Picnic!

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK PICNIC

Thursday, August 15th
Come at 5:30 when the grills will fire up!

Where: 1831 Hanson Road ~ Hal and Gloria Lindstrom’s garden patio

**furnished by KAS:** Grilled hamburgers, buns, and the trimmings
**You bring the rest:** appetizers, salads, or desserts

Bring beverage of choice + plate, utensils, & cloth napkins for each person in your party

**PLEASE CALL 933-2558 TO INDICATE YOU WILL BE COMING!!**

Come join the fun ~ bring family & friends, relax and enjoy great food and a chance to talk with other members in the shade of the Lindstrom's beautiful garden patio.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Renew your KAS Membership!!!

The date on your mailing label should indicate your renewal date. If you feel this is not correct, please let us know when you last renewed and we will update the records. If you haven’t renewed in a while, please consider doing so since KAS depends on your support to continue our programs and education and conservation projects, as well as publishing and mailing The Hooter. Thanks for your continued support!

The mission of Kittitas Audubon is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds.
I hope you all have been able to get out and enjoy our avifauna. Deb Essman has led a couple of field trips for the Shrub-Steppe program and we have had some very productive First Saturday walks. I took my grandson on Deb’s Burrowing Owl trip and even though we didn’t see any owls, we saw plenty of shrub-steppe birds. But the thing he liked the best was the spectacular thunderstorm that hit just as we got home. He’s still talking about wading in the street.

I did attend the National Audubon Convention in Skamania County. It was expensive but I think it was important that we were represented. Over the course of the next few Hooters, I’ll pass along what I learned. Here is the first one:

After a day of field trips and workshops (I took the nature writing one), National Audubon’s President, David Yarnold, kicked off the meetings. When he was hired three years ago, he brought some new thinking to NAS: the first thing he did was to divide the country into four “flyways”. We all had a ribbon on our nametags that identified our flyway. One delegate from Alaska wore all four ribbons since they all start there. The delegate from Belize said she should have done the same, since they all end up there!

Yarnold said that Audubon has a “huge wingspan”. In Washington D.C. parlance, we are a conservation NGO, and our nearly 500 chapters and centers gives us a lot of clout. He mentioned some recent successes:

♦ We have helped develop guidelines on where to locate wind turbines.
♦ The RESTORE Act (The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunity, and Revived Economies) passed Congress last year. This insures that 80% of the penalties paid by BP for the Gulf oil spill will go to coastal restoration. Audubon representatives, lawyers, and lobbyists are actively working for this ruling and others that will follow.
♦ The BLM released its first-ever comprehensive management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, which includes Teshekpuk Lake and other critical wildlife areas. This plan protects nearly all of the places Audubon recommended, including the globally-significant Teshekpuk Lake Important Bird Area (IBA). Overall, the plan protects about half of the 23.5 million acre Reserve, while still allowing for the vast majority of the area’s oil to be accessed and developed.
June 1st First Saturday BirdWalk ~ Nice June morning with 10 birders. Other than seeing both Evening and Black-headed Grosbeaks, nothing really out of the ordinary. We saw a wide variety of 29 bird species including: Spotted Sandpiper, Cedar Waxwing, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, Western Wood Pewee, & Western Tanager.  
~ Tom Gauron

July 6th First Saturday BirdWalk ~ After five continuous days of 35 mph-plus winds, First Saturday BirdWalk occurred on a lovely day, that is, warm, sunny and no wind. Temperatures ranged from 65 to 80 degrees. Eight people, one a visitor from Florida, gathered to see birds. The park was rather quiet of people and dogs, giving birders a pleasant morning. Four different swallow species swooped for insects in the sky and above the river, which quite high. The Rough-winged and Tree Swallows appeared in good numbers, while Barn Swallows nested under the I-90 overpass where we spotted the heads of nestlings. Cedar Waxwing was the most common species over the river, both mature, in their colorful tailored feathers, and this year’s juveniles, which were a bit less ‘showy’.  It appears that the shorebirds are beginning to migrate south as we spied several Spotted Sandpipers. An added pleasure of the morning was an abundance of Western Tiger Swallowtail butterflies flitting over many of the wildflowers in bloom as we tallied 29 species of birds for the morning. Please join us August 3rd for the next First Saturday BirdWalk to find local birds. Gloria and Jeb will be the leaders.  
~ J&G

