Join us for a fascinating presentation on the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), a solitary animal, and the largest land-dwelling species of the weasel family, Mustelidae. Being a stocky and muscular carnivore, the wolverine more closely resembles a small bear than other mustelids, and is known for its strength and ferocity. It has a circumpolar distribution that corresponds with the boreal zone of the northern hemisphere, occurring throughout arctic and subarctic regions and boreal forests of Eurasia and western North America. Current wolverine records in the contiguous United States indicate that its range is limited to north-central Washington, northern and central Idaho, western Montana, northwestern Wyoming, and Oregon.

Aja Woodrow received his B.S. from Evergreen State College, and an M.S. from CWU. He has done extensive field work with birds, from shrub-obligate birds to forest and tropical birds. However, since 2008 he has been on the search for forest carnivores (marten, black bear, and ghost bear), with a focus on the wolverine beginning in 2013. He will speak to the historic, current, and predicted future distribution of wolverines in Washington, as well as the methods used to collect data related to this secretive animal.

Come join us for an informative and enjoyable evening! Bring a friend or family member! See you there!

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.

Many thanks to the Ellensburg Public Library for sponsoring our meetings here!

Coming in March!

Plan to join Kittitas Audubon for our March 17th program when Audubon Washington will present conservation photographer Dave Showalter’s with his visual tour through the most iconic and most imperiled landscape in the American West. With his vivid imagery, travel through the heart of the sagebrush sea and encounter rare birds. Dave’s talk will also help people understand the plight of the threatened sage grouse, and some of the complex issues facing public lands.
The Hooter

Send in your stories & photos!
The Hooter is the newsletter of Kittitas Audubon, published monthly except for July.

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.

KAS BOARD MEMBERS
President – Tom Gauron 968-3175
Vice President – Judy Hallisey 270-792-9188
Secretary – Jim Briggs 933-2231
Treasurer – Sharon Lumsden 968-3889
Conservation Board members:
Education – Judy Hallisey 674-6858
Field Trips – Steve Moore 933-1179
Historian – Gloria Lindstrom 925-1807
Programs – Jeb Baldi 933-1558
Publicity – Gerry Sorenson 968-4857
Scholarship – Gloria Baldi 933-1558
Climate Change – Barry Brunson 270-792-9186
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*Newsletter – Jan Demorest 933-1179
*Membership – Tuck Forsythe 925-2356
*Wildlife Habitat – Joe Meuchel 933-3011
*Bluebird boxes – Jan Demorest 933-1179
*Social Greeter – Kay Forsythe 925-2356
*Christmas Bird Count – Phil Mattocks 899-3370
*non-voting members

KAS Board Meetings are held at 4:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month in the PUD meeting room, 1400 Vantage Highway. 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!

Board Notes
by Gloria Baldi

From the January 7th meeting:

✦ Minutes and Treasurer’s report were approved.
✦ An additional $2500 is being deposited with CWU Foundation for a balance of $5000 for two CWU scholarships from KAS to biology and/or natural resource management applicants.
✦ Programs were announced by Jeb.
✦ Nature of Night volunteers were thanked (Judy Hallisey, Diane Gauron, Gloria Baldi)
✦ Judy Hallisey reported on her Native Plant Conference in Philadelphia, and she is preparing a local native plant database. The goal is to have people use natives to create the world’s largest bird sanctuary......so important as the country urbanizes and birds suffer from climate change. A CWU student is helping with graphics.
✦ Tom Gauron has Barn Owl boxes to give away.
✦ KAS donated $600 to the Ellensburg Public Library for chairs.
✦ The recycling issue in Ellensburg is being explored.
✦ Cricket Webb is volunteering to lead a photo group for information, with field trips, and culminating in a photo contest with prize offered.

Join us on February 4th at the PUD building across from the KXLE radio station at 4:30.

The mission of Kittitas Audubon is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds.
Family fun is yours during the **Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 12-15**. National Audubon Society and Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology sponsor this annual count. Find family bird videos and photo contest info at the official site [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). You may also submit your own list and watch numbers roll in from across the continent.

