In Memory of Hal Lindstrom

by Gloria Baldi

On June 10th Hal Lindstrom passed away after a short illness. He and his wife Gloria were charter members of Kittitas Audubon, making them active members for thirty-two years. For more than a decade, Hal served as Conservation Chair, writing letters and speaking at hearings to support conservation issues. He was exceptionally well-versed in forest issues, resulting from his prominent role working eight years to establish the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Meeting with Forest Service officials, plus writing, testifying, presenting to the public, and hiking the area, gave him a background that he applied to all he engaged in. He believed one should know all aspects of an issue if one decided to give it support. Needing a change from letter writing, Hal became the coordinator of KAS’s monthly programs for the next five years, which was no small pursuit.

Teaching chemistry at Ellensburg High School was his profession, and he was always pleased to see former students, some who have become Audubon members, and others who developed a life-long friendship. Hal loved wood; he had stacks of it for all the projects he planned. Any item he did build was a “beauty” because he was a perfectionist. That also included baking, especially pies with flaky crusts! An avid reader, he enjoyed non-fiction historical novels regarding notable people and events. Forever the scientist, he was always solving problems to make objects function better. However, one issue he was still addressing was trying to keep deer from eating their garden landscape. Often in the middle of the night, his sensor alarm caused him to run to the yard flailing his arms. He and Gloria had recently left that park-like yard where KAS for years held their August picnic, to move to Des Moines, WA, and join their son.

Personally, my late husband Jeb and I have known Hal and Gloria for more than fifty years. We hiked, backpacked, and snowshoed in the Alpine Lakes, floated the Yakima River hundreds of times, kayaked the Yukon River, toured Baja, ‘birded’ several countries, and the list goes on. Comically, he was the ‘typical absent-minded’ professor leaving his jacket or bag behind. (A pair of jeans he left at the local motel last winter was ready for delivery when next we met.) As a friend and KAS member, Hal will be long remembered and greatly missed.
**Board Notes**

*by Gloria Baldi  •  July Minutes*

After three months of conducting business by e-mail, the Board met on July 2nd in the back yard of Jan Demorest and Steve Moore, all properly social distancing and donning masks. What a pleasure to see birding friends again! We began the meeting by telling stories of birds, i.e., seen, phone calls from those who found a bird and wanted to know what to do, what caused the death of a nest of baby swallows, and why are no goldfinches coming to my ‘thistle sock’. There has been a more significant number of people inquiring about bird identification as well. The COVID-19 seems to have increased the observation of birds by the general public…and that’s a marvelous benefit.

**Synopsis of business:**

- A yearly budget was accepted.
- Monthly programs for KAS will continue when COVID-19 allows gatherings at Hal Holmes. Many speakers have had to be canceled, but have stated they will present at a later date.
- First Saturday Birdwalks continue with social distancing in effect.
- Norm Peck announced all WDFW shooting areas in eastern WA are closed until further notice. He also announced that WDFW had made its next 25-year plan open for public comment. (It would be good for people to lodge comments. Bird habitat depends on proper management of public lands. [wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02149](http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02149))
- Meghan Anderson proposed writing a “Bird of the Month” column for the Daily Record. The initiative was accepted, and the first column occurred on July 14th, featuring the Cedar Waxwing. Two scholarships were awarded to two graduate students at CWU. Jessica Coffey’s research is strongly climate-oriented, emphasizing water resources across geoeocological zones in mountain systems, specifically rock glaciers. José Garrido’s research will involve the comparative ecology of semi-urban and wild populations of the rare Jalisco mud turtle (*Kinosternon chimalhuaca*). He will be working with the community, especially school students. More information on each project will occur in future Hooters.
- National Audubon has planned the “Creation of Climate Teams”, a pilot program in five states, WA being one. It is to help members explore how chapters can better advocate for climate policies in their legislative districts. Judy Hallisey, Meghan Anderson, and Barry Brunson have volunteered to be on the WA team. However, like other non-profits, National Audubon has suffered the impact of the pandemic and associated economic disaster, forcing the organization to eliminate employees. Unfortunately, the leader of the WA team is one of the fallout victims. With the question of whether WA State will even have a legislative session in January, the work of the group is in flux.
- KAS election of officers (see elsewhere in this Hooter).
- The Checkerboard Partnership is working to transform into a community forest certain lands in the Taneum, Cabin Creek, and Roslyn Ridge areas. Through her participation in the group, Judy Hallisey said that they request letters of support for, e.g., grant applications. The Board voted in favor with no objection.
- Memorial ideas for Jeb Baldi and Hal Lindstrom, two recently deceased long-term and active KAS members, were discussed. (If you have an idea, please relay to Jan Demorest or Judy Hallisey.)
- The KAS annual picnic is canceled this year, so we will miss seeing you!

