



# The Hooter

Kittitas Audubon

September 2014

**"Crows & Crow Funerals"** presented by Kaeli Swift

Membership Meeting - Thursday, September 18th @ 7:00 PM ~ Hal Holmes Center

Crows are uniquely accessible, and offer a wealth of opportunities to connect people of all interests and backgrounds to science. So do Crows mourn a deceased member of their species? It has been widely observed that crows perform ritualistic funeral behaviors? But what does it mean when they discover a dead member of their own species? People tend to anthropomorphize the behaviors of animals; the scientist must conduct field experiments to separate personal feelings about animals. Join KAS to hear Kaeli explain her research methods, tools and results, as well as, answer your crow questions.

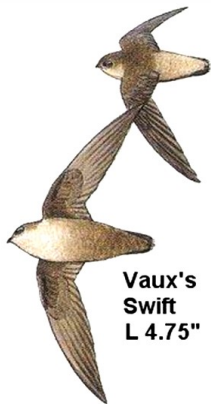
Kaeli Swift is currently a graduate student at the University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Services. Her research interests are studying cooperative behaviors and relationship dynamics in crows and other social birds. Under the direction of Dr. John Marzluff, who is known for his extensive research with crows, Kaeli believes studies that provide bridges from humans to other animals are critical to fostering a culture that respects and protects the natural world. And.....she just enjoys working with crows!



**Gifts of the Crow**, a book by John Marzluff and Tony Angell, may be available for purchase.

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. Please come and meet with us. A brief business session precedes the program. Stay afterwards for juice, treats, and conversation. Thanks to the Ellensburg Public Library for sponsoring our meetings here!

**Vaux's Swifts** - 288 Roosters Mon Aug 25, 2014 9:25 pm (PDT). Posted by: Chirp, (on BirdYak) ~ Nice night so I decided to check the chimney at Johnson's Auto Glass on First Street (Yakima) for swift activity. Spotted first two over the Larson Bldg at 7:40 pm. By 7:54, the loose flock exceeded 100. Shortly thereafter, the flock tightened several times and grew to an estimated 300. They definitely were eying the Johnson's chimney though occasionally the group loosened and drifted in and out of sight. At 8:16, a group of 135 dove into the stack and were closely followed by another 135. Stragglers over the next couple of minutes boosted the count to 288 for the night. Sunset was 7:55 pm tonight so there seems to be a pattern on nice evenings to make the plunge 15 to 20 minutes after sunset. ~ An adult Peregrine Falcon was perched atop the east face of the Larson Building around 7:40 pm but moved minutes later to the south face. Perhaps "Lars" enjoys watching the funneling swifts from a lofty perch.



Vaux's  
Swift  
L 4.75"

And if you wonder what it is like to be inside a four-foot square brick chimney with hundreds of feathered friends, check out the link below...after sunset is best. Larry had a camera installed looking down into the roost chimney in Monroe, WA. It works most nights and right now is showing dozens of preening birds. <http://wildearth.tv/cam/vauxs-swifts> Later, Rich

(Ed. ~ The new swift chimney in Ellensburg is still a possibility. Watch for updates in the October issue of The Hooter.)

\* Great Horned Owl painting by Julia B. Babb, [www.covehousestudios.com](http://www.covehousestudios.com)

**KAS BOARD MEMBERS**

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\*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!***

***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](mailto: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.***

**THE AUGUST SUMMER SOCIAL**

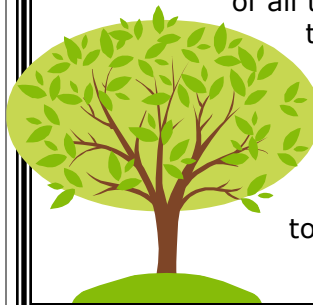
Under the spreading locust tree, thirty-nine bird enthusiasts enjoyed an evening of yummy

food.....from salads and hamburgers to delightful desserts, as conversation flowed. Blue 'thank you' ribbons were awarded to Jim Briggs for handling the presidential duties for the past two years, and to Jason Scribner for being a 'man of all trades' when needed, as well as leading the new project of a Birding Trail on WA Department of Fish and Wildlife lands in the Parke Creek area. A third blue ribbon was

given to Christi Norman from Wash-

ington Audubon. Christi has led the development of all the Washington Birding Trail maps throughout the past years and is now gearing up the eastern Washington Audubon Chapters for the Sagebrush Songbird Survey beginning next spring. Christi elaborated on the project and you will be hearing more prior to its implementation.

