Membership Meeting - Thursday, April 20th, 2017

“The Rarest Wildcat in Washington State”

presented by Benjamin Maletzke WDFW

7:00 PM at Hal Holmes Center next to the library ~ 209 Ruby Street

The elusive Canada Lynx is the rarest wild cat in Washington State and it is currently facing some difficult challenges to its existence here. Due to recent wildfires creating large scale habitat alterations, and potential threats from climate change, lynx were recently up-listed to endangered species status by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Come find out about the ecology of lynx, where they are found, and their current status in Washington.

Presenter Ben Maletzke has been a Wildlife Biologist for 10 years with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conducting research on black bear, cougar, lynx, and wolves. Prior to that, he completed his MS degree from WSU studying habitat characteristics of lynx in North Central Washington, and a PhD from WSU researching the effects of hunting on cougar spatial organization (come find out what this means!).

(photos by Ben Maletzke)
Congratulations were given to Board member Norm Peck for his selection representing KAS on the WA State Hydraulic Citizen Advisory Committee.

Both Board Minutes and Treasurer’s Reports were approved.

The membership drive recently put in place indicates it has been very successful in raising funds and adding new members. Thank you to all who responded!

Kittitas Audubon’s native plant brochure compiled by Judy Hallisey is now on the KAS website.

Since KAS purchased the film, The Messenger, it is available for members to borrow for private viewing. Contact Diane Gauron.

Comment period for the introduction of Grizzly Bears into the North Cascades is open until April 28th. Web site: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=77025

Discussion ensued regarding an art contest and possible uses of designing a new KAS logo, maybe for KAS’s 30th anniversary next fiscal year.

KAS is participating in the Home Show at the Event Center ~ Barry Brunson leading, assisted by Meghan Anderson, Jan Demorest and Jim Briggs.

KAS is participating with a table at the Othello Crane Festival with volunteers Barry Brunson, Judy Hallisey, Jim Briggs, Tom and Diane Gauron.

KAS was co-sponsor to a Solar Power Happy Hour at Iron Horse Brewery to educate people about solar power.

Meghan Anderson has developed a brochure on devices to prevent birds from being trapped in vent pipes at outdoor toilet facilities.

A nominating committee of Norm Peck, Gloria Baldi and Sharon Lumsden was formed to locate people for officers for the coming year in KAS.

The mission of Kittitas Audubon is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds.
March 4 ~ First Saturday Birdwalk, Rinehart Park ~ 12 participants appreciated a sunny day that gave views of 24 species, with a foot of old snow still on the ground. The Downy Woodpeckers are starting to pair up, and invisible Bewick’s Wrens are calling from the trees. We saw many Red-tailed Hawks, perched and flying, and 3 immature Bald Eagles. Ring-necked Ducks were in the Reecer Creek wetland rather than the ponds, amid the noisy male Red-winged Blackbirds that are staking out territories. Song Sparrows, Stellar’s Jays, Mallards, Canada Geese, a few juncos and chickadees, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and maybe an early House Wren were sighted, but no warblers yet. A visual treat was seeing a River Otter in the wetland being “shoved away” by several Mallards, which skittered away quickly when the otter dove, then reappeared running across the dike. Only then were we sure that what we saw wasn’t a muskrat! ~ Steve Moore

Varied Thrush
in Cle Elum 3-7-17
Photo by Roy Cook

Did you know that the CWU Wildcat mascot is a lynx? Recently in the Daily Record’s issue about CWU celebrating 125 years, the following was written for 1951-53.

“A live lynx named Tuffy was the official mascot, loaned by a Cle Elum business for sporting events. When Tuffy was at a game, Central won. When a fire burned the Cle Elum business, the Student Government Association took over Tuffy’s care. In fall 1952, Tuffy escaped, hid in shrubbery and was found just in time for the game. After that, Tuffy found a home at the Seattle Woodland Park Zoo to live out the rest of his days.”

