The counting of every bird species seen, including numbers of that species, is the nation’s longest-running citizen science project, beginning over a century ago. This is the 118th counting season......and Kittitas Audubon’s 39th.

Here’s how it works: no matter the weather, teams of people each cover a slice of a 15-mile diameter circle centered in west Ellensburg. Each year in December people count every species and how many birds of that species seen, often beginning before sunrise to count night species, such as owls. Some areas require a fair amount of walking, but much counting will be done from the car as the roads are slowly traveled. Birds seen at feeders within the count circle are of equal importance, so for those who prefer the ‘Armchair CBC’, your sightings for the day are also needed (for any amount of time).

Most areas require the best part of the day to cover, but at 5:00PM we gather at the home of Steve and Linda Hall, where bird species and counts are tallied (and we fortify ourselves over a fabulous potluck!). Phil Mattocks submits the statistics and writes an article to appear in January’s Hooter.

The compiled results of all these counts over the years help to track fluctuations in bird populations and are used to guide conservation programs around the world. And it has all relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers.

If you have never before participated and would like to—or if you have participated and cannot do it this year, please call Gloria Baldi @ 933-1558. (Please use this number for instructions on reporting feeder counts.)

Happy Holidays from Kittitas Audubon!
The November 2nd KAS Board meeting began with a short presentation by our second scholarship recipient, Scott Kugel. His graduate research project involves the environmental impacts of mining operations on streams in the upper Yakima Watershed. He is particularly interested in abandoned hard-rock mine lands (or AMLs) and how they affect water quality in the drainage. He has looked at mechanical and chemical factors and expects a multiplicity of factors will be involved, with the probability that not all sites will exceed EPA standards. We will know more of his results later.

Bird announcements:

Anna’s Hummingbirds are hanging around the Cle Elum area. The pond on Berry Road has a diverse group of waterfowl, but a scope is needed.

Business:

Secretary’s and Treasurer’s reports were approved. The Water, Wind, and Fire meeting will be at Hal Holmes at 2:30 on Sunday, Nov. 5th. The main focus is climate change solutions. (See Page 4.)

First Saturday BirdWalk in November is to be led by Steve Moore and Jan Demorest.

Ideas for sending additional information to new members were discussed. Sending a letter to local National Audubon-only members asking if they wish a paper or electronic copy of the Hooter will be pursued.

Member Doug Kuehn is speaking on his wildlife safari for this month’s program.

No person is available to work on a Nature of Night booth at CWU this year, so KAS will not participate.

Jim Briggs wrote a letter to the Department of Interior with KAS’s concerns regarding the Sage Grouse. KAS signed two letters voicing concerns for birds and habitat. One regarded water storage construction in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, and the other pertained to pesticide usage in Gray’s Harbor and its effects on shorebirds.

(Continued on page 3)
November 4 ~ Saturday Birdwalk, Rinehart Park ~ Nine Saturday walkers assembled on an overcast day with a few snowflakes in the air. Along the Yakima River the dippers were active and audible at several spots, and a pair of Bald Eagles perched in a distant pine. Chickadees, juncos, and a large flock of California Quail crossed our path. In the main pond, frequently devoid of interest, a flotilla of 17 Hooded Mergansers with a single breeding-plumage male was joined by a Bufflehead cluster of 8, with a pair of Pied-billed Grebes appearing between dives. It’s satisfying to find the grebes as they were regular several years ago in the upper pond but scarce in recent years. Can we infer that the pond contains tasty minnows this time of year? The path between the ponds has been restored with fill and a culvert by the city, so it’s again possible to make the full loop around the lower pond. We tallied 23 species on this day, additional presences including a couple of Redtails, a heron, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and heard-only Killdeer and Song Sparrow.

~ Steve Moore

Why is Bird Poop White?

Birds brighten our lives. They connect us with nature. But sometimes they connect us a bit too directly with nature. Park under the wrong tree--where a flock of starlings or crows comes to roost--and nature may cover your car so thickly that it takes a trip or two to the carwash just to see through the windshield again. And why is most of the bird poop we see white? The answer is that birds, unlike mammals, don’t produce urine. Instead they excrete nitrogenous wastes in the form of uric acid, which emerges as a white paste. Owners of red cars, look out! A study in England found that red cars are most likely to be the target of bird droppings!

But you would be decorated for Christmas!

(From birdnote.org/songbird)

Thanks to Gloria Baldi for sending this article!

Barry Brunson (via email) thanked Meghan Anderson for her letters concerning Climate Change and her work with Our Environment group.

Items on the Annual Report for National Audubon were discussed. Among other topics, the report includes goals set and accomplished, attendance at KAS events, projects pursued, and compilation of volunteer hours from all members.

Our next Board meeting is December 7th at 4:30. Do join us.
‘Carbon Fee and Dividend’ merits a conversation

The Hal Holmes center provided a warm venue for the snowy afternoon of November 5, where Dr. Steve Ghan, John Sandvig and Jen Syrowitz presented the outline for a renewable future. Dr. Ghan is a climate scientist from Richland who talked about the science of climate change. John Sandvig, a retired aerospace engineer and business executive, representing the Citizens’ Climate Lobby, outlined the economics of their new plan. Jen Syrowitz, of Audubon Washington, gave facts about the effects of climate change and a call to conversation in our communities.

The plan is called “Carbon Fee and Dividend” and this is how it works:

1. Place a steadily rising fee on fossil fuel
2. Give 100% of the fees, minus administrative costs, back to households each month
3. Use a border adjustment to stop business relocation.