The next Board meeting will be on August 6th. Wherever we meet, we will be social distancing.

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*KAS Board Meetings are held at 4:30pm on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church across from The Ellensburg 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 6:30pm, then we all go out for a sociable dinner—NO business discussion allowed!*

*Non-voting member*
PLEASE VOTE
It is time to elect a slate of officers for Kittitas Audubon board of directors!

Due to restrictions on meetings, the 2020 election was postponed until August meeting/picnic. However, the August picnic has been cancelled for this summer and the Fall program meetings are partly dependent on the opening of Hal Holmes Center. So the 2020 election will be conducted electronically and/or by mail.

A request for nominations was sought in July. The slate of candidates for one year terms are:

- **President**: Judy Hallisey
- **Vice President**: Jan Demorest
- **Secretary**: Jim Briggs
- **Treasurer**: Sharon Lumsden

Please vote on this slate of candidates or provide a write in candidate or candidates. You may vote by sending an email to KittitasAudubon@hotmail.com or mail in your vote to  Kittitas Audubon Society,  P.O. Box 1443, Ellensburg, WA 98926

**PLEASE VOTE BY AUGUST 15, 2020.**

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**NEEDED: PUBLICITY CHAIR, EDUCATION CHAIR and HISTORIAN**

Email Judy Hallisey: hydrojude@gmail.com if you are willing.

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**HELEN McCabe STATE PARK**

**August 1st Saturday Birdwalk • August 1**

Because Irene Reinhart park is temporarily closed by the city, we will meet to go on a 3 hour birdwalk in **Helen McCabe State Park. Meet at the parking lot at 8 AM.** The park is located on Canyon Rd, about 3.5 miles S of the freeway, and just past Thrall Rd, on the left. **We will wear masks and practice social distancing.** Habitats to explore are the pond and its margins, grassland, Wilson Creek, and pine forest. Expect some off-trail walking and tall grass. Call Steve for more info, 509-933-1179.

**DISCOVER PASS REQUIRED.**
Our monthly birding group kept their social distance in June, and by July we were wearing masks throughout the 3+ hour walks through the park in beautiful weather. Nine walkers gathered in June, bringing along some very sharp pairs of eyes, to tally 41 awesome species in Rinehart Park. We saw or heard many of the colorful and melodic migrants that inhabit the woods in summer: Oriole, Warbling Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler and Western Wood-pewee. We found both Tree and Rough-winged Swallows, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Mallard and Common Merganser, Mourning and Ring-necked Doves, etc. For unusual treats: a Peregrine Falcon flew overhead, Spotted Sandpipers were foraging along the riverbank, and a Gray Catbird was seen briefly in brush at the river’s edge. Memorable wildlife sightings were Yellow-bellied Marmots under the freeway, and a doe licking and tending to her two tiny fawns, safely isolated on an island out in the river.

The Fourth of July brought six walkers to the park and we tallied 29 species this time, with the family-raising birds rather more clandestine than during their earlier mating and nesting rituals. The bonus in July is getting to see the chicks that have left the nest. We’re pretty sure we saw newly-fledged Robins, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Downy Woodpeckers, Mallards, and most likely, young finches, blackbirds and starlings. The sighting of the day was a mother Spotted Sandpiper with her chick, right on the bank of the river near the parking lot. There were many Cedar Waxwings, Wood-pewees, and the mostly hidden Yellow Warblers – but we were able to view these last ones three times, as bright yellow visions in the sunlight. We saw Ospreys tending a distant nest, and surprise!: a lone American White Pelican cruising overhead. Pelicans seem to be expanding their range northward and we may see them here more often in future summers.

