Monthly Programs will resume in September!

The Hooter will take a break in July. In the meantime, take a walk in the woods or the park or wherever you are. Join us for the First Saturday BirdWalk! And don’t forget your binoculars!

Summer is here!

We appreciate all of you and are so grateful for your participation in our monthly presentations; it is your attendance that makes them such a success.

As usual, we will not be holding presentations during the months of June, July, or August. We will see you all again in September with a fascinating presentation by Bob Hickey and Holly Pinkart about the Galapagos!

Until then if you miss us and want to know what we are up to you are always welcome to attend our board meetings, held the first Thursday of every month, at 4:30pm, in the Methodist Church basement across from Hal Holmes.

There is a flurry of feathered excitement everywhere outside. From meadowlarks belting out their calls from the tops of fence posts to the shrieks of nesting Red-tailed Hawks, there is avian activity everywhere and in every imaginable habitat. Parking lots and driveways have become nurseries to Killdeer and fields are full of Wilson’s Snipe babies and the calls of Red-winged Blackbirds. With all this excitement and new life, it is important to remember proper etiquette of viewing and approaching birds and their young. Please remember not to pick up baby birds; they are very fragile and susceptible to stress (especially in the heat). Even though the baby duck seems “lost” he will probably find his way back to his family. Let the parents take care of them; they know what is best. Keep your distance - use those great binocs you have and observe from a distance. If you want to see birds up close, consider putting up a hummingbird or other feeder; they will quickly become attuned to your routine and provide you hours of viewing pleasure. Also a bird bath is a great way to attract birds in the summer. Just remember to keep it clean and full, because once the birds start using it, they will rely on it for their water source. Happy birding!

~ from Rose Piccinini, KAS Program Coordinator

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!
KAS BOARD MEMBERS
President – Judy Hallisey 270-792-9188
Vice President – Barb Masberg 509-406-3104
Secretary – Jim Briggs 933-2231
Treasurer – Sharon Lumsden 968-3889
Climate Change – Barry Brunson 270-792-9186
Conservation – Norm Peck 933-4233
Education – Steve Hall 925-4877
Field Trips – Steve Moore 933-1179
Historian – Gloria Lindstrom 925-1807
Membership – Kris Kaylor 509-304-4103
Past President – Tom Gauron 968-3175
Programs – Rose Piccinini 509-631-0591
Publicity – Meghan Anderson 253-987-7629
Scholarship – Gloria Baldi 933-1558
*Newsletter – Jan Demorest 933-1179
*Bluebird boxes – Jan Demorest 933-1179
*Social Greeter – Kay Forsythe 925-2356
*Christmas Bird Count – Phil Mattocks
*non-voting members