Go to https://citizensclimatelobby.org/ for the complete explanation of this plan.

The process chart above shows the basics of calculating a carbon fee that’s passed down the energy supply chain from the point of extraction to the retail and end-use consumers. Chemistry determines the carbon dioxide or equivalent emissions of a fuel, which becomes part of its price within a transaction to discourage its use and garner revenues for a rebate (dividend).

A study from REMI (Regional Economics Models Inc), shows that this Carbon Fee and Dividend plan should reduce CO2 emissions 52% below 1990 levels in 20 years and that recycling the revenue creates an economic stimulus that should add 2.8 million jobs to the economy. That's 2.8 million additional jobs, over and above normal projected job growth.

(Continued on page 5)

If you’re a Puget Sound Energy customer
You can sign up for 100% GREEN POWER for about $5 extra per 500 Kwh each month
https://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/GreenPower/Pages/default.aspx
This proposed plan would not increase the size of government, require new bureaucracies or directly increase government revenues. The dividend would increase real disposable income, activate personal spending decisions, and is projected to encourage widespread, sustained engagement. A structured rising price on greenhouse gas emissions, as described by Citizens’ Climate Lobby and the REMI report, would focus business planning on optimizing investment priorities to thrive in a carbon-constrained world.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is an international organization with the slogan: “Political Will for a Livable World”. With their political focus, what have they done to promote the Carbon Fee and Dividend solution? They have worked to help create the Climate Solutions Caucus in our nation’s capital. This caucus, founded in February 2016, is a bipartisan group in the US House of Representatives who are exploring policy options that address the impacts, causes, and challenges of our changing climate. The bylaws of the caucus require equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, the current tally of members is 60, with 30 from each party.

What’s the downside to this plan? It seems hard to find! What did Dr. Ghan, Mr. Sandvig and Ms. Syrowitz want us to do to help forward this cause? Have a conversation! Talk to your neighbor, your coffee club, your relatives, about the Carbon Fee and Dividend solution and send them to the Citizens’ Climate Lobby website. Write a letter to your local paper, email your representatives, join a conservation group.

The National Audubon Society recognizes that climate change is the #1 threat to birds. It’s also the #1 threat to people. The stakes are very high; the future of our children and grandchildren depend on our addressing it, and working toward a renewable future.

Projected share of the monthly carbon fee revenue returned to American households. Go to https://citizensclimatelobby.org/ for the complete explanation of this plan, and of these graphics.
Three times three cheers, plus Q&A

I send up three cheers for three people, and offer a valuable resource for people with questions (which should include all of us, at least from time to time!).

**Three cheers for Eunice Foote!** Her paper describing what we now call “the greenhouse effect” was presented at the 1856 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This was three years before the more widely recognized work of John Tyndall. For more info on this 161-year old illustration of sexism (in the form of women-doing-important-things-but-not-being-recognized-for-it), see the article from *The Smithsonian* magazine at https://www.smithsonianmag.com/sciencenature/lady-scientist-helped-revolutionize-climate-science-didnt-getcredit-180961291/.

**Three cheers for Katharine Hayhoe!** She is a climate scientist who used to work for Exxon. Her “Global Weirding” YouTube series is quite well done. In particular, try out the one at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpqBto89i38&sns=em. (Thanks to Judy for introducing me to the series.)

**Three cheers for Ben Santer!** He wrote what has turned out to be a pivotal sentence in the 1995 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): “The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.” For a moving and inspiring interview with Dr Santer, see the Spring 2017 (I’m behind in my reading!) issue of *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* at http://reports.ncse.com/index.php/rncse/article/view/411/802.

**Climate change Q & A!** Justin Gillis wrote, Jon Han illustrated, this snappy series for the *New York Times*, https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/climate/what-is-climatechange.html?emc=edit_clim_20170919&nl=&nlid=81553338&te=1. (Thanks to Meghan for introducing me to it. As she says, this “describes answers quickly.”)

* Barry Brunson, Chair, Climate Change Committee

---

**Membership Thanks!!!**

Jen Steele & Jon Hoekstra ~ new lifetime membership

Charli & Nels Sorenson ~ family membership renewal

Jason & Denee Scribner ~ family renewal

Susan Bangs ~ individual renewal

Lisa Moorehead & Bob Dittrick ~ new membership
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 _______________________________________________________________________

Is this a renewal or a new membership?  New____ Renewal____

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
The Hooter ~ December 2017
The Newsletter of Kittitas Audubon - http://www.kittitasaudubon.org

Upcoming KAS Field Trips

December
16th, Saturday ~ CBC ~ Christmas Bird Count. Help tally all the birds you can find during this one-day, international all-volunteer survey. See Page One for how you can participate in this monumental event!

January
6th, Saturday ~ First Saturday Bird-Walk, Irene Rinehart Park. January’s walk is preceded by a hearty warm-up: gather first at Irene Rinehart parking lot at 8 AM, then head for breakfast at the Bar 14 Restaurant, finally re-assemble afterward at 9 AM back at Irene Rinehart parking lot for a 2½-hour walk. Winter wonderland specialties to look for are ducks on the ponds and river, Brown Creeper, Dippers and eagles.

Frosty foliage and riverside ice are frequent photogenic sidelights. Dress for conditions (probably COLD). Leaders Steve & Jan, 933-1179.

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

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!