The website [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) will provide instructions on how to do the count. It’s simple and easy—you can do as little as 15 minutes!

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**January 2nd was the First Saturday BirdWalk of 2016**............which began with a breakfast at the Bar 14 at 8:00 am. Seven of us gathered for eggs and pancakes, but only four were willing to trudge through 10-12 inches of snow in 16-degree cold gray weather searching for birds, with just Tuck and I trekking the entire BirdWalk area.

We lingered after Gloria Baldi and Tom Gauron returned to the trailhead. For our patience, we were rewarded with a Black-billed Magpie flying overhead, and about 200 Canada Geese on the upper lake, a Dark-eyed Junco fluffed up in the cold, a Downy Woodpecker, and some Bald Eagles. The treat of the day was seen halfway back to the parking lot when we looked straight down to the river gravels below us and saw a brown bird with beautiful, prominent stripes down its back. It is the only bird in the book with this feature: Wilson’s Snipe. It finally flew to another gravel spot 40 feet away. Then a Song Sparrow arrived, to disappear in the branches of the riverside foliage. Also seen on the bird walk were Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Red-tailed Hawk, Mallards, California Quail, House Finch and House Sparrow. With the day so cold, ice floes in the big eddy of the river created mesmerizing circles. Nice bird walk.

~ Kay and Tuck Forsythe

On January 25th, Sharon Lumsden reported:

“Last month we saw only 2 Common Redpolls, a male and female, and wished the rest of the flock would show up, since they commonly travel in large groups. Our wish came true! Helping themselves to Niger Thistle seed and sunbathing.”

---

**The Whistler...**

**Did you know** that Whistler, BC was named after a groundhog of sorts? Groundhogs are a species of marmot otherwise known as a “whistle pigs”. They are so named because of the high-pitched call they produce when danger appears. The species of whistle pig found in the Washington mountains and into Western Canada is the Hoary Marmot. It is this species that can lay claim to the naming rights of Whistler, BC. In 2009, the Alaska State Legislature passed a bill Honoring the Alaskan marmot. This bill made February 2nd Alaska Marmot Day. The day honors this wonderful whistle pig in celebrations across the state.

(And also Groundhogs Day in the USA ~ will he/did see his shadow???)
Birding Hotspots near you

The eBird website tallies how many species have been observed at the most popular sites ("hotspots") around Kittitas County (and for any other county in the U. S.). The observations have been submitted by birders that enter their birding lists on the eBird site. Many of these places are familiar to KAS birders, but the ranking by species totals is a novel way to look at the locations. Here are the top 20, with numbers of total bird species.

Incidentally, the last ones on the list just about equal our species numbers (125) for First Saturday BirdWalks at Irene Rinehart park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wanapum State Park</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ginkgo State Park – Overlook</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Northern Pacific Railroad Ponds</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Umtanum Road</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Umtanum Creek</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Robinson Canyon</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Quilomene Wildlife/Vantage Hwy</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reecer Creek</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Getty's Cove</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kittitas</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Teanaway River Bridge</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ginkgo State Park -- Boat Ramp</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Yakima Canyon</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Snoqualmie Pass</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Teanaway River Basin</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Huntzinger Road</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Vantage -- Boat Ramp/Marina</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ringer Loop WDFW</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Colockum Pass</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Liberty Area</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electronics!  New version of a great App for those who are, or are becoming, electronically adept. Download from iBird, Amazon, and other websites to mobile phone (Apple or Android) or tablet and carry with you in the field for instant access to data that will assist in identification:

- Range maps
- Detailed illustrations
- Vocalizations (songs, calls)
- Descriptions of habitat, behavior, nesting, migration, plumage
- Access to chat with other birders for help with ID

Note: Good practice in finding birds: minimize the use of recorded bird calls and songs - this disrupts bird’s daily lives and forces them to expend extra energy in investigating the “intruder”.

Bird News:  eBird.org
On January 28th, Sharon Lumsden reported another bird “encounter”:

“Today this Northern Pygmy Owl decided to get itself caught inside our garage. Note the rear view of "eye pattern" on its nape. After releasing, it flew off to rest in a nearby pine tree and allowed me a few more shots.”

