April 18th General Meeting Program:

Art Sale...Plus Snakes and Cake!

Do we have ART!! Watercolors! Prints by many artists! Etchings! Feeders! Nestboxes! Jewelry! Bird vests! Books! Prices range from free to cash or checkbook! Special items will be sold by silent auction, but most will be by ‘suggested donation’. Bring your family and friends, or anyone who likes art! Doors open at 6:45 and browsing will occur until 7:15, with additional viewing after a short program with our speaker. Be sure to bring a reusable shopping bag to easily carry your selections!

KAS’s 30th delicious birthday cakes will be served while one browses and visits!

(If not too late to donate. April 5th is our deadline. Phone Gloria at 933-1558 for pick-up, or drop off on Jan’s enclosed porch at 712 E 2nd Avenue (933-1179) in Ellensburg.)

Night Patrol with Wendy Shaw

Wendy Shaw grew up in Massachusetts, where the only indigenous rattlesnake was the critically endangered Timber rattlesnake, which is carefully protected by the state. In the state of Washington, however, funding for the Department of Fish and Wildlife is generated almost entirely by the sale of hunting licenses. From the department’s perspective, enforcing unpopular regulations is financially impossible. When they told Shaw that they hadn’t the funds to enforce regulations protecting species few care about, Shaw knew she was on her own in defending these unpopular critters.

Then by chance, she met a herpetology student who’d spent six months rescuing venomous snakes in Bali, and the final piece fell into place. What began as a couple of nights of companionable road cruising in search of nocturnal species quickly turned serious when they saw the carnage left behind by careless drivers. Now Shaw, with a loose association of other conservationists, maintains a nightly patrol throughout the summer moving snakes and other small animals off of rural highways to decrease the road kill of species which are less popular, but fill a necessary ecological niche.

Wendy will explain her process and expand on some of her experiences. She will have some friendly snakes available for visiting, but not handling, as she answers questions one on one at the ‘snake table’ while sale activities occur.
KAS Would Like to Hear From You!

Your faithful, busy, and tenacious board of directors and officers serve Kittitas Audubon to bring you monthly programs and field trips. They also support various conservation issues and events. I hope you agree with the direction of this board (you can follow current events by reading the board’s notes in the Hooter). However, we need feedback and support from our members to know if we represent their needs and wants. Do you have any particular interest that you would like to hear a program about? Do you know of any good speakers whom we should contact for programs? Or do you wish we would organize a field trip to a particular place?

Please take a few minutes and talk to members of the board. Attend a board meeting which are always open to all members. Join us for dinner following board meetings. Write an email to Kittitasaudubon@hotmail.com, drop a note to PO Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926, or leave a voice message at 509-933-1558. We would love to hear from you!!

Spring is finally poking up its head and migrating birds are beginning to return to our valley. With migration and change of season, comes KAS’ annual election of officers. We currently lack a Vice President. Would you please consider volunteering some time to give back to KAS and the birds by stepping up and filling this position? The duties of the Vice President are to be the alternate voice of the President on those occasions that the President is not available to preside at a meeting or other KAS event. The Vice President also is the lead for completion of the annual report each Fall. This position does not necessarily lead into being the next President so don’t worry about that! And all board members help with the annual report. You can learn directly what Audubon on the local, state and national levels is really all about. We are a fun, bird-loving group who go to dinner following meetings and we laugh a lot! Several board members have served for decades; others are fairly new. But we always need new blood and new ideas!!

Or, for that matter, run for any of the elected positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If an elected position is more than you want right now, consider becoming a committee chair. This summer, vacancies are expected for Historian and Publicity Chair. These duties are: Historian - Keeps a record of KAS business and events in historical order. This shall include all minutes, programs, newspaper articles, conservation issue data, and any additional items of historical record. Temporary storage of added items will be needed.

Publicity Chair - Get information about future programs, the speaker, and pictures from the host of the program or the program chair. Following a set schedule, email KAS general meeting program announcement to the Ellensburg Daily Record and the Northern Kittitas County Tribune. Other forms of publicity may also be promoted with consent of the board.

At this belated time, I’d like to thank Barb Masberg for volunteering as our past Vice President and Rose Piccinini as past Program Chair. We really appreciate your time and efforts, as do the birds!

