	Red Crossbill	2
Mourning Dove	743	Pine Siskin	30
Barn Owl	5	Am. Goldfinch	397
Great Horned Owl	<b>18</b>	Evening Grosbeak	49
Short-eared Owl	5	House Sparrow	<b>3488</b>
Barred Owl	1		
W. Screech-Owl	2	<u>Total Birds</u>	<u>16,374</u>
Belted Kingfisher	23	<u>Total Species</u>	<u>80</u>
Downy Woodpecker	79		
Hairy Woodpecker	4	Seen also during "Count Week" – N. Goshawk	

Observers: Jeb & Gloria Baldi (co-compiler), Lee Barnes, Ellie Belew, Gordon Crane, Joan Cawley-Crane, Jan Demorest, Scott Downes, Joan Dumas, Deb Essman, Donna Evans, Kay Forsythe, Tom & Diane Gauron, Kelly Gerrits, Marianne Gordon, Steve & Linda Hall, Judy Hallisey, Craig Johnson, Ethyl Kampf, Doug Kilgore, Don Knoke, Doug Kuehn, Helen Lau, Hal & Gloria Lindstrom, Phil Mattocks (co-compiler), Steve Moore, Jo Ellen Richards, Beth Rogers, Anna Sample, Gerry Sorensen, Cricket Webb, Cynthia Wilson, and Aja Woodrow. Kittitas Audubon Society.

(Continued on page 6)

**JANUARY** ~

- **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00 AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Museum Tour at Central Washington University** (Bird collection & Museum of Culture and the Environment). 9:00 AM to Noon. Jeb Baldi
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 29** – Vantage/Huntzinger road (sage and river birds in winter). Cricket & Marianne
- **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Waterville Plateau** ~ winter migrants from the Arctic . (a long great day) Steve Moore & Jan Demorest

**FEBRUARY** ~

- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00 AM Bridge parking lot. TBA
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 25**- Fairview Loop (eagles and other raptors of open farm ground). Cricket & Marianne

**MARCH** ~

- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 23** ~ Ponds of south Ellensburg. What birds are going north? (Half-day) Marianne, Gloria, & Jeb
- **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Othello for Sandhill Cranes** ~ The migration is on; should be lots of shore birds & possibly thousands of Sandhill Cranes (overnight) Cricket

**APRIL** ~

- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb.
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 27** ~ Quilomene/Whiskey Dick Wildlife Areas and Old Vantage Hwy. Cricket, Marianne, and Tom
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Columbia Basin & Crab Creek** (more shore birds). Marianne & Jo Ellen

**MAY** ~

- **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 3** ~ Lake Easton State Park. Cricket & Marianne

**JUNE** ~

- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Naneum Canyon** ~ protected canyon with good birds; 7:00 AM at Starbucks east campus. (half-day) Kay & Tuck Forsythe
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Taneum Canyon to South Fork Meadows** ~ Nice flowers and forest birds. Don Knoke
- **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 26** – NE Kittitas County and Colockum Pass area (high country/sage birds). Cricket & Marianne
- **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Valley Birds** ~ Burrowing Owls and other uncommon birds. (full day) 7:30 AM. Deborah Essman

**JULY** ~

- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** ~ Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 11** ~ Upper Cle Elum River/Salmon La Sac (high country forest birds). Cricket & Marianne
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Wenas Mammoth Digs** ~ (View where they found the mammoth ~ plus sage birds) Jim Briggs

**AUGUST** ~

- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** ~ Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 21** ~ Taneum/Quartz Mt/Buck Meadows. (Long day but many possible birds) Cricket & Marianne

**SEPTEMBER** ~

- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. TBA
- **Wed - Fri. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Mt Rainier & Pacific Ocean Shore birds**, (Three days of varied birding) Steve & Linda Hall
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 1 & 2** Gold Creek Wildlife Area & John Wayne Trail at Hyak. (Dippers?) Cricket & Marianne

**OCTOBER** ~

- **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ **First Saturday BirdWalk** – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park ~ 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. Gloria & Jeb
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ **Lower County "out of the way" ponds** - (Learn new areas - half a day). Gerry & Marilyn Sorenson
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 8** Coal Mines Trail & Urban Forest of Roslyn. Cricket, Marianne and Beth

*Jeb (cont. in February Hooter)*

(Continued from page 4)

The Ellensburg CBC has chronicled an ornithological phenomenon right here in the valley, right before our eyes. Over the last several decades Bewick's Wrens have spread up the Columbia River into much of southeastern Washington, yet they have been almost unreported from the Kittitas Valley. Back in December, 2003 Scott Downes found one just outside the Yakima River canyon on the Ringer Loop area. Thereafter, he found one every year until 2007, when there were four present in the area. This year he found 16 along the Ringer Loop, and the Manastash group found one at the KOA campground further upriver. Do they nest here? Or do the House Wrens drive them out? A job for the First Saturday group.

The Bald Eagle count was unusually low, back to pre-2006 levels. (Driven out by the wrens?) Tom & Diane Gauron of the Fairview area know where the eagles have gathered for the last several years, but they were not there. It was not the fog.

The fog was blamed for the count of Red-tailed Hawks being only 2/3 of the average count for the last five years. Rough-legged Hawks were down even more. However, Cooper's Hawks, Kestrels, Merlins, and Great Horned Owls were found in all-time high numbers.

