East Sand Island is at the mouth of the Columbia River and has been recently in the news because of the Corps of Engineers’ project to shoot Double-crested Cormorants to preserve migrating salmon fingerlings. However, cormorants are not the only species eating the fingerlings, and speaker Dennis Dauble will provide a brief history of additional fish-eating birds in the region, including 19th century naturalist accounts. His presentation will discuss the implications of bird predation to current salmon recovery efforts, and then describe the goal of the recent controversial “bird removal” program.

Dennis Dauble received his PHD in Fisheries from Oregon State University, and retired from a 35-year career as a fisheries scientist and manager with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland. Currently, he teaches courses on Fish Ecology and the Biology and Management of Fishes at the Tri-Cities branch campus of WSU. Among other diversions, he is a member of Washington Humanities Speakers Bureau, and is on the Monitoring Panel for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for the State of Washington. His interest in avian issues is constantly fueled by his 91-year old mother, Priscilla, who has over 700 birds on her life list.

Dennis’ first book, *Fishes of the Columbia Basin*, has received an award of excellence from the Northwest Outdoors Writers Association with fishermen claiming it should be in every tackle box. If you are a birder or a fisherman, your knowledge will be expanded by what Dennis has to present.

**November 19th Program:** Mark your calendar for Justin Gibbens and the Influence of Birds on his Art.
September 2015 meeting discussions:

1. Possible influence of wild fires to the north on the numbers of birds being spotted.

2. Improving our digital presence for better communication to members. Facebook is being explored.

3. Transfer of the KAS donation from The Trumpeter Swan Society to The Northwest Swan Conservation Association

4. Possible Field Trips. (As a member, do you have a favorite birding spot? Contact Steve Moore!)

5. Membership: The number of printed Hooters is decreasing. How do we encourage new membership?

6. Barry Brunson, Chair of the Climate Change Committee, is to give a presentation to Washington Audubon at ACOW (Audubon Conference of Washington) on October 24th in Mt Vernon. The Committee also met with the Firewise Coordinator at the Kittitas County Conservation District.

7. On December 1st at 7:00 pm, KAS will give the Science & a Pint presentation at Cornerstone Pie. The subject will be about endangered bird species: problems and successes, given by Steve Moore and Jan Demorest.

8. Because of problems with location and funding, the Vaux Swift Chimney project has been suspended.

9. Because the Sagebrush Songbird Survey Site selection was rushed in the spring, it is being done this fall.

10. The ESRI company, makers of ArcGIS mapping program which is being used by National Audubon, will be sending a film crew to Washington the week of Sept. 20th. Interviews may be requested.

11. KAS voted to join with the Our Environment group in their proposal to the City of Ellensburg for the ban on plastic bags. Plastic bags are lethal to water birds when ingested.

12. Old Audubon Magazine volumes donated to KAS will be donated to the Ellensburg Public Library.
First Saturday BirdWalk (Rodeo Weekend) ~

September's BirdWalk always competes against Ellensburg's Rodeo parade and this year the parade won. Only yours truly and spouse Diane attended the BirdWalk. Not so for the birds. We think the fires up north may have brought larger numbers to this little deciduous forest along the Yakima River. With only 2 pairs of eyes, we saw twenty species as follows:

- American Crow
- Tree Swallow (in large numbers)
- Townsend’s Warbler
- Western Wood Peewee
- European Starling
- Downy Woodpeckers
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Black-billed Magpie
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Warbling Vireo
- House Finch
- Yellow Warbler
- Chipping Sparrow
- Common Raven
- American Robin
- House Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Turkey Vulture

~ Tom Gauron

In Memory of Don Knoke

Don Knoke, a longtime member of Kittitas Audubon, was 95 when he passed away in August 2015. Even though he had decades behind him, he was one we believed would survive many more years. Each day he would hike from his log home in Thorp, over the Yakima River and uphill to Highway 10, continuing up Hayward Hill two to three miles with his dog as his companion. On these hikes, he was always recording flower species, noting the stage of bloom, as well as the bird species seen. Don was an excellent birder, but he was an outstanding botanist, and he will best be remembered as eastern Washington’s native plant specialist. In fact, he discovered a new species of “desert parsley” which has been named for him, Lomatium knokeii. Summers were spent collecting plant specimens, and winters at UW volunteering to catalog his finds. The UW Herbarium is richer for Don’s dedication.