Other birds of note: Yellow Warbler, WW Pewee, Am Kestrel, Wilson’s Snipe, Osprey, V-G Swallow

June 29th Sage-Steppe to the Columbia ~  
This field trip was epic in so many ways. Nine of us started the day early with perfect birding weather—light overcast and a breeze; much nicer than the predicted heat. The years of birding experience among them was well over 200 years worth, and that’s conservatively guessing ~ humbling! Best of all was Jim Brigg’s grandson, Andrew, who, although a relatively new birder (he’s ten), was awesome. He was really into birds and amazing at spotting them (oh, to have young eyes again!). We first went north up Parke Creek and got into good birds right away (not that they aren’t all good). Everyone got excellent looks at a singing Lazuli Bunting through scopes, and Vesper Sparrows were everywhere. An exceptional Ash-throated Flycatcher was also very cooperative. We watched a beautiful Bullock’s Oriole male flying out from the cottonwoods into the sagebrush—must have been getting insects for growing chicks. Both Eastern and Western Kingbirds were present and it was nice to compare the two so closely.  

Next stop was along the old Vantage Highway to check on one of Steve and Jan’s bluebird nestboxes that they monitor. Both Mountain Bluebird parents were in attendance; the male was stunning! The resident Sage Thrashers sang for us and allowed scoped views for everyone. Jeb and Gloria shared stories of their help with Sage Thrasher research in the area. A Say’s Phoebe also gave us great looks.  

Further down the highway we stopped at Gingko State Park’s petrified trees interpretive trail. A beautiful male Lark Sparrow was “best bird” there. Just down the road we saw a Rock Wren high on a power pole. He sang his melodious, sometimes buzzy, repertoire over and over ~ cool bird. We got to Vantage just in time for lunch at Blustery’s. A Ring-billed Gull patrolled the parking lot. Our most incongruous find was American Kestrels that had nested in Blustery’s big Pepsi sign in front of the restaurant. During our lunch, we got to watch the parents bringing food to the chicks poking their heads out in front of the PEPSI logo. Last stop was Gingko State Park’s
Kestrels nesting!!!
The box is on the south end of our hay barn, facing an open field. In early May, I took the remnants of a starling nest out, and put about a half-inch of wood shavings in the box.

We had some kestrels in the area, but I didn’t think they seemed interested in the box. On May 29, when I checked the box, there were 3 eggs; 2 days later another egg was added. I check again in about a week ~ still 4 eggs, so from the last egg date, I estimated a June 30 hatch date. There were 4 chicks, when I checked the box July 1. I got pictures of them, a week old, and then at 2 weeks. I am estimating (from bird book info) that they will fledge about August 1.

~ Gerry Sorenson

President’s Message  (Continued from page 2)
Yarnold added that we still have multiple challenges, but we can be a powerful force in conservation — and in science. “Our Christmas Bird Count is the longest running animal census on the planet,” Yarnold said, adding that the Great Backyard Bird Count is making citizen science a year-round event. Yarnold was available throughout the conference and he even spoke to me. He led morning runs, but I and a couple dozen other early-risers elected to go on the guided bird walks.

The one pervasive theme in the conference was the seriousness of global climate change. Numerous workshops were dedicated to understanding and mitigating the impact on birds—and by extension, on the rest of us. I will report on some of these later.

See you in September. Jim Briggs

Field Trip reports (Continued from page 3)
interpretive center. Violet-green and Cliff Swallows soared along the cliffs below us.

The most epic part was yet to come, however. On the way home, after turning onto the Brick Mill Road with Diane and Tom in my Jeep, we saw a black wall of water in front of us. We drove into the worst monsoon rain/hail I have ever experienced. Tom kept me focused on the almost impossible-to-see centerline and out of the ditch. Not an easy task above the incredible din of the hail on the roof. We made it back to my house safely, got inside, and waited out the storm. An inch of rain in less than 30 minutes!!! What an end to a great day! Altogether we had 44 species, not bad for half a day’s birding!

Other birds of note: Horned Lark, Wilson’s Snipe, Common Nighthawk, Spotted Towhee.

