



# The Hooter

Kittitas Audubon

August 2010

## **AUGUST MEMBERSHIP PICNIC/POTLUCK**

**August 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 5:30 PM**

**Hal & Gloria Lindstrom's Home 1831 Hanson Rd.**

Grilled hamburgers, buns, and the trimmings furnished by KAS

Members bring the rest ~ appetizers, salads, or desserts

**BYOB, plates, utensils, & cloth napkins for each person in your party**

**\* Coffee will be available\***

**Please RSVP by August 16th** so we have an idea of the number of people attending

**Call Jan 933-1179, Gloria L. 925-1807, or Jeb 933-1558**

*Live(ly) Old-Time Fiddle Music by Scatter Creek! (Jan & Steve & friends)*

*Music until it's time to feed the band!*



### **Get ready for our exciting fall program schedule!**

**September** ~ CWU grad student Adam Hannuksela, "Bird Communities of Sonora, Mexico"

**October** ~ Alan Bauer, author & photographer, most recently published a book on desert hiking; good bird photos and other wonders.

**November** ~ Richy Harrod and Bill Gaines, researchers from the USFS "Forest Restoration Strategy in the eastern Cascades."

**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.**

**What is this bird and why is it still in Kittitas County in July?**



For the full story, see Page 5 of this issue.

Photo by Jan Demorest

**KAS BOARD MEMBERS**

Co-Presidents – Gloria Baldi	933-1558
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*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 Kittitas Audubon, published monthly except for July.*

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*~ Submissions from readers / members 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.*

***From the Co-President of KAS, Gloria Lindstrom ~***

Hal and I invite you to mark your calendar for August 19<sup>th</sup> for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kittitas Audubon Potluck/Picnic held at our home on Hanson Rd. See the announcement in this Hooter. It is a wonderful time to relax and enjoy visiting with fellow Auduboners.

We began a new Kittitas Audubon year in June following elections at our May Membership Meeting. This is the first time Co-Presidents have been elected. Gloria Baldi and myself will share the job and I believe we come to the job with good experience.

Gloria and I have known each other for over 40 years. We shared a co-vice-presidency in the early '70's for the Ellensburg Chapter of the Alpine Lake Protection Society before the Alpine Lakes were designated a National Wilderness Area. With our families, we led many hikes and backpack trips into the Alpine Lakes to introduce local people to the wonders of the area. In 2005 we shared a co-chairmanship to plan the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting here in Ellensburg.

Kittitas Audubon begins the new Membership year with another line-up of promising programs and field trips. Participation by our Membership makes it all happen.

*The mission of Kittitas Audubon is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds.*



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**Saturday June 5th ~ First Saturday BirdWalk**

The June BirdWalk was the first comfortable sunny morning after several rainy days. Some Saturday BirdWalks are just slow—and this was one. Eight people looked hard for the birds as they quietly scurried in the trees to find either nesting material or food for chicks. Twenty-five species were tallied which included Western Tanager, the resident Kingfisher, three types of swallows, a pair of Kestrels, a Downy Woodpecker in its cavity, a less seen **Warbling Vireo**, and an immature **Bald Eagle**, a surprise as it flew overhead. From the park, on I-90, we spotted a Great Horned Owl which unfortunately had been killed by a vehicle, a sad but out-of-the-ordinary event. We never know what this BirdWalk will yield.

*Gloria Baldi*

**Saturday June 12th ~ Naneum Canyon ~** On June 12, 7 intrepid birders met at 7 am in Eburg, and drove 12 miles NE of town to Naneum Canyon. What a wonderful early summer morning birdwalk! Some late spring wildflowers were blooming. The most breathtaking vision was a Rufous Hummingbird presenting his riveting orange throat. A dead and down ponderosa was the runway for House Wrens modeling their lovely garb. Bullock's Orioles, a Lazuli Bunting, dapper Cedar Waxwings, and "regular" birds provided breadth. The best bird we never saw was the Veery, calling often, and the favorite bird of Alice West; Kay and Tuck Forsythe had heard it singing Tuesday evening. We found a balm in Naneum, sitting or lying on the bank of a streamlet, feeling peaceful away from the stress of daily life. The Naneum watershed was the source of water for the City of Ellensburg in years past; we visited the waterworks and also the remnants of the canyon homestead. Upon exiting the canyon, we found an awning set up and a CWU grad student, Kathy Cloran, surveying recreational use of the canyon for a masters' thesis. She will survey all entrances to the newly established Naneum Ridge State Forest.

*Kay & Tuck Forsythe*

**Saturday June 16th ~ Taneum Canyon ~** Nine people, from 90-year-old trip leader Don Knoke to spry 91-year old Alice Yee to nine-month-old David Adler, met at the entrance to the old Heart K Ranch on the Taneum (now a wildlife area). Many birders start young and never quit!