The Lumsdens live in the NE corner of the valley in shrub steppe near the pine forest, so they are literally living in the owl’s habitat. Note the proper use of heavy leather gloves when handling raptors, even small ones have sharp claws and beaks!

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**Olympic Birdfest 2016: April 15—17, Sequim, WA**


**Audubon Birds Pro:**

**A Field Guide to North American Birds**

Here’s another app that will boost your “in-the-field” birding skills. This one is FREE from National Audubon, Android App Store, Google Play Store, and Amazon.

It’s like having a full-size field guide in your front pocket that only weighs a few ounces!

Note: Good practice in finding birds: minimize the use of recorded bird calls and songs - this disrupts bird’s daily lives and forces them to expend extra energy in investigating the “intruder.”
A poem, in response to this statement and the Malheur NWR seizure:

~ written by Pepper Trail, conservation chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Oregon

“This refuge, from its very inception, has been a tool of tyranny”

~ Ammon Bundy, leader of the armed seizure of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, January 2016

The tyranny of cranes, stalking the marsh edge, their rust-red colts gangling behind
The tyranny of warblers, feathers flashing through the leaves in early spring
The tyranny of pronghorn, trying their speed across the unfenced plain
The tyranny of sage grouse, their ancient dance of boom and strut
The tyranny of winter geese, their numbers doubling the blizzard
The tyranny of solitude, the playa echoing the silent moon
The tyranny of butterflies, gliding above the rabbitbrush
The tyranny of desert trout, sheltering in willow shade
The tyranny of water, free of pump and ditch
The tyranny of land, free of sheep and cow

The tyranny of refuge

~ With hopes for a quick and peaceful end
to this occupation ~

Pepper Trail ~ January 11, 2016

News Update:
As of February 1st, 2016: Leaders of the armed occupation of the Malheur NWR were arrested on January 26th; they remain in jail in Portland; a few of the occupiers remain at the Refuge headquarters saying they will leave if they are not arrested as they do so. A number of the armed occupiers have fled through the fields behind the Refuge, disturbing pregnant cows and intimidating local ranchers.
GET “THE HOOTER” ONLINE

Save paper, printing, postage. If you would prefer to receive the electronic version, send your name, mailing address, & email address to:

bobcat@kvalley.com

At the beginning of each month, we’ll send you an email with a quick link to the new Hooter.

Welcome New Members!
Thanks for renewing!

Micki Lori Akers
Keith & Karen Johnson
Kay & Tuck Forsythe

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 ____

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
Field Trips

February

6th, Saturday ~ First Saturday Bird Walk, Irene Rinehart Park. Meet 8 AM at Rinehart parking lot at the river's edge by the bridge. Birds in season are waterfowl, early-returning blackbirds and robins, and riparian residents. Roadways are clear of snow; trails are packed snow, for which traction soles and hiking poles might be helpful. Steve & Jan lead: 933-1179

12th - 15th, Friday to Monday ~ GBBC ~ Great Backyard Bird Count: see page 3 for details. Count birds wherever you are or wherever you are going, for 20 minutes or 2 hours or... Join the many others who will participate; submit your data online and then see results from all around the country. It's easy! It's fun!

21st, SUNDAY ~ Columbia Basin Waterholes. Hoping for a mid-winter mild spell, possible stops are Vantage, Ginkgo, Lower Crab Creek, Othello ponds, Scootenay reservoir, Columbia Seeps and Potholes, for an all-day trip. Looking for flocks of wintering waterfowl but brushy areas will hold songbirds to fill out the day. ♦ Note that this is a Sunday trip. Steve & Jan lead; call 933-1179 for meeting details.

March

5th, Saturday ~ First Saturday Bird Walk, Irene Rinehart Park. Meet at 8 AM at Irene Rinehart parking lot by the river for a 3-hour walk. Incipient spring weather may bring vocal wrens, nesting Redtails, and maybe a swallow.

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! Also funds printing of county bird lists.