All Audubon meetings, held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00pm, September through May (except December), at the Hal Holmes Center next to the Ellensburg Public Library, are open to the public. Please come and meet with us, and stay afterwards for juice, treats, and conversation.

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

Grilled burgers and all the trimmings furnished by KAS

**PLEASE BRING:**
an appetizer, salad, or dessert; beverages of choice; plus plate, utensils, and drinking cup/glass for each member of your party! Folding chairs too!!

*This is a public park, so no alcohol allowed.*

**RSVP BY AUG. 12th**
We need to know how many hamburgers, veggie burgers, regular buns or skinny buns to buy.

**PLEASE CALL: 933-1558**
Feel free to leave a message stating name, number attending, and burger/veggie, regular/skinny bun choices per person.

or EMAIL: kittitasaudubon@hotmail.com

**BLUE RIBBON AWARDS**
will be handed out during the picnic.
We are asking for nominations for anyone who should be recognized for their contributions, talents or outstanding bird calls!

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**KITTITAS AUDUBON**

**Annual Potluck Picnic**

Thurs. August 15th • 5-7pm

Mountain View/Lions Park
1200 E. Seattle Ave

Come meet your fellow bird-lovers, share stories, and learn more about why people look for birds, feed birds, and care about birds.

And why else should you come??? Well, there’s the free burgers…(and they are really good!!!) And, probably some really tasty desserts! Along with Blue ribbon awards.

All KAS members, family, and friends are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!
By Gloria Baldi

Actions for June and July by the Board include the following:

- Programs are scheduled for the general meetings through November. Remember that Leslie McGalliard always welcomes suggestions for program content from members.

- In May Judy Hallisey, Barry Brunson and Jim Briggs participated in the Cle Elum/Roslyn Bioblitz for middle school students. Bird behavior, identification and conservation were emphasized.

- Norm Peck reported that the Dept. of Ecology has issued some policy changes involving suction dredging in streams, but legislation is still required.

- Dick Carkner is the KAS representative to the L. T. Murray Wildlife advisory committee for WDFW. An informative field trip was taken to view forestry practices. The committee consists of representatives of many interest groups which use the resources of the area. Illegal shed antler hunting is a real problem. He also reported there is some interest in a non-consumptive tax on equipment, and there is a new wolf pack in the Quilomene.

- Two students have been selected for the 2019/20 CWU scholarships, both undergraduate women. More information will be provided in the Hooters this fall.

- Because Hal and Gloria Lindstrom are moving, a discussion occurred about our August picnic location. (See picnic article.)

- Our July Board meeting fell on the 4th of July; we did not meet, but by e-mail we did approve the KAS budget for the 2019/20 year.

All members are invited to attend Board meetings and the next is September 5th at 4:30. Do join us!
TOUCAN DO THIS!
KAS is looking for enthusiastic individuals to fill these board positions:

PUBLICITY CHAIR
On the Friday following the Board meeting on first Thursday, the Chair will email KAS general meeting program announcement with pictures (mentioning co-sponsorship with Ellensburg Public Library) to Ellensburg Daily Record and Northern Kittitas County Tribune, the Monday following the Board meeting. At the discretion of the Chair, any form of publicity may be promoted with consent of the Board.

EDUCATION CHAIR
Promote educational activities in matters pertaining to the purposes of KAS.

HISTORIAN
Keep a record of KAS’s business and events in historical order. This shall include all minutes, programs, newspaper articles, conservation issue data, and any additional items of historical record.
Records collected previously will need temporary storage as items are added.

Please email Judy Hallisey: hydrojude@gmail.com if you are interested.

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

Ellensburg Library and Petition Hours this summer!
Most Saturday’s from 1-2pm, the library is open and so also is the new petition for the Ellensburg School Board!

**THIS PETITION INCLUDES:**
- Commit to 2% bond monies for robust solar energy installations
- Commit to no natural gas heating in the new school (electric heat pump systems cost the same OR LESS to operate)

Going to the library? Volunteers will be there to accept your signature. Would you like to help get signatures? Get a copy to take to your work, place of worship, or school.

Contact Meghan at lonetremeghan@aol.com • Thank you for your support on this important issue!
June 1st and July 6th
1st Saturday BirdWalk

Report and Photos by Steve Moore

June and July First Saturdays had very similar lists of 29 and 26 species, as breeding birds in the park raised families. In June, nine walkers enjoyed sunny and warm weather. Summer patterns seem to include abundant House Wrens bubbling up everywhere, with a few Bewick’s Wrens singing in the background; Cedar Waxwings in pairs flycatching for nestlings; pairs of cowbirds looking for a nest to sneak into; lone male pewees screeching from high twigs; flickers and Downy Woodpeckers busy on tree trunks; and an Osprey fishing from a high view over water. June also provided a pair of Rufous Hummingbirds, a passing Great Blue Heron, and a few Black-headed Grosbeaks and orioles in the woods. Mourning Doves in greater numbers both months than Eurasian collareds suggest that they nest somewhere close to these woodlands. In July, cooler breezy weather made for a shorter list and just three walkers on a 4th of July weekend. Special sights in July included 8 or more Spotted Sandpipers feeding on the river banks and fluttering up and downstream. This year they nested on the river and we saw them most months spring and summer. Woodpeckers are out of the nest, and we watched an adult male Downy leading junior up and down treetrunks on a food-finding expedition. Plenty of Rough-winged swallows have fledged from their gravel-bank nestholes and are getting around; we found them in the parking lot and over Anderson fields. Yellow Warblers are abundant in the shrubbery and we caught glimpses in June but they do hide well. Other fun summer sights are Tiger Swallowtails, out and about in numbers by mid-morning, spotted-wing dragonflies, and a beaver dam under the freeway with a goodsized lodge under willow trees.