Don graduated from UW in the field of chemistry, but needing additional credits, he took a native plant botany course from Professor C. Leo Hitchcock, well-known botanist. It was during this time that he also met Ruth, his wife-to-be. Upon completion at UW, Don became a Navy pilot in WWII, and after the war, returned home to farm the family homestead as the fourth generation farmer. But plants were his passion, and he was very active in every aspect of the Washington Native Plant Society. Any botanist in the Northwest is sure to know the name of Don Knoke, and the legacy he leaves behind.

He and Ruth had four children, including KAS member Noel Knoke, along with 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held October 29th at 3:00 pm at the Mercer Creek Church in Ellensburg.
**THE “CHI-CA-GO” BIRD**

My next door neighbor has a brood of California Quail in her yard which we have been watching for several days. They seem to be thriving, accompanied by a pair of adults and apparently roost under a garden shed in the yard, even surviving regular mowing.

This got me wondering about the survival strategy they are incorporating. It is fairly well known that the Northern Bobwhite of Central and Eastern United States is seriously declining (due to decreased agricultural activity), yet the California birds are increasing. The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology publication, *All About Birds*, reports that the North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates that their population has increased by 1.8 percent from 1966 through 2010. It is not even listed as a bird of concern in the National Audubon Society study on climate change.

I have to wonder if the success of this bird is because it seems to have adapted to a suburban environment. Think about it. What are the potential predators? A few cats and crows, along with a Coopers Hawk now and then; that is about it. In our neighborhood the yards are separated by high board fences, thus keeping dogs out and making any cat scaling the fence highly visible.

There is a lot of cover from the 15 to 20 year old landscape plantings and many homeowners have feeders. Now if we revert to native plantings, like National Audubon is suggesting for climate change mitigation, these birds should be very content.

And every spring we can look forward to “Chi-ca-go” from the male with the antiphonal reply by the female. Followed, hopefully by a few cheeps 22 to 23 days later.

~ Jim Briggs (August)

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**Greater Sage-Grouse Not Listed**

The long awaited announcement of the listing of Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act has been made and it’s a no-go. There is a lot of discussion on why it happened and what it means and that will be reviewed in the next newsletter. For now we are encouraged not to lose hope because the existence of the Endangered Species Act is working to encourage would-be agricultural, mineral, and energy users to consider the sagebrush habitat in their planning; the gains they have made may have contributed to the decision of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

~ Jim Briggs

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The Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) is an annual state-wide meeting where members from all Audubon Chapters in Washington gather together for a day of information sharing, knowledge gathering, and fellowship. This year’s meeting will focus on state and federal level policy actions around Audubon’s climate initiative, as well as showcase chapter work being done to educate communities about the impact of climate change on birds. **Date**: October 24, 2015

**Info/registration**: [http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings](http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings)
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At the beginning of each month, we’ll send you an email with a quick link to the new Hooter.

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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

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_____ 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

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Chapter Code COZY220Z

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

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_____ 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 _________________________________
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Would you like to receive The Hooter electronically?  Yes ____  No, prefer paper edition ____

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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.

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

See The Hooter in COLOR on our website ~ http://www.kittitasaudubon.org
KAS & Related Events Calendar

OCTOBER

3rd, Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Irene Rinehart Park ~ Cool morning, sun warming, river flowing, birds leaving (passing through), ducks arriving. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at 8 AM. Gloria & Jeb lead; 933-1179 for info.

3rd, Saturday ~ 4:00 PM Movie Showing at Ellensburg Film Festival: “The Sagebrush Sea” at The Elmira, corner of 4th and Pearl. This PBS film highlights our sage country and the wildlife and plants that depend on its survival.

24th, Saturday ~ ACOW meeting, Mt Vernon (see page 4 for details) ~ Our own Climate Change committee members will be giving a presentation on getting the word out about how climate change affects birds.

25th, Sunday ~ ACOW Field Trips, northwest Washington. Two trips following the Audubon Council meeting in Mt. Vernon, Washington will be led by Skagit Audubon. Destinations are Washington State Park at Anacortes and Deception Pass for good looks at sea and shore birds. To RSVP, visit site: http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings

November

7th ~ Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Rinehart Park. Fall is in the air. Eagles and a few waterfowl are coming, woodpeckers are hungry, leaves are coloring up, and the frost is on the pumpkin. Meet at the Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off of Umptanum Rd at 8 AM. Leader TBA, 933-1179 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 KAS members.

Get your bird seed here!