“Positive thinking is powerful thinking. If you want happiness, fulfillment, success and inner peace, start thinking you have the power to achieve those things. Focus on the bright side of life and expect positive results.” – Germany Kent
Kittitas Audubon Board Member Spotlight:
Kay Forsythe: Greeter and Outdoor Enthusiast

by Meghan Anderson

Kay Forsythe is the Greeter for KAS and has been for many years. Being involved in KAS is a family affair; for many years her husband Tuck was the Membership Chair.

“I like being outdoors,” Kay says, and her life reflects that keen interest.

Her Dad was a biology teacher and grew up on a farm in Wisconsin, while her Mother grew up in a tiny logging town in Wisconsin. As a family, they climbed USFS fire towers, visited state parks, went for walks, and planted trees.

In the late 50’s, her Dad heard from another teacher in their town about working in a western National Park in the summer. Thus began many years in Glacier National Park for her father, and eventually a decade in Arches National Park for Kay herself. Birds, animals, flowers and geology were all of interest to her. While Kay and Tuck lived in Arches, Tuck completed a PhD on fire ecology at the University of Montana, in Missoula.

It seemed logical to eventually find themselves in beautiful Ellensburg, where they found both canyons and mountains to their liking.

“The greeter job is mostly bringing refreshments to our meetings. Anyone who’d like to take this on—and use Auduboners for cookie recipe guinea pigs—is welcome to take over this task! Pickles, popcorn, peanuts, potato chips—anything you’d want to bring would be welcome,” Kay says enthusiastically.

Would you like to share/lead the Greeter job for KAS? Greeters enjoy the monthly KAS presentations the third Thursday of the month at Hal Holmes Center at 7 pm, and then offer snacks and something to drink to those attending afterward. And, KAS pays for your costs! If this sounds like fun to you, then please consider sharing the Greeter position with Kay.

Kittitas Audubon members can become Board members and follow in the footsteps of long time volunteers like Kay. Her passion for the outdoors and service to her community are what make Kay one of the truly special leaders in our chapter.

Becoming a Board member is so easy! We’ll help you learn the position you choose and support you in whatever makes your Board service unique to you. What are your skills and talents? What inspires you to volunteer?

We have Board membership openings for History and Greeter! Board meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm in Ellensburg. Volunteer today to help support the KAS legacy in our area.

Join us!

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” —Anne Frank
CALLING ALL BIRDERS!

Do you have great photos of birds?

Kittitas Audubon is beginning a new series called ‘Bird of the Month’ in the local paper. This month, we’re calling for Bluebirds and Buntings, specifically Mountain or Western Bluebird and/or Lazuli Bunting photos for publication in September.

So if you have good photos, then send them to: lonetreemeghan@aol.com for consideration for KAS Bird of the Month.

Photo requirements:
• .jpeg (or .jpg) file format
• 3-5 mega-pixels (MP) in size (we need this size in order for the image to be suitable for printing)
• Your original photo
• Attach the .jpeg to the email, don’t embed it into the body of the text
• Let us know approximately where/when it was taken and your name

If you don’t have a good photo, then get out there and get one! Happy Birding!

Bird’s Eye View Window Films Reduce Bird Strikes

Follow Up

by Meghan Anderson

Audubon has discovered that residential bird window collisions cause significant bird deaths.

Last year, I installed the Bird’s Eye View product line, in an attempt to mitigate my home’s bird collisions. These films can be found online at abirdseyeview.com.

Although not a scientific study, I can say bird collisions have been reduced by 80%. We had 2 bird strikes this year. It was wonderful not to worry about birds and our windows.

A view of our completed Bird’s Eye View window films installation.

We also feed birds and position the bird bath on non-window sides of our home.

We feel the Bird’s Eye products work well!
from the lens of Norm Peck

The usual: Black Capped Chickadees, Red-Breasted Nuthatches and House Finches (these three all have young birds with them learning to use the feeders; though they often revert to begging from mom or dad when they get frustrated learning to crack sunflower seeds) and American Goldfinches. The photo attached is of a male Anna’s Hummingbird. I also had a female hummingbird come to the feeder, but she didn’t stick around long enough to determine species. I’ve had occasional visits from a Dusky Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, female Black-headed Grosbeak and semi-regular pastthroughs of Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks, seeking to be included in the birdfeeder fed population. Also occasional Pine Siskin, California Quail, Eurasian Collared Doves and one Mourning Dove. I haven’t seen the White-Crowned Sparrow for about a week now. Stay safe, be well.

from the lens of Meghan Anderson

from the lens of Doug Kuehn

What have you seen while out and about? Send us your photos and stories!

kaylormade@me.com
The black eyes glared right at me, a penetrating stare that seemed to pierce my flesh. He then opened his mouth while flexing up his shoulders and leaning toward me. His red epaulets glowed in the sun as his song rang out, a sharp two whistles followed by a trill that lasted about a half-second and then another whistle. At the same time, he expanded his tail and flared his wings slightly, all the while those eyes scowled.

