



The Hooter

Kittitas Audubon Society

May 2010

Membership Meeting - Thursday, May 20th @ 7:00 PM
Hal Holmes Center (next to the library)

"How to Attract Hummingbirds" presented by Chris Caviezel

Snoqualmie Pass (Hyak) resident and Kittitas Audubon member Chris Caviezel became interested in hummingbirds (and consequently birds) about 8 years ago when he visited a neighbor over in the Alpentel Valley. His friend had some hummingbird feeders and while Chris and his friend had dinner, the hummingbirds would come to the feeders and have dinner as well. Chris returned to his condo and the next morning drove 45 minutes to get a hummingbird feeder. His feeder was up for about one hour before he had his first visitor. Chris was hooked on hummingbirds.

Last May there was a day where Chris' "hummers" went through over 300 ounces of nectar in ONE DAY! In August of 2008, one of the hummingbirds banded at Chris' house was found three weeks later in Southern California!

Over the years Chris has attained a fair amount of knowledge about hummingbirds (and birds) as he has learned how to attract more and more hummingbirds, as well as helping a Seattle Area licensed hummingbird bander with his work.

Chris will be presenting "How to Attract Hummingbirds" during our May membership meeting. Please come and join us for a fun and informative night. To learn more about hummingbirds and birds, you can visit Chris' websites, www.hummingbirdsonly.com and www.birdfeedersonly.com.



Hummingbird Banquet!

Photo by Chris Caviezel



No membership meetings in the summer. See you in September!

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.

Many thanks to the Ellensburg Public Library for sponsoring our meetings at the Hal Holmes Center next to the library!





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
Programs – 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 – Tuck Forsythe	925-2356

*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 or snail mail to Jan Demorest, Hooter Editor, 1009 North B Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Submissions need to be in by the 20th of the preceding month.

MAY ELECTIONS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN KAS AGAIN ELECTS ITS OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR!!

With some pleading (and a little arm-twisting) the nomination committee, consisting of Jeb Baldi, Gerry Sorenson, and Bud Rechterman, are presenting the following slate of officers for consideration:

- ◆ Co-president: Gloria Lindstrom and Gloria Baldi (easy to remember their names!)
- ◆ Vice president: Bud Rechterman
- ◆ Secretary: Jim Briggs
- ◆ Treasurer: Tom Gauron

Further nominations from the floor are always welcome. Please come to the May 20th membership meeting and help elect new officers to lead Kittitas Audubon for the next year.

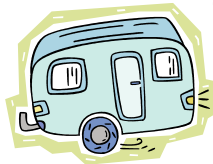
Wenas Memorial Day Weekend Audubon Family Campout

www.wenasaudubon.org



You are invited to a free campout, May 28-31, 2010 at Wenas Creek Campground where you and your family and friends will enjoy field trips, programs, singing, story-telling, and evening campfires.

The Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary is located SW of Ellensburg in an Important Bird Area and has been assured of protective status. The free, "primitive"



campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing, and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

Please visit the Wenas Website, www.wenasaudubon.org. You'll find checklists of birds and wildflowers, an outline of field trips and programs, directions to the campground, and many photos. For people who don't "do websites," contact Helen and she'll send you printed information.

Bring friends and family, and join us at Wenas on Memorial Day Weekend for as many days and/or nights as you want to stay See you there!

Helen Engle
hengle@iinet.com 253-564-3112

**Birds of Columbia NWR
(Othello and Moses Lake):**

March 27th & 28th ~ The trip officially started in Ellensburg with California Quail zooming across the road. Barely out of town, we realized there are a LOT of American Robins this year and they are everywhere.

Vantage Hwy offered up a Mtn. Bluebird, then another, and then a pair. We watched a couple of males in furious chase, battling in defense of the fence. First off-road stop was for good looks at Sage Thrashers. Not as flashy as the bluebirds but they sure can sing! Western Meadowlarks are in the same league, providing the sound track for our trip.

We leap-frogged from pond to pond east to the Winchester Waste Way and then south through Frenchman Hills, picking up waterfowl from grebes to swans, with a dash of Solitary Sandpiper and Killdeer. ~ Across the basin, we found a flock of Sandhill Cranes, spread across a floodable field, within easy scope distance, about 999 grey Lesser Sandhill Cranes and 1 brown one. Sibley Field Guide explains that the summer plumage is a rust brown, a surprising sight in the spring! ~ After a quick stop in town at the cemetery to see the Great Horned Owl we went out to "my" Burrowing Owl spot. Seems my knowledge of where the Burrowing Owls are is far from a secret. (Editor assumes this means they were not alone!)