These are critical times for our beloved birds and your efforts are needed more than ever. I hope you agree with the direction of this board (you can follow current events by reading the board’s notes in the Hooter). However, we need feedback and support from our members to know if we represent their needs and wants. Do you have any particular interest that you would like to hear a program about? Do you know of any good speakers whom we should contact for programs? Or do you wish we would organize a field trip to a particular place?

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These are critical times for our beloved birds and your efforts are needed more than ever. I hope you answer this call.

Sincerely,

Your President, Judy Hallisey

“Can words describe the fragrance of the very breath of spring?”
—Neltje Blanchan
**Board Notes**

By Gloria Baldi

A summary of the March 7th KAS Board meeting follows:

- WA Audubon chapters meet twice a year, and all Audubon members are invited to attend. April 25th, Thursday, at Wild Horse Wind Facility from 10 AM to 2 PM is the date, with a brief tour of the facility prior to the meeting. If you are interested, please contact a Board member for further details.

- Laura Busby, Interpretive Specialist with WA State Parks and Recreation, attended with a follow-up schedule of activities planned through the summer. They are listed separately in this Hooter.

- Steve Hall reported on the KAS table at the KEEN Winter Fair. It was successful and fun having groups of students involved in activities, such as, finding the ‘hidden paper Merlin’ with binoculars donated by you members. Climate Change was also emphasized by Barry Brunson interacting with people young and less young. Jan Demorest and Steve Moore assisted. Thank you!

- Steve Hall also mentioned the need for a KAS banner than can be used in a different position.

- The student liaison position is still being pursued.

- Norm Peck has been formally reappointed to the WDFW Hydraulic Code Implementation Citizen Advisory Group. The suction dredging legislation (S5322) passed the Senate but did not come before the House for a vote. Status of several other legislative bills were discussed. WDFW budget is still in the works. Loss of hunting revenue is a negative for the WDFW responsibilities.

- Sharon Lumsden and Barry Brunson are members on the election committee to find a vice president candidate by our May meeting.

- Several members met with WA Audubon’s new representative, Teri Anderson, to discuss issues.

- KAS will fill the Ellensburg Public Library windows for the month of August.

- Blue Mountain Rehab Facility for birds in Pendleton, OR, needs renovating. They are fundraising and have matching funds of $25,000, if they can raise the additional half of the $50,000 needed. At this time they have raised $13,000. This is the facility that rehabilitates all our wounded birds of prey from Kittitas Valley. KAS voted to donate $200. (If you personally would like to donate any amount, the address is: Blue Mountain Wildlife, 71046 Appaloosa Lane, Pendleton, OR 97801. By website: www.bluemountainwildlife.org)

- Judy Hallisey noted that the US Congress passed a public lands package that includes re-establishing on a permanent basis the 1965 Land and Water Conservation Fund that had expired last Fall. The President has yet to sign it; Senate passed 92-8 and House passed 363-52.

**Join the Board at 4:30 on April 4th!**

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**Field Trip Reports**

March 22, 2019

Crab Creek–Othello Loop and Sandhill Cranes

*Report by Steve Moore and Jim Briggs • top two photos by Steve Moore, hat photo by Jim Briggs, and Red-tail by Jay Mabry*

Twelve enthusiastic birders joined Steve Moore on a loop trip up Lower Crab Creek to Othello and back. Of course the objective was to see the famous Sandhill Cranes the day before the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival began. We were lucky too. Bright (Ok, hazy) sun (rain the next day) and cranes. We didn’t see the thousands of cranes that sometimes happens but we saw and heard enough. Plus, we saw 34 other species:

- **Red-tailed hawks**. It seemed there was one about every half mile, perching or flying. They were joined by several Kestrels and a soaring Bald Eagle. The latter may be the one we saw perched later. Northern Harrier in flight too. Several Meadowlarks entertained with their signature call of the West and a couple posed for spectacular photos. Waterfowl included Tundra Swan, Canada and Snow Geese, Wigeons, Scaups (Greater or Lesser?), Mallards, Green-Winged Teal, Pintails, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback and Shoveler as well as Common Golden-eye and Bufflehead. Lots of Coots too. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper. Shrike. It didn’t sit long enough to get a look at it’s bill to see if it was a Northern or Loggerhead. Northern Flicker. Rock Pigeon and Mourning Dove.