The valley glacier that would have towered over us 600,000 years ago is long gone, but the glacial wind still blew. It badgered us all the way up to South Fork Meadow. Don reconnoitered the area

and knew where the birds and the wild flowers were. Are there any birds or plants he doesn't know? The 28 bird species we encountered were well established in their own particular nesting habitats. Each elevation range and aspect has its own complement of birds, trees, shrubs and forbs.

Taneum Creek was running bank-full with icy clear mountain water which didn't deter an American Dipper from plunging in to search for juicy morsels for its nearly-grown adolescent which waited patiently on a slippery log to be fed.

Historically, the Taneum was heavily exploited, with settlers on every meadow, and cows grazing wherever they could find forage. Then the Cascade Lumber Company built a railroad up the canyon and hauled out its timber, though you would never guess it today. Much of the present road is on the old railroad grade. There was even a schoolhouse up there in which Don's mother taught settlers' and loggers' kids their ABC's. The Forest Service campground with its relict big fir and pine trees ~ magnificent, and the CCC-built picnic shelter, complete with its splendid native rock fireplace hies back to another time.

The Taneum-Manastash loop (which we didn't do) has nearly everything but a shrub-steppe. This is a spectacular drive any day of the week! Here in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area you will find many of the habitats preferred by resident birds and migrants alike, as well as great scenery. It is also the summer range of all those elk the game department feeds at Joe Watt all winter.

*Joe Muechel*

**Saturday June 19th ~ Birding by the Map ~ Colockum Pass ~ Site #26 ~** 5 birders and 36 species of birds! ~ Cloudy, cool, rain by noon ~ first birds recorded on the way out to Colockum Road. On No. 81 Road we got a few of our regular summer birds: Kildeer luring us away from the nest, Western Meadowlark singing, and California Quail scurrying across the road.

At the bottom of Colockum Road in the shrub-steppe we found raptors: American Kestrel and Red-tailed Hawks, along with a Common Snipe, and good views of a Mountain Bluebird and a Spotted Towhee. As we moved up into the trees, the birds changed with the habitat. Mountain Chickadee and Chipping Sparrows were sighted, along with Western Tanagers and Western Woodpeewee.

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

Colockum Road, as far as we went, is not as rough as I remembered. At the junction of Colockum and Cooke Canyon Road is a spring that has attracted excellent birds in the past. Hoping for the Western Bluebirds I had seen there previously, we only got grazing cows. In the end we had a lot more birds than seen at other "birding-by-the-map" sites. The only higher count was Hayward Hill/Bettas Road last spring.

*Cricket*

### **Saturday July 3rd ~ First Saturday BirdWalk**

Where last month was slow, this month was a delight!! Twelve birders gathered (one, a visitor from out of town) on the day before July 4<sup>th</sup> with weather at approximately 60 degrees and sunny! With so many pairs of eyes searching, 35 species were found. The treat of the day seen near the beginning of the walk was our first Irene Rinehart Park **Lazuli Bunting** -- at the top of a willow tree, singing to the world. Other bird highlights were: Downy Woodpecker, Am Kestrel, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, Osprey, Am Goldfinch, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, Western Wood-pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Vaux's Swift, Bullock's Oriole, Violet-green Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Gray Catbird, and a Pacific Slope Flycatcher (heard only). Deer are plentiful at the park and two crossed our path, almost disappearing in the tall grass of the former golf course. This July BirdWalk was fun and fruitful!

*Gloria Baldi*

### **Saturday, July 17th ~ Birding by the Map ~ Site #11 ~ Upper Cle Elum River Valley ~**

seven birders ~ sunny hot weather ~ first birding trip I've done in hot weather this year. I was grateful it was a drive: "get out and see birds, get back in air-conditioned car and drive, get out and see birds" kind of field trip. And we did see birds.

I had expected the first stop at Wish Poosh campground and boat launch to be very birdy but the lake is so high the birdy habitat was now an island out of reach. There were 2 Great Blue Herons, a Western Tanager, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a very acrobatic Douglas Squirrel.

We continued onward to the first bridge. The road and all the campgrounds were very busy but we still found some good birds. Barn and Cliff Swallows, Pine Siskins, many Evening Grosbeaks. The road up to Tucquala Lake (Fish Lake) turns to

dirt and gets rather rough. After the long rocky climb out of Salmon la Sac first birds spotted were a Townsend's Warbler and a Rufous Hummingbird. This looked like a good place to stop for closer inspection. Swainson's Thrush, Western Wood-pewee, and a Williamson's Sapsucker were the highlights.

A stop at Boulder Creek got us an American Dipper. Further along the route to Fish Lake we found a Hammond's Flycatcher. During lunch a Hermit Thrush was seen feeding in the shade along the river bank.