The scenic route to our hotel for the night was through the heart of the Columbia Basin – the Drumheller Channel Scablands. As we were hunting, unsuccessfully, for the Tri-color Blackbird, the last of the Sandhill Cranes that were feeding in the marshes flew overhead. In the fading light we spotted a falcon ~ Pere-

grine or Prairie? The light was so dim we had to depend on habit and habitat mostly, but the calm demeanor of the Rock Doves was the clincher. After a number of passes we agreed it was a Prairie Falcon. ~ The next day was early – REALLY early! Those not fond of getting up in the dark and racing across the farmlands were rewarded. We got to the good birding site on Scootney Reservoir in time to watch skeins of Sandhill Cranes taking off for the feeding grounds. Also present were pelicans and an early Black-necked Stilt. ~ The zigzag hunt for a curlew was unsuccessful, but we did get a good view of a male Northern Harrier with his breakfast. I would never have thought the sight of rodent strips would make me hungry but we birders are an odd bunch... ~ Beginning to work back to the west, we spotted more cranes, then headed for Lower Crab Creek, where we saw only one meadowlark. At the little park were Crab Creek dumps into the Columbia, we added a loon to our waterfowl list, and the first warbler of the year, a Yellow-rumped. ~ The field trip started with a California Quail, ended with a Turkey Vulture and included an impressive variety of birds in-between.



Complete bird list (57 species):

Am Crow, E Starling, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, House Sparrow, W Meadowlark, Tree Swallow, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Horned Grebe, BB Magpie, Violet-green Swallow, raven, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Rock Dove, House Finch, Canada Goose, Redhead Duck, Green-winged Teal, Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, N Harrier, N Flicker, coot, Song Sparrow, Trumpeter Swan, Pied-billed Grebe, N Pintail, Solitary Sandpiper, Killdeer, Am Kestrel, Sandhill Crane (one brown), Brewer's Blackbird, Ring-billed Gull, Horned Lark, Burrowing Owl, White-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Northern Shrike, Prairie Falcon, Common Merganser, Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, N Shoveler, Black-necked Stilt, Cliff Swallow, Great Horned Owl, Dark-eyed Junco, Ring-necked Pheasant (F), Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Common Loon, Yellow-rumped Warbler, & Turkey Vulture.

**Birding-by-the Map #23 on
March 20th**

Just two people, Jeb and Gloria, showed for this field trip, but with a temperature of 25 degrees and a cup of coffee in hand, we headed with a scope to several ponds and surrounding habitat to scout the avian species on this first day of spring.

Bar 14 Pond yielded 13 bird species with 6 different ducks, with the only Ruddy Ducks of the day. The other early arrival was a single male Yellow-headed Blackbird, a treat to see. ~ Sorenson Pond on Berry Road had 14 species, noting several in the habitat across the road - and

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

we saw the first Tree Swallows of the season. This pond, reliable for waterfowl in every season except summer, had our best find of the day, a **Barrow's Goldeneye**. ~ Continuing on to Tjossem Pond, and then Woodhouse Loop Road, we saw more Tree Swallows, more ducks and Canada Geese, and two woodpeckers (Northern Flicker and a Downy), as well as our only Great Blue Heron. Many, many Robins were in the fields. (We have noted an abundance of Robins, sometimes hundreds, wherever we have been this winter.) ~ Across from the lower Woodhouse Loop ponds is a lane called Herron (spelled correctly) with a pond. Difficult to see from the road, the pond usually has waterfowl, and the treat this day was a pair of Hooded Mergansers decked in their finest plumage. ~ Ringer Loop and Helen McCabe Park produced no new birds for the list, but we had a most enjoyable morning. *Gloria B.*

April First Saturday Bird-Walk Nine people gathered in cold brisk weather to find the birds of Irene Rinehart. It had snowed a heavy wet snow the day before, so the ground was wet, the weather still cold at 28 to 35 degrees, as the sky changed from sunny to overcast during the walk. Truly a spring day! ~ At the beginning of northern migration, there are certain species that

mark this month - and they did not disappoint us. Although not in large numbers, three types of swallows, the Tree, Violet-green, and Rough-winged were in the air, catching early bugs, the latter two being over the lake. Very yellow American Goldfinches, a courting Red-winged Blackbird, pairs of Mallards, and singing Song Sparrows also announced spring. Our surprise for the morning was a 'first-time' show of a pair of **Western Bluebirds**. As they moved north on the golf course from tree to tree, we had excellent opportunities to view them, and decided we were in 'the right place at the right time' to record the pair in migration. Not a single raptor did we see all morning, but robins, flickers and Downy Woodpeckers were numerous. Only one Killdeer, one small flock of juncos, and very few chickadees were found. We saw the resident Belted Kingfisher several times as he flew up and down the river, so there must be a nest nearby in the bank. ~ It was a great morning to be in nature, and we saw five deer in addition to 22 bird species. Do join us next month. *Gloria B*

**Birding by the Map:
4/17/2010 ~ Location #27
The Whiskey Dick and the
Quilomene** ~ Driving out on the Old Vantage highway, after a quick check to see if the Swainson Hawks were back we scooted out to the Shrub Steppe. At the first stop, in addition to the beautiful Mtn.