KAS Board Meetings are held at 4:30 PM ~ 1st Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church across from The Ellensburg Public Library. 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, then 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.
~~~~~~~~
Submissions from 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@kwally.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.

Board Notes
by Gloria Baldi
From the May 3rd board meeting

Kris Kaylor, Membership Chair, reported two new memberships and nine renewals. (Memberships and donations definitely enhance KAS activities.)

Program Chair Rose Piccinini reported via email that the ‘Wolves in Washington’ program in April was attended by 65 people. May’s program was ‘Ravens’ by Brandon Rossi, a former KAS scholarship recipient.

Steve Hall, Education Chair, had a busy schedule in May. Learning about birds took place at three Fifth Grade Outdoor Camps: May 10th from 9:00 to 5:00 was Lincoln School; May 16th from 1:00 to 5:00 was Mt Stuart School; and May 25th from 9:00 to 12:00 was Valley View. (WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP STEVE IN THE FUTURE? IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT HIM! He appreciates any help….and teaching children about our feathered friends is pure fun.)

Thanks to Norm Peck, KAS, and Mt Stuart, Steve Hall now has 10 pair of binoculars. (PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING YOUR OLDER, UNUSED BINOCULARS FOR BUDDING BIRDERS!)

Gloria Baldi reported that KAS’s two CWU scholarships have been awarded for the 2018-2019 year, one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate. Details to follow.

Both Barry Brunson and Meghan Anderson had Daily Record Letters to the Editor regarding climate change.

At the May 17th KAS program, officers will be elected for the coming fiscal year. All current officers have agreed to hold their positions for another year, but nominations are accepted from the floor. (Thanks to all for volunteering for another year!)

The Eastern Washington chapters of Audubon will be meeting on June 15th in Moses Lake. Several KAS members plan to attend.

The Cle Elum Schools “Bioblitz” is scheduled for May 18th. Knowledgeable volunteers pair with a group of students to identify flora and fauna on a designated plot of land. Last year Judy Hallisey and Jim Briggs volunteered.

KAS will again have displays in three windows at the Ellensburg Public Library during the month of August.

KAS has received a request to guide a Bird Walk at Cave B for Dads on Father’s Day.

Tom Gauron reported on the book, Enlightenment Now; The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress, by Steven Pinker. He highly recommends it as an inspirational read.

Join us on June 7th for the next Board meeting! As you note from this report, there are many volunteer opportunities, both short-term and longer; let us know your special interests and KAS will find a spot for you!
Field Trip Reports & Sightings

May 5 ~ Saturday Birdwalk, Rinehart Park
~ Ten walkers found 29 species on a calm and partly cloudy day stroll through the park. There were a number of recent arrivals: we heard Bullock’s Oriole ("hee-hoo-hah") and Western Tanager ("chur-deep") in trees on the back loop, and one of our group found a Nashville Warbler. Bewick’s Wrens were out there attracting females with a great variety of songs; we got one back-lit view. House Wrens have returned too; we heard them chittering in the brush. Yellow Warblers were vocal but hidden, and Yellow-Rumped Warblers were flycatching in groups high in the trees. There were two good views of a Hairy Woodpecker – an encore of last February for a bird that is usually greatly outnumbered by its smaller cousin, the Downy. The Red-tailed Hawk nest is active this year and we spotted the head of a chick above the rim. Our Belted Kingfisher showed up, perched across the river, but no flycatchers yet. Killdeer, cowbirds, quail and Ruby-crowned Kinglet are always worth a look and a thought about where they all will build their nests (so much still to learn!)

~ Steve Moore

Sincere apologies to Kay Mabry who provided the excellent photos for the April BirdWalk report in last month’s Hooter on page 3. She didn’t get credit where credit was due!

Thank you, Kay, for joining us with your group, and for taking great photos!

YES! BBQ is coming!
Mark you calendars right now ~ Thursday, August 15th!
Details will be in the August Hooter. Plan to be there and mingle with all your old and new friends!

5-17-18 ~ Hi everyone, hope you’re enjoying this wonderful spring weather! The birds keep coming. A few weeks ago the Brewer’s Sparrows started their song-making and flitting about in the sage. Earlier this week the Black-headed Grosbeak arrived at my feeder. I’m pretty sure I had a Black-chinned Hummer at the feeder, although I couldn’t get my binoculars out quick enough. Yesterday evening the Sage Thrasher was singing non-stop out on top of a Bitterbrush. Today a Lazuli Bunting flew in to feed off last fall’s seed pods on the old-growth tall Sage. Good bluebird egg-laying going on, and when I checked last week I had 2 Kestrel eggs. Yay! ~ Sharon Lumsden

(photos: Sage Thrasher– Steve Moore; Lazuli Bunting - Web)
Lynn’s Journal ~ May 20th through May 27th

Barn Owls are Slowing but Business is Still Booming

BMW’s Tri-Cities center had nearly 300 admissions in 2017. Admissions in 2018 have already surpassed 500. The majority of admissions are young Barn Owls and Mallard Ducklings. The owls come almost exclusively from haystacks that are moved, making the owls homeless.

The historic nesting sites of Mallards have been converted to shopping malls and housing developments, but the ducks still nest there, making the walk to the nearest body of water, after her babies have hatched, a harrowing experience. BMW volunteers are very resourceful and can often capture mom and her brood and help them get to water. Sometimes mom is hit by a car and killed or babies are separated from the rest of their family and they are raised at the Tri-cities center.

Occasionally goslings need our help. Such was the case with Canada Goose 18-446 who was hit by a bicyclist. Volunteer Valerie provided first aid and then transported the gosling to the Tri-Cities center. After a couple of weeks his recovery was complete and Valerie reunited the gosling with his new family. Initially, sprinklers were a scary obstacle, but the gosling finally joined his new siblings.