At the lake, we parked in front of a salt lick where a large number of Evening Grosbeaks were feeding, mostly males. That prompted the question: if the females are on the nest, are the males feeding them or are they, like hummingbirds, leaving all to the "little woman." Answer "Male feeds incubating female." (Ehrlich et al The Birder's Handbook). Also "Often feeds on dirt and gravel for minerals and salt." (ibid.)

The birding party broke up then. Some headed back towards home, but three of us had to find a few more birds: Common Goldeneye on the lake, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee before we left. On the way down we stopped at a small creek. Jan was hopeful that we might find Harlequin ducks here. OK ~ for five minutes while we watched and took photos, a lone female Harlequin Duck sat preening on a rock in the middle of the creek. Lucky? Yup!

*Cricket*



Gerry Sorenson heard the tale from a neighbor: a Sandhill Crane hanging around Kittitas Valley hay fields in July?! Normal mid-summer range is on the arctic breeding grounds. But there it was, not far from Gerry's rural home, subsisting on mice and insects in mowed fields, quite grounded but evidently vigorous enough to outrun a dog. Jan Demorest contacted Marnee Wines, a trained and licensed bird rehabilitator at the Kittitas Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Group (KWRG). Maybe it would survive until fall, but then what? Maybe it could be captured, examined for wing damage, rehabilitated (perhaps), and released, in any case, in a more appropriate environment.

Following phone calls, planning ideas hatched by Marnee and Jan, plus several reconnaissance trips, a team consisting of six Kittitas Audubon members and several volunteers from the CWU Biology Dept., met with two local herding dog handlers on Moe Road on a recent Monday. The crane was quickly located in a field near previous sightings. The game plan was to herd the bird slowly into a semicircle of people, aiming it toward an open horse trailer and a consolation of ground corn. With occasional clucks of objection, the bird arrived within view of the trailer, but easily eluded the weaker link of the human drag-net by heading across an irrigation ditch toward a nearby pasture. Quick maneuvers by Marnee, Jan and her nephew Zach, Jeb Baldi, and the



Photo by Bambi Miller

dogs and their handlers resulted in a blanket capture (Marnee and the crane in the water on the muddy bank of the ditch) and a "bucket brigade" transfer of the bird from the ditch to the top of the bank and then a much-photographed walk to the trailer. Once secured in the trailer with straw for bedding, Marnee whisked the

crane off to Ellensburg Animal Hospital for examination.



Photo by Gloria Lindstrom

Xrays by Dr. Mike Fuller showed tightened tendons but no structural damage to the crane's wings. At *The Hooter* press time, the crane is presently housed

in a horse stall, with a wading pool for comfort and recreation. The current situation: the crane was underweight, so is being fed liberally to bring its weight up. Donations of dozens of mice and purchases of goldfish have been gratefully devoured. Decisions on whether physical therapy can be attempted, or relocation to a wetland considered, are deferred for the present. Readers with expertise are encouraged to contact Dr. Fuller or Marnee or the editor with suggestions.



Photo by Gloria Lindstrom

It takes money to feed a hungry Sandhill Crane ~ donations to KWRG make this kind of rehabilitation possible. You may send a donation by check to KWRG at 3531 Brick Mill Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926, or drop off at Ellensburg Animal Hospital, 1800 Vantage Hwy, or the Catholic Credit Union, 900 S. Ruby, in Ellensburg.

*(Editor's note: see the March 2010 Hooter for an article about KWRG and the work of Marnee Wines and Dr. Mike Fuller.)*

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](mailto:subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Reply to the first email about Birdkitt that you receive from "yahoogroups". To unsubscribe: send email to birdkitt

- [unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com). If you have difficulty, email Beth Rogers [kittittasadudbon@inland.net](mailto:kittittasadudbon@inland.net) or Chris Caviezel [chris.caviezel@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**6/6/2010** ~ I spotted an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in the alley behind my house this evening! ID was after much looking and trying to remember all the things to look for. First spotting him and watching (no binocs, of course), realizing that this was no ordinary backyard bird – sneaking into the



© Marshall Faintich

house for binocs, then rushing back into the house to check Sibley, then back again hoping to find him – and there he was on the power lines in a different spot – to double check. Sure enough, the only bird it could be ~ cool....but what's he doing in town?!?!  
*Jan Demorest ~ near downtown Ellensburg*

**6/6/2010** ~ For the last several years there have been at least 3-4 pairs of **Eurasian Collared Doves** resident in Ellensburg, just east of downtown, centered on 1st Ave and Walnut St. Finally, one sat on

the power pole next to my yard, then it and another flew deep into a spruce across the street. The resident pair of **Mourning Doves** are still cooing away in another neighbor's yard. ~ Who knew there was an open niche for a wood pigeon? ~ **Western Tanagers** have been present at every stop I've made for the last week or so. Homes, parking lots, errands, visits, wherever, there are 2-3 tanagers flitting around. I've shown them to lots of non-birders, who are duly impressed. Dennis reported them even thicker out in the county. Would someone care to calculate how many there are in the lowlands of eastern Washington?