Bluebirds guarding the bird house, we were trying to find the Meadowlark we kept hearing. ~ Now when I am really looking for something you have to tap me on the shoulder to get my attention. Well, my old co-worker from Seattle had to do just that. He was just driving by and spotted us and recognized me. Why am I "talking" about this in the Hooter? For those of you who have not noticed, our web-page is updated by this same co-worker, Mark Whitesell. He volunteers his time generously, but since he is neither a chapter member nor a Kittitas county resident, all of the contact has been by email. It was a wonderful surprise for a number of people who have worked with him for years to actually see his face. He and his wife joined us for the rest of the field trip. ~ The next stop we found the target birds of any spring trip to the Sage Country. Both the Sage Sparrow and the Sage Thrasher were singing their hearts out.



(Continued on page 5)

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 a quick link to the new Hooter.

Roslyn Urban Forest needs volunteers!

During May, KAS members are invited to participate in a number of events related to bird and plant monitoring in the Roslyn's Urban Forest (RUF). The RUF is about 350 acres of forested land on the Ridge above Roslyn, now owned and administered by the city.

Starting the first week in May and running through June, there will be weekend "point-count" monitoring of birds. This means birds will be identified within a small radius of specific locations (points) in the Roslyn Forest. These counts will be done by a small number of people working closely with James Begley, who wrote the stewardship plan for the forest. If there are any KAS birders who are somewhat to very proficient at birding-by-ear, and who would like to go out on these counts, please get in touch with Ellie Belew immediately.

Cricket Webb will be leading a basic bird walk in the RUF on Saturday, June 5th in the morning. On Saturday, May 15th, Don Knoke will lead a Central Washington Native Plants Society all-day trail walk through the RUF. For details contact Don Knoke (donknoke@live.com or 509-964-2274).

For further information on these RUF events, or to find out more about the RUF, please call or email Ellie Belew (info@elliebelew.com 509-649-2377). Ellie is a member of Roslyn's citizen council on the RUF.



(Continued from page 4)

We walked out over the first rise and found Horned Larks. The easiest way to see Horned Larks is in the winter when they swirl just above the frozen fields in big flocks. In the spring, they spread out to individual territories where they demonstrate the ability to sing in flight. Flying up at a steep

angle, turning into the wind and remaining almost stationary, the male delivers his song. At the end of the song, he closes his wings and plunges straight down to the ground. Very impressive!

The stop at Ginko State Park (the one on the highway – not the visitors Center on the Columbia River) was very fruitful, as it always is. Vesper Spar-

row, Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

I would like to end this article by thanking Mark for his skills in maintaining the website (and plugging his fabulous pointillism artwork). Check it out at www.markwhitesell.com

Cricket

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!

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@yahoogleroups.com. Reply to the first email about Birdkitt that you receive from "yahoogleroups". To unsubscribe: send email to birdkitt

- unsubscribe@yahoogleroups.com. If you have difficulty, email Beth Rogers kittittasadubon@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.

3-29-10 ~ Yesterday we had the first long-billed curlew of the year fly low over the pasture calling plaintively. The great horned owls across the road have been very hooty, and a barn owl flew across the No. 81 Rd in front of us tonight on our way home from a meeting in E-burg. Still a few bald eagles and rough-legs around the valley. Snipes are arriving in greater numbers, no winnowing heard yet. *Deborah on the Brick Mill Rd north of Kittitas*

3-25-10 ~ The first Rufous (Hummingbird) of the year for Snoqualmie Pass was spotted over by Gold Creek Pond today.....*Chris Caviezel*

4-18-10 ~ Three days ago the dark-morph female Swainson's Hawk returned to the nest site on the Vantage Hwy. I am eagerly

(and anxiously) awaiting the male, as I'm sure she is also. ~ The white-crowned sparrows, as usual, have arrived in teeming hordes to our yard this weekend after the first vanguards showed up earlier last week. What a lovely racket. ~ Canada goose goslings already on the larger pond on Number 81 Rd. north of the Vantage Hwy. *Deborah on the Brick Mill Rd north of Kittitas*

4-19-10 ~ We had the first male Calliope Hummingbird we have seen at the feeder this morning. There is a Rufous who is regular visitor also. No females of either that I have seen. *Beth just east of Cle Elum*

4-19-10 ~ We had a Eurasian Col-lared Dove in our back yard for a couple of days (4/15 and 16), walking around on the grass with the White-Crowned Sparrows and Cas-

sin's Finches, pecking at the seeds on the ground. *Jan in Ellensburg (in town)*

4-20-10 ~ The vanguard of the Vaux's Swifts seems to be showing up. Last evening, at 25 minutes before sunset, as we sat down on the curb across from the Old E'burg Hospital on 3rd Ave, 4 swifts flew high overhead. At 7:58, the first brave little guy dived into the chimney; at 8:10, 10 more followed, and at 8:12, the last straggler joined the group. So, a total of 15 birds roosting (that we saw, anyway). ~ This may be the first "dribble", which could go on for weeks. Hard to tell when the big group might show up. *Jan in Ellensburg proper*

Apologies for only selected postings ~ there have been many postings, which is great, but not enough space here!