A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen briefly just south of the Riverbottom-Umptanum road junction. Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen well in the Thorp and Manastash (on Riverbottom Road) areas. A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen before only on the 1988 CBC, and Lincoln's Sparrows only on the 2000 and 2004 counts. Waterfowl diversity was particularly high. The very cold weather before the count may have concentrated them in the remaining open water available. And it was an all-time record year for House Sparrows. The count was almost 50% higher than the average of the last seven years. Perhaps food for all those Cooper's Hawks, Kestrels, and Merlins?

The number of people willing to spend all day counting birds for Kittitas Audubon in eastern Washington winter weather has gradually increased in recent years. This relatively standardized record of bird numbers becomes ever more valuable with each season. Thank you, and see you next year on Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

*Phil Mattocks ~ coordinator*

## **DEADLINE: March 15th!**

**March Meeting Reminder:** March's program will feature a slideshow of favorite photos from KAS members and friends – birds and/or other moments! Photos that tell a story are great! 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? These will be assembled in a Powerpoint format. If you can be at the meeting for the presentation, you may speak about your photo or, if you're shy, we can read the description that you provide. Please send to Steve Moore at [s.moore@kvalley.com](mailto:s.moore@kvalley.com) or 712 E 2nd Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926 by **Monday, March 15th.**

***Share your favorite photos  
with other KAS members!***

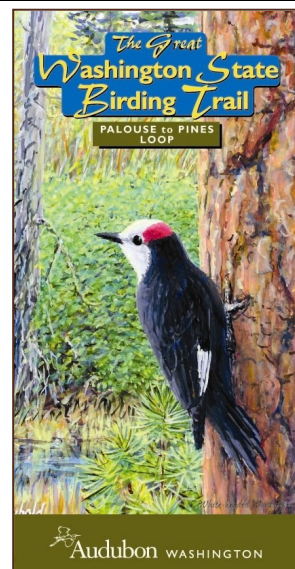
*You're Invited!*

### **State Sen. Lisa Brown & Audubon Washington**

cordially invite you to the unveiling of the newest map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Palouse to Pines Loop, and featuring LIVE BIRDS like those seen on this route: a Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk.

12:45-1:00p.m. • Jan. 26, 2010  
(Tuesday)

Rooms ABC Cherberg Building  
State Capitol Campus, Olympia,  
WA



Please join us in the presentation of the latest area of the state to offer the Birding Trail's successful combination of outdoor recreation, conservation and rural economic development.

More information: [cnorman@audubon.org](mailto:cnorman@audubon.org)

**Thanks to KAS members for renewing:**

- Eva Taylor
- Don Knoke
- Clarence Grening
- Chris Caviezel (3 years)
- Jan Demorest & Steve Moore
- Dr. Raymond Perkins (Winlock, WA)



**Donations:**

- \$700 from Queen of Spades Garden Club designated for the West Ellensburg Ponds project **Thank You!**

**Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining bring them along to a meeting, or consider giving a gift membership!**

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!**

**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 \$\_\_\_\_\_



Darling Bird Studios, ©2007 UNA

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

Checks payable to Kittitas Audubon

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](http://Kittitasaudubon.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code Y22 XBP

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Would you like to receive The Hooter electronically?**  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No, prefer paper edition \_\_\_\_\_

Webmaster – Mark Whitesell

Email [markwhitesell@hotmail.com](mailto:markwhitesell@hotmail.com)

**Check out our website ~ see The Hooter in color at [Kittitasaudubon.org](http://Kittitasaudubon.org)**

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## Upcoming KAS Field Trips

*Happy New Year!*

*Start 2010 the very best way ~ come on the  
bird walk with KAS!*

**January 2, 2010 ~ First Saturday Birdwalk:**

Something NEW: Meet at Irene Rinehart Park at **8 AM** for a New Year's treat: we'll go to breakfast, and give the birds time to wake up. If you need that extra sleep or winter travel time, meet at the park at **9 AM** to start the walk.

**January 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Birding by the**

**Map #29** ~ Vantage/Huntzinger road (sage and river birds in winter). Please call Cricket (674-4035) or Marianne (964-2320) for more details.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Waterville Plateau:** The high plateau farmlands between Wenatchee and Grand Coulee accumulate winter specialties – Snow

Buntings, Redpolls, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, longspurs, and American Tree Sparrows are possible. We'll scrutinize mixed flocks and look for the raptors overhead. Quite a bit of driving, so we'll start at **7 AM sharp**; limit 2 cars. Sign-up required: call Steve Moore, 933-1179.

**January 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Two Museum Tours at Central Washington University:**

Come spend the morning at CWU, 8:50 AM to noon. Two activities are planned, one viewing the CWU bird collection to which many of you have contributed, and the second is looking "behind the scenes" at the new *Museum of Culture & Environment* in recently remodeled Dean Hall. There is a limit of 16 people, so please sign up before 1/7/10 by calling Jeb @ 933-1558.

**February 6<sup>th</sup> ~ First Saturday BirdWalk** at 8:00 at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park.

**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>*



**SUBMIT PHOTOS!**  
**MARCH 15th DEADLINE**  
details on page 6...