~ Deb Essman, leader
Summer Babies

All kinds of fledglings appear in July. Suddenly there is an abundance of birds at familiar locations visited early in the day. Often the baby chicks make good photo subjects as many will stay put on a perch for an interval of time, waiting for a parent to bring food. Chick plus adult caught in the act of feeding can be a photographic coup for the patient or the lucky. (I tend to be the latter.) Sometimes the right photo is the best way to ID the young bird, as their field marks are different from adults, and they often appear fluffy with plumage akimbo.

~ Steve Moore

After the fire... a year later....

A recent photo showing renewal of native vegetation after last year’s fires ~ taken along Reecer Creek Road. Notice the burned skeletons of small sagebrush bushes and the totally charred ground underneath.

~ submitted by Marianne Gordon
DONATION TO ELLENSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY!!!

Last May, the Kittitas Audubon program featured David James, co-author of LIFE HISTORIES OF CASCADIA BUTTERFLIES. The book is an excellent reference for all the Washington State butterflies with accompanying pictures from eggs to caterpillar to chrysalis. If you want to know what butterfly is in your garden, or on a hike to a mountain top, stop at the library to check out the book, because Kittitas Audubon donated a copy for your use, as well as all Kittitas County residents. Please use it and enjoy the beauty of these flitting creatures.

Here’s one fine example of what lies within the pages of this new book:

Life history of the Coronis fritillary (Argynnis coronis)

Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2013

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the fourth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This family event combines free activities in Pateros Memorial Park with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. The festival takes place in Pateros Memorial Park and will have vendors, live raptors, birding field trips and projects for kids. The trip to and from Chelan Ridge lasts 4 hours and includes seeing raptors as they are banded and released. Pre-registration is required.

More information and on-line registration will be available beginning June 15th at www.ncwaudubon.org.

Pateros, WA (City Park), Saturday, September 14, 2013; 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer at Chelan Ridge with Northern Goshawk (2011 when 4 KAS members were here!)
BECOME A KITTITAS AUDUBON MEMBER!!  (Or renew your membership)
Receive The Hooter ~ help support education and conservation activities and projects!

**Two options** are available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION 1: Membership in National Audubon includes a subscription to the magazine, <em>Audubon</em>, membership in the local chapter (KAS), and KAS monthly newsletter, <em>THE HOOTER</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ Join as a new National Audubon member $20 (includes KAS membership)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ Renew a National Audubon membership $35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION 2: Membership in only the local chapter, KAS, includes the monthly newsletter, <em>THE HOOTER</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ Join the local Kittitas Audubon Society (KAS) chapter $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ Renew your KAS membership $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ Make a donation to KAS $_____ (amount)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Name ___________________________  Phone ___________________________  
Address _______________________________  Cell ___________________________  
City _________________________________  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 ____  

Would you be interested in occasional email notices regarding Audubon-related news?  Yes____  No____

---

**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](http://Kittitasaudubon.org).

For membership information contact Membership Chair, Tuck Forsythe ~ forsythe@fairpoint.net.
Upcoming KAS Field Trips

**August**

3rd ~ Saturday ~ **First Saturday Bird Walk, Rinehart Park.** Escape the heat of Ellensburg dog days in the shade of our riverside cottonwood groves. Chicks are out of the nest and summer birds are preparing to pack up for a trip south. Migrating warblers and a tanager are possibilities; a few waterfowl and raptors always put in an appearance. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at 8 AM. Jeb and Gloria Baldi lead: 933-1558 for info.

25th ~ **Sunday** ~ **Wenas Lake.** Wenas Lake mudflats will be the main focus to look for migrating shorebirds, and brush-loving species upstream of the lake. Rubber boots might be handy. On the way back, a stop at Hardy Canyon Meadows to check late summer activity, and Observatory Road to scout woodpeckers, bluebirds and others in open pine forest habitat. Call Steve Moore by Friday: 509-933-1179. **Please note this is a Sunday trip.**

**September**

7th ~ **Saturday ~ First Saturday Birdwalk, Rinehart Park.** Turkey Vultures, Wood-pewees, and vireos are preparing to leave – “…see ya next spring”. Waxwings and a few warblers passing through. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at 8 AM. Jeb and Gloria Baldi lead; 933-1558 for info.

---

**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!*

---

Kittitas Audubon
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926

---

The Hooter - August 2013
The Newsletter of Kittitas Audubon - [http://www.kittitasaudubon.org](http://www.kittitasaudubon.org)