- Three cock Pheasants • Ravens, crows and magpies • House Finch, Brewer’s Blackbird, lots of Red-winged Blackbird males calling. Starling, Dark-eyed Junco and Violet-green Swallow.

We felt that the late winter has delayed the arrival of the Sandhill Cranes but a trip to the Basin in the next few days should be productive.

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By Gloria Baldi

**Join the Board at 4:30 on April 4th!**

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*<a href="https://www.kittitasaudubon.org">kittitas audubon • www.kittitasaudubon.org</a>*
Just 4 walkers turned out for a snowy walk at 20 degrees. This birdwalk date was in the middle of a chilly month of Winter Redux, one of the colder late-winter periods I remember from the last dozen years here in Ellensburg, with nighttime temperatures in the teens and lower for weeks on end. But the birds have to stay active to stay warm and we were able to spot 24 species. Six Common Mergansers were flying up and down the Yakima, and a bunch of Mallards, looking miserable, were dabbling in the shallows. The lower pond was frozen and snow-covered; the upper pond was empty. A couple of red-tails perched patiently, but not near known nests. Chickadees were common and playful as usual, and we spotted a hopeful female Belted Kingfisher scanning the river (great photos by Kiana Rose!). A couple of easily-seen Bewick’s Wrens gleaning tree trunks were not wasting breath by singing on this cold day; contrarily, a dipper was heard but not found. Best moments of the walk were seeing “large-bird-activity” intermittently through the cottonwoods across the river from the dike trail next to the lower pond. Among the mass of trunks we were able to scrutinize a pair of Bald Eagles bringing nest material to a future home. This pair will have complete privacy when the trees leaf out!

April 6th

SATURDAY ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Irene Rinehart Park, 8:00 am.
Spring birding and a 3 hour walk in our riverside park; April birdwatching is great through the still-bare branches—next month birds will be hiding among the leaves. Spring arrivals may include ospreys, vultures, swallows, warblers, maybe a shorebird. Leader TBA.

April 19th

FRIDAY ~ Umptanum Road, short walks. There will be bluebirds - guaranteed! - but the idea is to make forays on foot into the pine-sage interface, which comes alive with other birds as well in the spring. The open woodland, with its understory of bitterbrush and flowers, hosts sage and pine-nesting sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, phoebes, flycatchers, and hummingbirds. Steve and Jan lead; 8 AM until early afternoon; woodland walks up to ½ mile. Please call 509-933-1179 for meeting details.

May 4th

SATURDAY ~ First Saturday BirdWalk, Irene Rinehart Park, 8:00 am.
Prime riparian birding as migrants vociferously vye for mates and begin to set up households. Look for swallows, warblers, vireos, and tanagers. 3 hour walk. Leaders Steve and Jan; 509-933-1179 for more info.
More Outdoor Fun to Enjoy

Mark Your Calendars!

**Feel the Burn Guided Hike Series at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park** 3rd Sundays, April-July, 9-11 a.m.

Participants will search for wildflowers, regenerating plants, birds and signs of other wildlife after three fires burned through the park last year. Attend one or all the hikes to see changes over the seasons. Be a citizen scientist - help us collect information and learn!

Meet at the Backcountry Trailhead located off Vantage Highway, ½ mile down Recreation Drive. Bring wind-proof layers and sturdy hiking shoes.

**Sunday, April 21, 9-11 a.m.** **Feel the Burn #1: Quest for signs of life after wildfire** Search for spring wildflowers, regenerating plants, birds and signs of other wildlife. What's coming back?

**Sunday, May 19, 9-11 a.m.** **Feel the Burn #2: Scabs, Scars and Regeneration in Burned Areas** Compare burned and unburned patches for regeneration of plants and signs of animals.

**Sunday, June 16, 9-11 a.m.** **Feel the Burn #3: Impacts of Fire on Shrubs, Birds and Other Life** What happens to sage and other shrubs after a burn? Does loss of canopy impact other life?

**Sunday, July 21, 9-11 a.m.** **Feel the Burn #4: Survival on Fire-Scarred Lands** Explore how plants and animals survive fire and semi-desert conditions in the shrub-steppe.