I stood only twenty feet from him, amazed that this male Red-winged Blackbird seemed to be threatening me as if I was an intruder into his world. He sat on the top of a cattail, his feet gripping the brown cylindrical spike that had been the plant’s flowers. It was early June and one of my first trips to a suburban park since the Governor asked folks in March to stay at home. The COVID-19 pandemic had gripped the country. It had been ten minutes since I walked over to this marsh at Union Bay in Seattle, and he initially paid me no heed. By now, his females would have produced their first brood, and he might be courting ones for a second attempt.

He looked over his right shoulder and back across his marsh. Males defend a territory, and if their area has good nesting sites and suitable food sources, they may attract more than one female. Scientists have found males with as many as fifteen females in their harem, but two to five seems much more common. Females’ reproductive success doesn’t seem to be hurt by joining a harem, and anyways, they may go elsewhere to fertilize their eggs. What appears critical in their choice is that it’s a good place to build their nest, one that is protected from predation and disturbance.

The male’s primary job is to defend a patch of cattails from other male blackbirds, from predators, from critters like me that might disturb the nesting females. The word “defend” ran through my mind. It seemed appropriate right then. Washington state had begun to open back up from the coronavirus lockdown. I needed a plan to start moving outside my house without catching the virus. But countering the despair that had filled me seemed equally important. The lockdown had meant isolation, no face-to-face with friends, no plans to see family, canceled dreams for the coming months. The seclusion had zapped my motivation, my enthusiasm for much of anything. Much of my time had been spent staring out the window or watching the same movie over and over again.

This red-wing stood tall on the cattail, looking one way and then another. He was exposed to the open and yet didn’t seem afraid. Not a quarter-mile away was an active Cooper’s Hawk nest. These hawks specialize in capturing birds, and this blackbird would make the perfect meal. The red-wing must protect himself but also keep an eye out for his females. Male blackbirds in an area work together in watching for predators. Ornithologists have discovered that they change their calls when they see danger, and then all the males will take up that new call. It is the change that signals the threat and not the call itself.

Males will mob an American Crow or Red-tailed Hawk until they chase it out of the area, and attack Great Blue Herons. All these birds represent threats to adults, nestlings, or eggs. It is a joint effort that helps each be successful. He left his perch and flew a low circle over his marsh. The blackbird landed on a far cattail, and there, he let out his conk-la-ree song while looking over his wetland. Content and assured was what he appeared to me.

A sense of hope welled up in me. This male looked confident about the future. Perhaps if he can beat the odds, so can I. With some diligence and help from others, we can defend ourselves from the virus and the despair that it has brought to our lives.

Hope and a Red-winged Blackbird

*Article and photos by Thomas Bancroft*
Dessert First: Truth and Evidence

Engraved on the back of my iPad is the slogan “Dessert First”. In that spirit, I thought I’d lead off with some good news, with the theme “Much-deserved recognition.” (i) Penn State professor and climate scientist Michael Mann has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences “in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.” Mann was co-author of the 1999 paper containing what came to be called the “hockey stick graph” of increasing global mean temperature. He is coauthor, with cartoonist Tom Toles, of The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial Is Threatening Our Planet, Destroying Our Politics, and Driving Us Crazy. (ii) Harvard historian of science Naomi Oreskes has been awarded the British Academy Medal for “her commitment to documenting the role of corporations in distorting scientific findings for political ends.” Her book Merchants of Doubt, coauthored with Erik Conway, documents the parallels between fossil fuel industry climate change denials and tobacco industry efforts to obscure and cast doubt about the effects of smoking on health. The president of the British Academy said “At a time of fake news and the distrust of experts and expertise, there can surely be no better time to acclaim and applaud those who are standing up for truth and evidence.” I learned of these via the Summer 2020 issue of Reports of the National Center for Science Education, on whose board of directors sit both Mann and Oreskes. See https://ncse.ngo/issue/359, and more generally, https://ncse.ngo.