With today’s wildlife protective laws in place, Tuffy’s situation would never have occurred. ~ Gloria Baldi
On March 1st, four members, Jerry Scoville, Jan Demorest, Steve Moore, and Gloria Baldi traveled to Tacoma to the University of Puget Sound and its Slater Museum of Natural History. With a previously arranged appointment, we were graciously treated to a fantastic ‘behind the scenes’ tour into the work, specimens, and stories of the museum by Curator, Peter Wimberger. Loaded with two boxes of specimens (all those dead birds that members have brought to our meetings) we entered a well-lit room where two students were working on stripping, stuffing, and sewing skins.

Completed ‘round skin’ specimens of birds were absolutely beautiful, plump, and lying side by side in pull-out shallow drawers to keep them dust free...and can you believe a total of more than 18,500? A few of the birds were preserved in a flight or standing form allowing them to be used in display situations.

Additional bird related collections include almost 3,000 skeletons, nearly 5,000 egg sets, 1,300 nests, and over 7,000 fully-splayed wings, the second largest wing collection in the world. Just beautiful!

Mammal skins, almost 30,000, were hung from the ceiling in climatic controlled rooms.............and they were so luxurious and sensuous to touch.

This was in addition to 25,000+ mammal skulls and 2,100 complete skeletons. Of course, we were unable to see all, because there were also over 8,000 amphibians and reptiles, plus 6,000 insects, encased in cupboards or jars. Most specimens are from Washington, Oregon, and elsewhere in western North America, which makes the Slater an excellent source of material for the study of regional geographic variation. However, many have been acquired from other parts of the world through collecting and exchange.

Historically, specimens were used for identification between species, but today they are “libraries” of DNA. A piece of feather from a bird reveals a wealth of data, including the impacts of climate change, reconstructing the genomes of extinct species, what changes

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in diet and genetic variation have occurred, the rapidity of that change, what impacts humans have made with pollutants, and the historical presence of pathogens, like Hantavirus.

The Slater’s collection is one of the largest in the NW, although the Burke Museum at the University if Washington is larger. Kittitas Audubon’s birds have gone to the Burke in the past, but a new facility is being constructed, plus two large collections from other institutions have recently been received, leaving them with much to do. Our two boxes given that day to the Slater included 98 birds consisting of 45 species, and they were much appreciated. We felt each bird would find a new life for decades, maybe centuries. Such a fun day! ~ Gloria Baldi

Gloria and her new friend share a private joke!

American Kestrel pair, returned to claim their KAS nestbox at Charli & Nels Sorenson’s home 3-25-17

Wilson’s Snipe
Photo submitted by Meghan Anderson

American Robin
Photo by George Hansen

Cassin’s Finch
3-28-17
Meghan Anderson
**Serious Word Play!...**

**Coo.** Instead of the mighty roar heard in *Jurassic Park*, the actual vocalization of T. rex and other avian ancestors might have been closer to the cooing of a mourning dove, according to a 2016 study published in the journal *Evolution*. See [https://news.utexas.edu/2016/07/11/dinosaurs-may-have-cooed-like-doves](https://news.utexas.edu/2016/07/11/dinosaurs-may-have-cooed-like-doves), which has a link to the actual article.

**Cool.** Royal Dutch Shell has decided to sell off most of its Canadian oil-sands assets, “as the chief executive warned that the industry risked losing public support without progress towards cleaner energy.” See [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/10/shell-sells-canadian-oilsands-as-boss-warns-of-losing-public-support](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/10/shell-sells-canadian-oilsands-as-boss-warns-of-losing-public-support). [Thanks to Jan for directing me to this!]

**Coal.** On Tue 28 Mar, coal miners were in attendance as an Executive Order was signed, directing the EPA to begin the process of withdrawing and rewriting the Clean Power Plan. If carried out, this will be a big step backward in addressing climate change. I would like to recommend the 2015 book *Coal Wars: The Future of Energy and the Fate of the Planet* by Richard Martin, energy editor at the MIT Technology Review, which deals with miners as well as the broader picture. Martin explains in depth why, photo-ops notwithstanding, coal mining jobs are *not* “coming back”. Hear Martin himself in a 39-minute interview on the Science for the People podcast #411 of 3 Mar 2017, at [www.scienceforthepeople.ca/episodes/coal-warsrebroadcast](http://www.scienceforthepeople.ca/episodes/coal-warsrebroadcast).

If you continue listening, the final 20 minutes of the podcast features Jeff Deyette, assistant director of energy research in the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, who describes both the science of coal and its extraction.

*Barry Brunson, Chair, Climate Change Committee*
Membership Form ~ Kittitas Audubon Society

Please make checks payable to: Kittitas Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Name_________________________________________Phone___________________________

Address_________________________________________________________________________

City___________________________________________State______Zip___________________

Email Address___________________________________________________________________

Would you like to receive occasional emails related to Audubon issues?  Yes ___ No___

YES: I want to 'Go Green' by receiving The Hooter Newsletter online version only ____
Choosing the online newsletter option saves KAS $15 Annually in printing/mailing costs!

Go Green and enjoy the online version in Color!

Join with any of these Annual Membership Options: (check your option below)

Kittitas Audubon Society Individual Membership $20 ___ Family Membership $30 ___

Premium Memberships: Bluebird $50 ___ Kestrel $75 ___ Hawk $100 ___

Lifetime Individual Membership: $300 ___ Lifetime Family Membership $500 ___

Business Membership $200 ___ Business Lifetime Membership $1000 ___

Make a Charitable Donation: What interests you? We want to know!

Please enter dollar amount donation below:

Scholarship Fund $______________ Nest Boxes $____________

Bird Surveys $_______________ General Interest $____________

Community Education $____________ Special Committees $____________

May we list your name in The Hooter to acknowledge your membership/donation?  Yes ___ No___

Your generous donation to a specific project is symbolic. Kittitas Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon Society serving the communities of Kittitas County, Washington. Go to kittitasaudubon.org for more information. KAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Give the Gift of Kittitas Audubon for a year! This gift membership is for:

Name_________________________________________Phone___________________________

Address_________________________________________________________________________

City___________________________________________State______Zip___________________

Email Address___________________________________________________________________

You may join National Audubon Society separately by visiting their website at:
http://www.audubon.org
Upcoming KAS Field Trips

April

1st, Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Irene Rinehart Park. Meet at 8 AM at Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off Umptanum Road for our monthly 3 hour walk through woods, river and wetland. The snow is gone and southern visitors are arriving: ospreys, vultures, kinglets, warblers, maybe a shorebird. The April walk is a special time when the trees are still bare – you’ll see the birds better! Leaders Tom & Diane Gauron; call 968-3175.

11th – 14th, Tuesday through Friday ~ Birding Lopez Island. We will be mid-week guests of Don & Sharon Cocheba who invite KAS members for a look around “their” island in the San Juans. There will be 2 full days of birding, exploring the parks and shores of the island, with Tuesday and Friday as travel days. Sign up with Steve Moore, 509-933-1179 or s.moore(at)kvalley.com.

May

6th, Saturday ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Irene Rinehart Park. Meet at 8 AM at Irene Rinehart riverside parking lot off Umptanum Road for a 3 hour walk. By now, spring migrants like Yellow-rumped and Nashville Warblers should be passing through our woods; other arrivals are vireos & tanagers. Jan & Steve lead; 933-1179.

23rd – 26th, Tuesday through Friday ~ Malheur National Wildlife Reserve, Oregon. KAS last visited this bountiful central Oregon wetland in 2012; our list of 95 species included warblers, vireos, Lazulis, many waterfowl and shorebirds, phalaropes, terns, sageland birds, Sage Grouse and Short-eared Owl. Accommodations are dorm-style at Malheur Field Station. We self-cater in the AM but reserve wonderful ranch-style dinners at nearby dining venues. Please indicate your interest by April 15 to s.moore(at)kvalley.com or 509-933-1179.

THANK YOU.....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!