*Phil Mattocks*

**6/7/2010** ~ I've got Black-headed Grosbeaks, orioles (yes, plural. At least 2 nests if not three), pewees, V-g Swallows, sapsuckers, robins, jays, chickadees all nesting here. Maybe more. Let your yard go to weeds and native plants and the birds flock in! They thrive in the buggy mess ~ one afternoon when I drove down the driveway, I disturbed what looked like grasshoppers moving out ahead of me. No ~ it was a flock of Pine Siskins feeding on dandelion seed!

*Marianne Gordon in the Taneum*

**6/8/2010** ~ Last Saturday morning, walking to town along E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, I saw two Western Tanagers flitting in

the trees. Sunday afternoon in the Yakima River Canyon heading south to Yakima, we watched a flock of the same working a bunch of young willows along the bank of the river – what a thrill for my mom and other family members! ~ There is a pair of Eurasian Collared Doves nesting (I think...) in the a big spruce across the street from my house on E. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Same neighborhood as Phil's pair – must be a good neighborhood!

*Jan Demorest just a few blocks east of downtown Ellensburg*

**7/9/2010** ~ There is a Sandhill Crane summering in the hay field, at the corner of Moe Road and Alkali Road (south of alkali). It was brought to my attention by Ginny Sorenson (Paul's wife). She said she had been walking up the road with their dog, and the dog took after it. The Crane didn't fly, but could run fast enough to out-race the dog. Her comment to me was that it was brown (not blue-gray as a GBH), which is what she was thinking it was ~ It is apparently injured and subsisting on mice at the present. I had my bino's on it this morning and the red forehead could be easily seen.

*Gerry Sorenson*

*(See the rest of the story on Page 5 of this issue)*



**THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!**  
**TO TWO OUTSTANDING ~ AND OUTGOING KAS OFFICIERS!!!**

**TOM GAURON:** Tom has lead us through the past three years as president, keeping us organized and busy. His woodshop was open Mondays for building birdhouses, bird feeders, bee boxes, and bat houses. Not only does this benefit the avian species, but has given KAS extra monies through sales of the items. He has been a regular substitute leader for First Saturday BirdWalks, and a ready volunteer for events needing an extra hand. We all appreciate what you do Tom!  
 (Note: Tom may no longer be President, but we still have him on the Board as our new Treasurer.)

**DENEÉ SCRIBNER:** Denee has served as Treasurer for KAS since 2006, and has brought our finances up-to-date in this digital age, a tedious but necessary job. With our finances now in order we find it easy to fulfill any requirements of the U.S. Treasury and our National Audubon Annual Reports. A job well done! Denee's everyday job is requiring extra time at present, but she promised she'd be back.

**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 a quick link to the new Hooter.*

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



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

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*All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.*

Membership forms are also available on our Web site: [Kittitasaudubon.org](http://Kittitasaudubon.org).

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

## *Upcoming KAS Field Trips*

### **AUGUST**

**Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup> ~ First Saturday Bird-Walk** ~ Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. Meet at the bridge parking lot at 8:00 AM for about a three-hour walk. Bring binoculars and a friend. Gloria & Jeb Baldi

**Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Birding by the Map Site #21 ~ Taneum/Quartz Mt/Buck Meadows.** A full day with many possible birds. Call Cricket Webb (674-4035) or Marianne Gordon (964-2320) for details.

### **SEPTEMBER**

**Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> ~ First Saturday BirdWalk** ~ Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park. Meet at the bridge parking lot at 8:00 AM for about a three-hour walk. Bring binoculars and a friend.

**Wednesday thru Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Mount Rainier & Pacific Ocean Shorebirds** ~ Three days of varied birding with Steve & Linda Hall, staying two nights on the Washington coast. Call Jeb (933-1558) to reserve your place.

**Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>, Birding by the Map ~ Sites #1 & #2 ~ Gold Creek Wildlife Area & John Wayne Trail at Hyak** ~ Dippers are usually seen on this trip. Call Cricket Webb (674-4035) or Marianne Gordon (964-2320) for details.

Call Jeb Baldi @ [933-1558](tel:933-1558) with any questions on these trips. If you have suggestions of places to go in search of birds with like-minded folks, please let us know! New ideas are always welcome, along with new faces.

### **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*  
*P.O. Box 1443*  
*Ellensburg WA 98926*



*The Hooter - August 2010*

*Newsletter of Kittitas Audubon - <http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>*