“You’ve got to be a thermostat rather than a thermometer. A thermostat shapes the climate of opinion; a thermometer just reflects it.” – Cornel West

Racism Derails Our Efforts to Save the Planet

Nationwide, and even worldwide, we are coming to realize that racism affects nearly every aspect of society. Ayana Johnson is a marine biologist whose 3 Jun 2020 Washington Post article I highly recommend. It carries the subtitle “Stopping climate change is hard enough, but racism only makes it harder.” Aside from basic notions of justice and humanity, my concern with racism and gender discrimination is because I love math. I think of all the advances and discoveries that we’ve missed because the people who might have made them have been systematically excluded, discouraged, or otherwise kept out of working in math! In a similar vein, Johnson says “Racism, injustice and police brutality are awful on their own, but are additionally pernicious because of the brain power and creative hours they steal from us.” See https://tinyurl.com/yaobouuv. [I heard of this via a msg from Katrina Spade, founder and CEO of Recompose, which advocates for a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional burial or cremation.]

Cleaner Air and the Pandemic

No sane person would view COVID-19 as a “solution” to climate change. But we can use some of the side effects of the pandemic as a learning device. See Coral Davenport’s 25 Jun 2020 New York Times article “Pandemic’s Cleaner Air Could Reshape What We Know About the Atmosphere” at https://tinyurl.com/ycq3cxfs. It contains some striking “before and after” photos. [Thanks to Gloria Lindstrom for bringing this to my attention.]
Climate Action Teams!

As mentioned in the previous Hooter, National Audubon launched an initiative for creating Climate Action Teams, with WA among a few pilot projects. Alas, the economic travesty wrought by COVID-19 included serious effects on Audubon, leading to the loss of several positions. The vision of Climate Action Teams remains, however.

Using Rock Dust to Remove CO2 and Enhance Crop Yields?

See the Damian Carrington article “Spreading rock dust on fields could remove vast amounts of CO2 from air” in The Guardian of 8 Jul 2020. Writing in the journal Nature, researchers stress that cutting the fossil fuel burning is the most important action needed to tackle the climate emergency. But, in addition, massive amounts of CO2 need to be removed from the air to meet the Paris agreement goals. Basalt works best (we have lots of it in the Pacific Northwest!). Among the 21 coauthors of the original paper is James Hansen, formerly a NASA scientist and now at Columbia University; he famously warned Congress of the dangers of global warming at hearings in 1988. See https://tinyurl.com/yacv9jfw.

Transportation Future = Electric Vehicles

Ruralite is a monthly publication of Pioneer Utility Resources, a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative serving 47 electric utilities mainly in the Pacific Northwest, including Kittitas PUD. Their Jun 2020 issue contains “How Electric Vehicles Will Shape the Future of Driving,” by Paul Wesslund. He states “As battery prices drop, their efficiency improves. Longer-lasting batteries address one of the biggest roadblocks to more people buying EVs: range anxiety.” To read the full article, go to https://tinyurl.com/yxu3l6tn.

Wilson’s Snipe Nest

Submitted by Kelly Boozer

“Hello! I live in badger pocket and found an egg nest in my field and I was wondering if you would be able to help me identify the birds that laid it. I believe it’s a Snipe type bird, but not sure of actual birds…”

Snipe nest with eggs and chick
Thank You in Advance for Your Membership!

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*.

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

### Kittitas Audubon Society
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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Email (please print)

Phone

☐ NEW Membership  ☐ RENEWING Membership

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**Make a Charitable Donation:** (Please enter dollar amount)

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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 in Advance for Your Membership!
THANK YOU!
KITTITAS COUNTY BUSINESS
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Inland Internet • Roslyn
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www.kittitasaudubon.org

Old Mill Country Store
Ellensburg
Provides a discount
on bird seed to KAS
members.

Mark Your Calendars!

Board Meetings:
4:30 pm • August 6th:
Due to reasons of public health and safety, meeting
will be conducted outside in Jan and Steve’s backyard.

First Saturday BirdWalk:
THIS MONTH WILL BE AT A NEW LOCATION—
SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO!