All Audubon meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Hal Holmes Center next to the Library, 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 here!

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

**December 15th (Saturday):** 34th Annual Christmas Bird Count & Potluck (details on page 5)

January **2013** ~ can it already be another year?!?!? (program details in January Hooter!)
**KAS BOARD MEMBERS**

- **President** – Jim Briggs 933-2231
- **Vice President** – Bud Rechterman 962-4508
- **Secretary** – Diane Bullock 968-3175
- **Treasurer** – Sharon Lumsden 968-3889
- **Conservation** – **Vacant**
- **Education** – Judy Hallisey 674-6858
- **Field Trips** – Steve Moore 933-1179
- **Newsletter** – Jan Demorest 933-1179
- **Historian** – **Vacant**
- **Programs** – Jeb Baldi 933-1558
- **Publicity** – Gerry Sorenson 968-4857
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Joe Meuchel 933-3011
- **Bluebird boxes** – Jan Demorest 933-1179
- **Past President** — Gloria Baldi 933-1158
- **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 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!

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**Send in your stories & photos!**

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

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Submissions from members & other 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, 712 E 2nd Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Submissions need to be in by the 20th of the preceding month.

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**Audubon Council of Washington Meeting**

I had the pleasure of attending the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting in the delightful town of Poulsbo. Gloria Lindstrom was our official representative, since I am just a trainee. She and Hal did a great job of reminding our peers of our outstanding work in Kittitas County. Gloria also took possession of a sign proclaiming that we are part of the Washington State Birding Trail Program. Watch The Hooter for a photo spread when we install the sign at Rinehart Park.

The main event was a presentation by David Yarnold, National Audubon’s CEO and President. He is reorganizing Audubon along the four major migratory bird flyways which he calls “air bridges”. The flyway plan is outlined in the Audubon Strategic Plan for 2012-2015.

The Pacific Flyway strategy, not surprisingly, features pelagic and coastal birds but also includes Spruce Grouse and Northern Goshawk, among others. The primary target species for the Central Flyway, the Greater Sage Grouse, holds the greatest interest for Kittitas County. A group of Central Washington Chapters is drafting a shrub-steppe Conservation Initiative. And if there is any good news in the whole global climate change discussion, it is the prediction that shrub-steppe is likely to increase in acreage. Of course, this comes at the expense of the forests, but that is a discussion for another time. Will keep you posted on this initiative as it develops.

Jim Briggs, President
October 6, First Saturday Birdwalk, Irene Rinehart Park. Morning chill greeted 9 birders with quiet in the woods - we had to wait for 9AM-sunshine to bring out the chickadees and Downy Woodpecker that usually welcome us. Dark-eyed Juncos were down from the mountains as promised; the far pond held Wigeon and a Pied-billed Grebe as early migrant visitors. We noted that the muddy shores in the Reecer Creek floodplain are mostly under greenery or flowing water - not so favorable for wading migrants - but we did see Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Belted Kingfisher and Killdeer, plus a family of six Wilson’s Snipe sunning on a logjam. Probably a Savannah Sparrow feeding in the dry weedy fields. A sudden burst of flight brought a very dark Merlin to a perch in a cottonwood – too brief but a satisfying surprise nonetheless. 18 species.

October 20, Nisqually Delta NWR, Lacey, WA. Six of us traveled to Lacey on Friday afternoon and spent the night, arising early the next morning to meet at 8 AM in a cold drizzle, still hoping to view wetland birds; luckily the rain stopped after about 20 minutes, and weak sun warmed us until the early afternoon. A Kitsap Audubon field trip group was also at the reserve. Flocks of Cackling Geese were everywhere, mixed among them flocks of Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Wigeon, Mallard, and Northern Pintail, with a few Hooded and Common Mergansers. We had spectacular field scope looks at Bald Eagles, a Peregrine Falcon that returned repeatedly to a tree perch, Northern Harriers careening over the flats, and a Northern Shrike high on a bare snag. High tide at 10:30 AM pushed some waders into view: Long-billed Dowitchers, little groups of Dunlin with their bills tucked under soft gray wings, Greater Yellowlegs, and Black-bellied Plovers (in winter plumage); other groups of peeps flew by but we never got a close look. (The American Bittern and Pectoral Sandpiper, recent sightings at the delta, eluded us.) About 35 species. The day turned into a lovely mostly-blue-sky day, tempered by a brisk breeze that kept us turning our collars up and wishing for cups of steaming hot coffee or tea to thaw our frozen hands.

~ Steve & Jan; photos by Diane Bullock

The Hooter Nature of Night, an annual exploration of nighttime science, is a free educational event open to all area residents and visitors, and will feature new and exciting educational activities for adults and kids of all ages. The event, hosted by the CWU Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education in collaboration with the CWU Science Education Club, and the CWU Astronomy Club, will offer the community an opportunity to explore the wonders of the night. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, November 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CWU’s Black Hall.