A delicious evening!

**Visiting with Raptors: Fifth Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival**

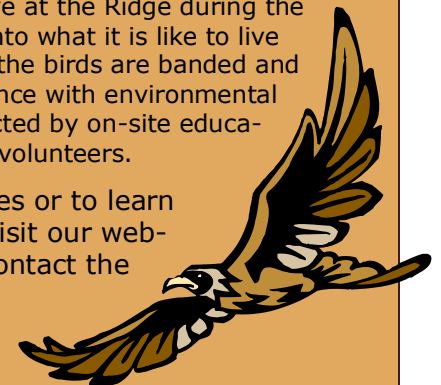
***Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington, on September 13th, from 8 am to 3 pm***

Children's activities, hands-on science with owl pellets, live wild birds, optics displays, books, field guides

You will get to visit vendors, see raptor demonstrations, listen to live music, and take a trip to the spectacular Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Site. During the day, shuttles will run from Pateros to Chelan Ridge where visitors can see raptors such as Cooper's Hawk up close when they are banded and released.

Chelan Ridge sits 5675 feet above sea level along the flyway of migrating raptors. Biologists who live at the Ridge during the migration season will offer insight into what it is like to live and breathe raptors and show how the birds are banded and tracked. This is an amazing experience with environmental education and interpretation conducted by on-site educators, Forest Service personnel, and volunteers.

To sign up for any of the activities or to learn more about the festival please visit our website: [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org) or contact the director: Richard Scranton at [rscran4350@yahoo.com](mailto:rscran4350@yahoo.com).





**AUGUST Photo Quiz:** Who Am I? Dept. *Answer:* Everything fits **Pacific Slope Flycatcher** except the loud, single-note "peek" call. We figure it was a juvenile bird with calls specific to arousing the attention of parents - but that's just a guess!) -Ed.

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



Thanks to  **Renewing Members!!!**

Mark Benedict & Mary Shaw

Sally Patton & Mick Little

**BECOME A KITTITAS AUDUBON MEMBER!! (Or renew your membership)**

Receive The Hooter ~ help support education and conservation activities and projects!



Darling Bird Studios, ©2007 UNA

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?**

**May we print your name in The Hooter as a new, renewing, or donating member?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_      Yes \_\_\_ No, prefer paper edition \_\_\_

*Kittitas Audubon is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.*

**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](mailto:forsythe@fairpoint.net)

See The Hooter in **COLOR** on our website ~ <http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>

## Upcoming KAS Field Trips



Hope you can  
make it to a *First  
Saturday BirdWalk*  
this fall! Fall field trips begin  
Sept. 6th.

**13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday ~ Red Top & Raptor Migration time.** Let's hope for an ideal northeast wind to bring a few migrating hawks into view from the top of Teanaway Ridge. Otherwise, we'll collect bird sightings in the woods on the drive up and the half-mile (moderate) hike to the lookout. Call Steve, 933-1179, for meeting details.

### September

**6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Rinehart Park.** Fall migration is in progress. We'll take a look at the Reecer Creek mudflats for shorebirds passing through. 2 to 3 hour walk around the park's trails. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside bridge parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at **8 AM**. Jeb and Gloria Baldi lead; 933-1558 for info.

### October

**4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Rinehart Park.** It's the tail end of the migrant songbirds of summer, but a perfect day for fall-lovers. Crisp weather, leaves fading, ducks arriving, hawks moving. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside bridge parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at **8 AM**. Gloria and Jeb 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>

**Old Mill Country Store**, Ellensburg ~ Provides a discount on bird seed to members and prints our county bird lists. Get your bird seed here!

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



"The Peach Queen and the Sparrow"

From a children's book entitled Original Christmas Stories published by Baldwin the Clothier in 1873 as gifts for their patrons.

## *The Hooter ~ September 2014*

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