NEXT First Saturday BirdWalk: September 7th

Many birds have courted, nested and raised a family; now they’re planning a southern vacation, leaving us to deal with the end of fire season and the relief of some cool weather to come. Meet at 8 AM at Irene Rinehart parking lot by the river for a 3 hour walk in the sunshine. Leader TBA. Come join us!
Friday, August 23rd
Basin Shorebirding

Mid-late August brings these long-legged, long-billed, and long-migrating miracles through the Columbia basin wetlands: shorebirds! We did this last year on a hot day, scoping muddy banks and shallow waters, and had some unusual sightings. Destinations include freeway wetlands, the shores of Potholes Reservoir and Lind Coulee. Call Steve, 933-1179; meet Super 1 parking lot, west side, at 7 AM; bring lunch for a 3/4 day trip, returning by 4 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

That’s a Wrap:
Sagebrush Songbird Survey Marks Fifth Year

The Sagebrush Songbird Survey just completed another successful year! Data used from the multi-year, million-acre survey will help inform large-scale conservation projects.

For the complete national Audubon article, visit https://tinyurl.com/y6hft7vg

ART FOR SALE

Because there were several excellent pieces of art remaining from the April Anniversary Sale, one will be offered in each Hooter for the next few months. A price will be suggested and delivery in Kittitas County accompanies purchase.

August’s offering is a batik with two shorebirds created by Pat Rutledge. Batik is wax resist dyeing of fabric. Measuring 13h x 17w and glass covered, it is ready to hang. Suggested price is $20. Interested? Call 509-933-1558.
**Non-petroleum-Based Plastic?**

Our world is awash in plastic. Aside from the fact that it comes from petroleum, it doesn’t degrade readily, and generally just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces (microplastics). From there, it enters the food web, and we are beginning to see more of it inside us. All this is in addition to the hazards presented to birds and other creatures by single-use plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic six-pack holders, etc. Moving away from plastic is the obvious, even if difficult, path. Another that may hold some promise is continuing with plastic, but moving away from petroleum. Researchers at the University of Minnesota are seeking ways to make corn-based plastic, with the goal of making it durable, yet still easily biodegradable. If viable, this would be a boon to those who grow corn, a fact surely not lost on the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, which is funding the study to the tune of $460K. Of course, if it works, that would be a big improvement for the environment too. See the article by Adam Belz in the 20 Jun 2019 Minneapolis Star-Tribune at https://tinyurl.com/y5kwafw7. (I learned of this via my 21 Jun Sigma Xi news feed.)

**Corals Addicted to Plastic?**

Corals reefs can be likened to an oceanic version of rainforests, in terms of biodiversity and importance to many other species. We know that corals are at great risk from our growing climate crisis, e.g., in the form of ocean acidification and bleaching from higher ocean temperatures. Here’s yet another threat that’s being recognized: plastic. Corals were found to consume tiny bits of plastic—even preferring it to their natural food. And that plastic might be harboring bacteria that can kill the corals. See the 25 Jun 2019 National Geographic story by Jenny Howard, “These corals choose to eat plastic over food,” at https://tinyurl.com/y3wmyehw. The original peer-reviewed research appeared in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

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**Summer is the annual permission slip to be lazy.**

To do nothing and have it count for something.

To lie in the grass and count the stars.

To sit on a branch and study the clouds.

—Regina Brett
Thank You for Your Membership!

Lona & Jim Gartell • Karen Jenison
Gloria & Jeb Baldi • Gary Manning
Paul Sollie • Douglas Kilgore & Ellie Belew
Janel Nelson • Doug Kuehn
Karen Sewder

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.

Hand-crafted Bluebird, Kestrel, and Barn Owl Boxes by Tom Gauron
Please contact
Tom at 509.968.3175
for more information.

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

Please make checks payable to:
Kittitas Audubon Society
PO Box 1443
Ellensburg WA 98926
THANK YOU!
Mark Your Calendars!

First Saturday BirdWalks
_Irene Rinehart Park on Umptanum Road at 8 AM for a 3-hour walk_

**September 7th**

Many birds have courted, nested and raised a family; now they’re planning a southern vacation, leaving us to deal with the end of fire season and the relief of some cool weather to come. Leader TBA. Come join us!

Field Trip
_Friday, August 23rd_

**Basin Shorebirding**

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Board Meeting
_Meet at 4:30pm at the Methodist Church on the corner of 3rd and Ruby_

**September 7th**

Annual Picnic!
_Thursday, August 15th_

See front page for all the details! Be sure to RSVP by August 12th.