Black Hall will host a large number of educational experiments and displays from a wide variety of local agencies and volunteer groups. Participants will have the opportunity to see live birds of prey, hear and identify the sounds of the night, learn about space, and even eat a self-decorated star cookie. Astronomy activities will be provided to address astronomy achievement requirements for Cub Scouts, Webelos, Brownies, and Junior Girl Scouts. For schedule of events and to make reservations for the Planetarium and Planets/Solar System show, see poster: http://www.cwu.edu/cesme/sites/cts.cwu.edu.cesme/files/documents/Final%20Flier%202012.pdf
NATIONAL AUDUBON PRESIDENT MARKS COMPLETION OF WASHINGTON BIRDING TRAIL

"The Great Washington State Birding Trail is officially open and ready for birders!" proclaimed National Audubon President David Yarnold to 90 chapter members from around the state during the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) in Poulsbo Oct. 5-6.

Yarnold saluted the 600 volunteers who worked with Director Christi Norman to create the seven loops that cover 3,000 miles within two million acres of protected habitat, supporting nearly 350 species. The decade-long achievement was funded by $1.5 million from private and public grants, and individual and chapter donations.

Along with full-color paper maps, birders can now access each route via the new "app" for iPhone and iPad, and an e-book. The seven Loops are: Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway, Southwest Loop, Palouse Pines Loop, Olympic Loop, Cascade Loop, Sun & Sage Loop (includes Kittitas Co.), and the final one, Puget Loop. Signs are being installed to mark the 375 local sites. A sign will be installed at Irene Rinehart Park by KAS.

Birds’ flyways are the glue that unites the Audubon Society today, President Yarnold emphasized during his ACOW keynote talk. Washington’s lands and waters lie squarely on the Pacific Flyway from Alaska to Patagonia, with many Important Bird Areas (IBAs) included on the Great Washington State Birding Trail.

Three members of KAS attended, President Jim Briggs and Hal & Gloria Lindstrom.

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

Welcome New Member!

Linda McFarlane
“Share the View” Photo Contest!!!

Let us see into your world...
Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver

Total of $3,500 in cash prizes for the top 11 images:

2 Grand Prizes of $1000 each
4 First Prizes $250 each
5 Second Prizes $100 each

Special recognition for the top 250 images:

♦ Featured on the contest website throughout 2013
♦ Certificates of Merit awarded to each

Open to all photographers worldwide, 18 years and up. Images must be taken by the person entering them. (see Contest Rules for details)

Enter as many images as you’d like at $10/image or 6 images for $50. Digital upload is required, but images may have been created with either film or digital cameras. (see Contest Rules for details)

THE PARTICULARS - Landscape, wildlife, and nature images from anywhere in the world qualify for entry. Flora, fauna, macro, aerial, behavior, portrait, underwater, urban wildlife, abstract, black & white, atmospherics and more. See details on the website FAQs page.

Deadline is December 1st, 2012. Complete detailed instructions on the website on how to prepare and send photos.

THE ORGANIZER - Audubon Society of Greater Denver is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Proceeds received by ASGD from the contest will support their education, conservation and research programs.
www.denveraudubon.org

For complete information and to see the winners from 2011 go to: http://denveraudubon.contestvenue.com/index.php

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Thanksgiving Day Bird Count ~ Get the turkey in the oven, then sit down and count the birds in your backyard!

November 22nd, Thursday, for one hour—any hour of your choosing! You may sit in the comfort of your house, or a special spot outdoors. Choose a center spot and expand it to a 15-foot circle which extends upward to form a cylinder. Count all birds that enter that area, but count the same bird only once. If a group enters several times, use the highest count for that species. To report your results, send to thanksgivingbirdcount@gmail.com …or you can report to Cricket at birdnerd@inlandwireless.com or 509-674-4035. Any questions you may have can also be answered by Cricket.

The Thanksgiving Bird Count was begun in the east in 1966 but did not have a western coordinator until 1992---so this is the West’s 21st anniversary. Last year 418 count reports from eleven western states were received. The Dark-eyed Junco rated tops for the fourth year out of five in several respects; it was most numerous (2,045), seen by the more than 50% of counters (59.1%), and was the only species seen in ten states (missed only in Nevada). The other species in the top ten in descending numbers were House Sparrow, House Finch, California Quail, Black-capped Chickadee, Mourning Dove, American Goldfinch, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, White-crowned Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.
New Study Finds Bird Ingestion of Plastics in US/Canadian North Pacific Among Highest in the World