Other Hikes and Programs

**Olmstead Place State Park** - Saturday, April 20, 1-4 p.m. **Earth Day Tours - FREE DAY** (no Discover Pass required) Hike the 1-mile round trip Altapes Creek Interpretive Trail with a Parks Interpreter. Explore the relationship of this homestead family to the land and what we can learn for sustainability today. Meet at the south end of the park closest to the highway.

**Gingko Petrified Forest State Park** - Monday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Forces of Nature! – Earth Day FREE DAY** (no Discover Pass required) Celebrate Earth Day in a spectacular shrub-steppe ecosystem. This moderate guided hike highlights evidence of Earth’s raw power, including floods, fire and fossils! Bring windproof layers and sturdy hiking shoes.

Meet at the Backcountry Trailhead located off Vantage Highway, ½ mile down Recreation Drive.

**Gingko Petrified Forest State Park** - Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Kids to Parks Day, Junior Ranger program** Jump into Junior Ranger activities and let the kids complete their booklets to earn their Junior Ranger badge! Meet at the Interpretive Center.

**Gingko Petrified Forest State Park Interpretive Center hours:**
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday, March 1 to May 15; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, May 16 to Sept. 15. Tours can also be scheduled in advance by calling 509-856-2290.

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Friendly Reminder:

Please DO NOT offer yarn, string or human hair for birds to build nests!

Every year we see both young and adult birds being admitted to wildlife rehabilitators due to this. It can sometimes result in the bird losing their foot or entire leg from the yarn/string/hair slowly tightening and cutting off circulation.

DO NOT offer laundry dryer lint either. The lint collected in your dryer filter may seem like ideal nesting material, but it isn’t. It will soak up water and may be steeped with chemicals unhealthy for birds, such as remnants of detergent and softener.

Also a warning about offering pet hair. Many of our pets are treated with specialty shampoos or tick/lice treatments which stay on the hair and can be harmful to birds collecting it for nesting material. DO NOT offer pet hair that has been exposed to any shampoo treatments or chemicals.

**Some safer alternatives from the National Wildlife Federation’s Blog:**

**Twigs** For birds looking for small twigs, almost any tree or shrub you plant will do. When small branches or twigs fall from a shrub and gather at its base, leave them for birds to pick up, preferably in lengths under 4 inches.

**Greenery** Some birds line nests with soft plant matter. You can provide this accoutrement by growing catkin-bearing trees and shrubs such as cottonwood, maple, mulberry, willows, poplar and beech.

**Fluff** Many birds—hummingbirds spring to mind, but other songbirds as well—gravitate toward fluffy material, such as seeds with silky attachments designed to waft them on the wind or seed pods with a soft, hairlike covering. You can provide these items via cottonwood trees, lamb’s ear (ground cover), milkweed (also good for attracting monarch butterflies), honeysuckle, and clematis.

**Mud** If you have a pesky spot in your garden that refuses to grow anything but dirt, try adding a little water and see if you can grow moss. Many birds—hummingbirds spring to mind, but other songbirds as well—gravitate toward fluffy material, such as seeds with silky attachments designed to waft them on the wind or seed pods with a soft, hairlike covering. You can provide these items via cottonwood trees, lamb’s ear (ground cover), milkweed (also good for attracting monarch butterflies), honeysuckle, and clematis.

**Moss** If you have a shady spot in your yard, trying growing moss; with its velvety green growth, moss is a beautiful highlight for any moist garden and is a favored building material of some hummingbird species.
Persuading About Problems, Open About Solutions

Katherine Hayhoe is a climate scientist at Texas Tech University, and the star of “Global Weirding” YouTube videos [see the Dec 2017 Hooter climate communications]. Jennifer Ruark interviewed Dr Hayhoe in the 6 Dec 2018 Chronicle of Higher Education, featuring discussion of the recent National Climate Assessment, among much else, in a very thought-provoking read, at http://tinyurl.com/y27h5c9t. [Also see http://tinyurl.com/yy5r4l2l for a Global Weirding episode addressing the Pacific Northwest, and the Jan 2019 Hooter climate communication on the National Climate Assessment.]