Blue Mountain Wildlife is the premier wildlife rehabilitation facility in eastern Oregon, near Pendleton, serving an area the size of New York state. Since 1990, BMW has cared for over 8,000 animals, primarily raptors. Blue Mountain Wildlife educates over 10,000 local students and community members each year.

Blue Mountain Wildlife has been saving lives since 1990. Help us continue that effort today.

Blue Mountain Wildlife focuses not only on rehab, but also on education and research. Through our education programs, we reach over 10,000 community members each year, promoting coexistence between wildlife and people. We also lend our raptors for various studies, including with The Global Owl Project. At Blue Mountain Wildlife, we believe that a healthy world will support healthy, thriving wildlife and healthy, thriving humans. We do our best to help make this world a reality.

Saving lives costs money! Please consider making a single donation, a monthly donation, adopt a bird, even be a volunteer! (you can volunteer to help transport injured birds from Ellensburg to Prosser - Norm Peck 933-4233) http://www.bluemountainwildlife.org/
Wandering the sagebrush shrub steppe this spring, whilst checking up on our many bluebird nestboxes, I am privileged to watch as the wildflowers emerge, blossom, and gradually produce their numerous seeds. Here’s a collage featuring some of my favorites, in no particular order: Yellow Desert Fleabane or Daisy (Erigeron linearis), Arrowleaf Balsamroot (Balsamorhiza sagittata), Gairdner’s Penstemon (Penstemon gairdneri), Buckwheat (several species of Eriogonum), Hawkweed (Heracium sp.). It’s a lifelong study ~ every spring I have to learn them all over again! But what a pleasure it is! But you have to look down!

~ Jan Demorest
Penguins and climate change

While not able to stop climate change, penguins seem able to measure its effects. Feathers and eggshells can reveal variations in their diet, food web structure, as well as the climate itself. See the article “Penguins can track Antarctic changes” by Carolyn Gramling in the 17 Mar 2018 issue of Science News (https://tinyurl.com/y7tsf8gg).

Current science teaching: a reason for optimism.

A delightful and encouraging couple of pages about the current state of science education is in the National Center for Science Education’s Winter 2018 issue of Reports of the NCSE. Here is a sample selection of their discussion of problem-based learning (PBL): “For example, a PBL activity on climate change might start with the question: ‘How might we know if the local climate has changed in the last 100 years?’ Depending on where the lesson is being taught, and what ideas the students generate, they might be guided toward data sets showing annual first frost dates or number of winter days below freezing or summer days above 38° C (100° F). They might look at regional maps of local shorelines, or species distributions, or Audubon bird counts. The students would chart the data, observe the trends, ask more questions, and see for themselves how climate changes have been manifested in their own communities.”

Students: an inspiration!

Speaking of students, what a difference a high school environmental group can make—and did make in Utah! The title of the opinion article by Jack Greene in the 9 May 2018 High Country News says it nicely: “High schoolers forced Utah to admit climate change is real.” Specifically, through hard work and persistence by a group of students, the Utah legislature (with a Republican super-majority in both houses) passed, and the governor (also Republican) signed, a resolution declaring that climate change is real and that addressing it is crucial. The students were inspired to act by an earlier state resolution that urged the EPA “to cease its carbon dioxide reduction policies, programs, and regulations until climate data and global warming science are substantiated.” Evidently, they convinced enough people that the data and science already are substantiated! Happily, this also is a testament to the fundamental fact that climate change is, and certainly should be, a nonpartisan issue! (See https://tinyurl.com/y82bws3f and https://tinyurl.com/y9wvy36h)

Submit by Barry Brunson, CCC chair

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.

Membership Thanks!!!

Karen & Bill Stansbery ~ family membership renewal
Roma Stokes ~ individual membership renewal
Doug Kuehn ~ Bluebird renewal
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 New Membership ____ or a Renewal ____? (please check one)

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 organization.

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
Be sure to have a bird bath in this hot weather ~ keep it full and clean. Have a very shallow bath (best choice), or put stones in deeper water so small birds will be safe when they drink or bathe. Enjoy the show!

The Hooter ~ June/July 2018
The Newsletter of Kittitas Audubon - http://www.kittitasaudubon.org

Upcoming KAS Field Trips

June
2\textsuperscript{nd}, 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. Breeding birds have arrived and are noisily nesting and raising families. Look and listen for pewees, waxwings, 3 kinds of swallows, and splashes of yellow in the greenery (warblers, tanagers, etc.) Leader Jan Demorest; 933-1179 for info.

7\textsuperscript{th}, Thursday 4:30 PM~ KAS Board Meeting, Methodist Church, corner of 5th & Ruby.

15\textsuperscript{th}, Friday, all day ~ Regional Audubon Meeting, Eastern WA chapters. Moses Lake. Call Judy Hallisey for details: 270-792-9188.

July
7\textsuperscript{th}, 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. Enjoy summer with a walk in the park, many birds to greet the day, and hungry fledglings begging for food from limbs aloft. Beat the heat and enjoy the Farmer’s market afterwards. Leader Steve & Jan, 933-1179 for info.

August
15\textsuperscript{th}, Thursday ~ KAS ANNUAL SUMMER SOCIAL & BBQ ~ details in the August Hooter!

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

THANK YOU.....TO KITITAS 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!