The American Bird Conservancy (Washington, D.C., July 18, 2012) reports a new study by U.S. and Canadian scientists has found that seabirds may be eating much more plastic trash than they have in the past, and that seabirds studied off the coast of Washington State and British Columbia are ingesting plastic at rates that are “among the highest” in the world. The report, soon-to-be published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin, was authored by Stephanie Avery-Gomm of the University of British Columbia and five other researchers (see list at end of release). The study was carried out in 2009-2010 and involved the analysis of 67 Northern Fulmars that washed up dead on the shores between Long Beach, Washington, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Northern Fulmars, gull-like petrels related to albatrosses and shearwaters, are particularly suitable to study when considering trends in plastic pollution because they forage almost exclusively at sea, have vast ranges and because they will forage almost anything from the surface of the water. “The results are troubling. The large amount of plastic ingested by fulmars from the eastern North Pacific are approaching the high levels which have been documented previously in the historically polluted North Sea, where fulmars have been used as an indicator species of ocean health for decades. In addition, it is safe to say, based on earlier studies from the North Pacific, plastic ingestion in Northern Fulmars, and therefore plastic pollution, has increased in the North Pacific over the past forty years,” said Avery-Gomm. http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120718.html

“5 Gyres”

Check out this organization’s website. It’s called “5 Gyres”, which refers to the 5 subtropical ocean gyres, where garbage (primarily plastic) is concentrated by circulating ocean currents.

Vision

Our vision is to witness plastic pollution decline in the environment until it is no longer found in the world’s oceans.

Mission

Our mission is to conduct research and communicate about the global impact of plastic pollution in the world’s oceans and employ strategies to eliminate the accumulation of plastic pollution in the 5 subtropical gyres.

http://5gyres.org/

5 Gyres Institute
550 E Rustic Rd.
Santa Monica CA 90402

Visit the website, read about their work, join, receive email updates, donate, minimize your plastic usage, recycle!

http://5gyres.org/posts/2011/12/22/northern_fulmars_still_eating_plastic_in_the_north_sea
**Membership & other news!**

**GET “THE HOUNER” 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.

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**BECOME A KITTITAS AUDUBON MEMBER!!** (Or renew your membership)
Receive The Hooter ~ help support education and conservation activities and projects!

**Two options are available:**

**OPTION 1**: Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to the magazine, *Audubon*, membership in the local chapter (KAS), and KAS monthly newsletter, *THE HOOTER*

- Join as a new National Audubon member $20 (includes KAS membership)
- Renew a National Audubon membership $35

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society Include this form and mail to: Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235

Name ___________________________ Address __________________________________________

City _____________________________ State, ZIP _________________________________________

Chapter Code COZY220Z

**OPTION 2**: Membership in only the local chapter, KAS, includes the monthly newsletter, *THE HOOTER*

- Join the local Kittitas Audubon Society (KAS) chapter $20
- Renew your KAS membership $20
- Make a donation to KAS $______ (amount)

Make check payable to KAS and mail to: KAS, P.O. Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Address ___________________________ Cell ___________________________

City _____________________________ Email ___________________________

State, ZIP __________________________ Would you like to receive The Hooter electronically? Yes ____ No, prefer paper edition ____

May we print your name in The Hooter as a new, renewing, or donating member? Yes ____ No ____

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Kittitas Audubon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational society.
All memberships and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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

For membership information contact Membership Chair, Tuck Forsythe ~ forsythe@fairpoint.net

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**Check out BirdKitt!!**
Get the latest news on bird sightings in Kittitas County from our very own regional *BirdKitt*, an online "listserve" for all persons interested in bird sightings in Kittitas County. You can post your own sightings and sign on to have new postings sent directly to your email address.

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, contact Chris Caviezel chris.caviezel@gmail.com

This is a great resource for finding places to look for birds in the valley.
Upcoming KAS Field Trips

**November ~**

**3rd ~ Saturday ~ First Saturday Birdwalk, Rinehart Park.** Fall is in the air, and the first Bald Eagles are arriving. Juncos are back in the woods after a summer absence, and creepers and Pacific Wrens could be active. Jeb and Gloria Baldi lead; 933-1558 for info.

**22nd ~ Thursday ~ Thanksgiving Day Bird Count.** Count for one hour anytime during the day. See Page 5 for details.

**December ~**

**December 15th Saturday ~ Ellensburg’s 34th Christmas Bird Count and potluck.** Help count every bird in our 15-mile circle. More details will appear in the December Hooter, but *if you have never before participated and would like to—* or *if you have participated and cannot do it this year, please call Steve Moore at 933-1179 or Phil Mattocks at 962-2191.*

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**THANKS TO KITTITAS COUNTY BUSINESSES SUPPORTING KAS!**

**Inland Internet,** Roslyn, donates Internet service for our Website: [http://www.kittitasaudubon.org](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!

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

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*The Hooter - November 2012*  
The Newsletter of Kittitas Audubon - [http://www.kittitasaudubon.org](http://www.kittitasaudubon.org)