AUDUBON'S HELP REQUESTED FOR SNOQUALMIE PASS EDUCATION CENTER (SPEC)

Debra Davis, Interpretive Naturalist for the Cle Elum Ranger District of the Okanagan Wenatchee National Forest, is requesting help from members of KAS for a series of bird walks this summer.

SPEC is planning to continue expanding interpretive programs based out of the Snoqualmie Pass Education Center, located adjacent to the Summit West Ski Center. The winter snowshoe walks that started in 1990 have grown in popularity, and there have been requests to increase summer interpretive programs. The Center has a cadre of dedicated employees and volunteers. Now they are looking for partners to collaborate on environmental education programs and events to benefit Washington citizens and visitors, especially in Central Washington and the Puget Sound region, to make sure the east side of the Cascade Crest is represented.

In June, July, and August 2010, they will be developing field-based programs to explore the Snoqualmie Pass area and are in the process of putting together a calendar of events around the themes of Gold Creek pond habitat, old growth forest, wildflowers and wildlife, and basic outdoor skills. They would love to add birds and birding to their activities. They even have 10 pairs of kids binoculars to lend out for trips.

If anybody from KAS is interested in helping Debra out by leading field trips or supporting her outings, please contact her at 509-852-1040 or dedavis@fs.fed.us.

~ Jim Briggs

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.

KAS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

For the past several years, KAS has had a series of Membership Chairpersons. Wonderful diligent members have learned the tangled computer process, only to be unable to continue because of personal reasons ranging from a change in employment to illnesses to lack of time. Thus, reminders of membership renewals were not forthcoming and many members did not realize it was time to send their money. Now Tuck Forsythe has graciously stepped forward to assume the tasks, which is not easy as he tries to decipher correct dates for individuals. People are being notified, but if you feel there is a discrepancy, please give Tuck a call. Thank you for bearing with us as we update our files. Soon it will all be in order again!

Many thanks to Tuck for his fruitful efforts as new Membership Chair!!!

Local resident reports: "They're taking over my yard, eating lots of little invisible bugs off the bushes, and generally being very wonderful guests!"

Can you name this bird?



See back page for answer.

Check this on the website for color photo!

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, ZIP _____

Chapter Code Y22 XBP COZY220Z

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

MAY

Saturday 1st ~ First Saturday BirdWalk @ Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. Meet at the bridge parking lot at 8:00AM for about a three hour walk. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars, and a friend to help us spot more spring migrants. Gloria & Jeb

Saturday 15th ~ 3rd Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 3 – Lake Easton State Park. Please call Cricket (674-4035) & Marianne (964-2320)

JUNE (more details in June Hooter)

Saturday 5th ~ First Saturday BirdWalk – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. (See above) Gloria & Jeb

Saturday 12th ~ Naneum Canyon – (protected canyon and good birds) 7:00 AM at Starbucks east campus; half day ~ Kay & Tuck Forsythe

Wednesday 16th ~ Taneum Canyon to South Fork Meadows (Nice flowers and forest birds) . Don Knoke

Saturday 19th ~ 3rd Saturday Birding by the Map Site # 26 – NE Kittitas County and Colockum Pass area (high country/sage birds). Cricket & Marianne

Saturday 26th ~ Valley Birds ~ (Burrowing Owls and other uncommon birds; full day.) 7:30 AM. Deborah Essman

July

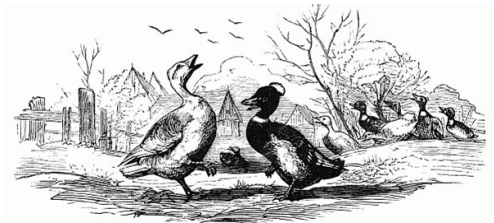
Saturday 3rd ~ First Saturday BirdWalk – Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. 8:00AM Bridge parking lot. (See above) Gloria & Jeb

Answer to Bird Quiz on Page 7: Nashville Warbler ~ Photo by K. Satnik



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.

*Kittitas Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926*



*The Hooter - May 2010
Newsletter of the Kittitas Audubon Society - <http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>*