Watersheds and Climate Change

Hydrologists ought to know (and they do; I’m married to one, who graciously shared this article with me): water and fire go together, and not just in the obvious way. For a recent account of what finally is becoming more widely known, see “For a Warming World, A New Strategy for Protecting Watersheds”, by Jacques Leslie, in the 19 Feb 2019 E360, published by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at https://tinyurl.com/y64qcjbj.

Forests Becoming Less Able to Bounce Back

A new study by Solomon Dobrowski of the University of Montana, and others, on post-wildfire forest regeneration, revealed some very troubling news. What lurks behind it? It appears to be climate change. See the article “Forests are becoming less able to bounce back from wildfires,” by Adam Vaughn, in the 11 Mar 2019 New Scientist at https://tinyurl.com/y5q5kquy. The article includes a link to the original peer-reviewed research in the 11 Mar issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Intersex Cardinal?

Birders in Erie, PA appear to have hosted an intersex cardinal at their backyard feeders. Such creatures, technically known as bilateral gynandromorphs, are rare but not unknown. For details, including photos of this cardinal and an analogous lobster and butterfly, see the 31 Jan 2019 National Geographic article “Rare half-male, half-female cardinal spotted in Pennsylvania,” by Maureen Seaberg at https://tinyurl.com/yajbxrux. (You may have to enter an email address to read the entire article.)

GOT BINCOULARS?
Consider donating a pair (or more) to KAS for their education programs with school classes and local organizations. Contact our Education Chair, Steve Hall for more info. (See page 2)
Thank You for Your Membership!

Thank You for Your Membership!

Eva Tyler (Individual) • Ken & Jo Hammond (Family)
Addie Graaff (Individual) • Stanley Dudley (individual)
Robin & Keola Ota (Family)

Are you a KITTITAS AUDUBON MEMBER or a NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBER? or BOTH?

Having a membership with National Audubon is different from a membership with Kittitas Audubon (KAS). For several years, KAS would receive a portion of your National Audubon membership dues to help offset the cost of producing the Hooter. Unfortunately, KAS no longer receives a portion of your National membership dues.

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage, we are forced to limit distribution of printed copies to paid, local KAS membership-holders only.

We would love to continue sending you the Hooter! Please contact us at 509-933-1558 to let us know if you would like to continue receiving the Hooter. Thank you!

The KAS website has been updated!
We are always happy to have our members submit content for both the Hooter and the website.
Be sure to visit www.kittitasaudubon.org

GET “THE HOOTER” ONLINE
Save paper, printing, postage. If you would prefer to receive the electronic version, send your name, mailing address, and email address to: kittitasaudubon@hotmail.com
Each month, we’ll send you an email with a link to the new Hooter.

Kittitas Audubon Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name __________
Address __________
City __________ State __________ Zip __________
Email (please print) __________
Phone __________

☐ NEW Membership ☐ RENEWING Membership

Membership Options:
☐ KAS Individual $20 ☐ Family $30

Premium Memberships:
☐ Bluebird $50 ☐ Kestrel $75 ☐ Hawk $100
☐ Lifetime Individual $300 ☐ Lifetime Family $500

Make a Charitable Donation: (Please enter dollar amount)
Scholarship Fund $______ Nest Boxes $______
Education $______ General $______

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.

Please indicate membership preferences below:

☐ YES I want to “Go Green” by receiving the Hooter newsletter online only

☐ YES I wish to receive occasional emails related to Audubon activities

May we print your name in the Hooter to acknowledge your membership/donation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ GIVE THE GIFT OF KITTITAS AUDUBON!
Please send gift recipient’s name, address, email, and phone to address below.

THANK YOU!

Please make checks payable to: Kittitas Audubon Society PO Box 1443 Ellensburg WA 98926
THANK YOU!
Thursday Program is April 18th at 7:00pm

April 2019 🦃 Kittitas Audubon Hooter

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**Thursday Programs**
*Start at 7:00pm • Hal Homes*

**April 18th**
Birthday Party with Art, Cake and Snakes! Come celebrate KAS turning 30!

Board Meetings
*Meet at 4:30pm at the Methodist Church on the corner of 5th and Ruby*

**April 4th**

**Board Meetings**

**Field Trips**