

APRIL 2023

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1973

CELEBRATING

50
Years



THE Kingfisher

**April 13th Program (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
Hybrid meeting: Both in-person and Zoom**

Gardening for Butterflies, Moths – and Birds

Butterfly expert David Droppers spoke to us last October about Washington's butterflies. He returns now to talk about gardening for butterflies and moths – a key source of food for birds!

Songbirds are on the decline, in part due to disappearing insects. What better way to get more birds in your yard than providing the food they need, especially for their growing young? Bird seed just won't do it! And the birds won't get all those bugs - you'll enjoy more butterflies in your yard too! And the moths are nothing to sneer at! David will touch on butterfly and moth biology, how they use the landscape, and what plants to install to maximize your yard's attractiveness, all with the goal of providing for your local songbirds. Watch your yard come alive in beauty and wing!

David Droppers has been teaching courses on topics from birds to butterflies to trees to microorganisms for a variety of groups, including college biology courses and non-profit environmental groups. He has put his expertise to work for the National Park Service, Forest Service, University of Washington, and Woodland Park Zoo, among many others. He is ecstatic about sharing his passion for the natural world with others who wish to learn. His enthusiasm is said to be contagious! **Photo by David Droppers.**



To join Zoom Program, Thurs., April 13th, at 6:30 p.m.:

<https://zoom.us/j/91811374785?pwd=Tm12VIBHWGhRYnRQUmg2RIUrMkJpdz09>

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785 ; Passcode: 935230

To join by telephone: 1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785; Passcode: 935230

Our new meeting place is the North Kitsap High School Library, 1780 NE Hostmark, Poulsbo, WA, 98370. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and **the program begins at 6:30 p.m.**

Purchase your "early bird" tickets soon for our 50th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, May 21, 1-4 p.m. You can go to our website and pay online or print the form and mail your ticket payment.

<https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/50th-anniversary-celebration>

CELEBRATING

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Years



Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370



Help us protect birds and habitat with an online donation between now and midnight on Tuesday, April 11.

Early giving begins April 1st.

<https://www.KitsapGreatGive.org>

Kitsap Audubon's mission is to protect birds, wildlife habitat and the environment through education, active stewardship, public advocacy, and related programs and activities:

- Helped raise millions of dollars to preserve forest and shoreline in Kitsap County, including 3,500 acres now part of the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.
- Awarded \$80,500 in scholarships to students pursuing college degrees in fields related to our mission.
- Monthly programs and field trips that are free and open to the public
- Strong advocacy for legislation and policies that affect birds, wildlife habitat and the environment.
- Community engagement in citizen science, habitat restoration and hands-on stewardship.



CELEBRATING

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Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Please reserve your tickets before the May 1st “early bird” cutoff. We need your participation to make it a truly memorable celebration of our 50 years of unceasing advocacy for birds, wildlife habitat and the environment.

We want to celebrate and honor our visionary founders, our more than one-thousand devoted members, and the community partners, leaders and environmental champions who have stood with us in our mission to protect wildlife and the places they need.

Hood Canal Vista Pavilion, Port Gamble, WA

Sunday, May 21, 2023 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Brunch included

“Early Bird” Tickets \$20 per person until May 1st

Tickets \$25 if purchased after May 1st

Final deadline for reservations: May 8th

Purchase tickets at:

<https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/50th-anniversary-celebration>

You can go to our website and pay online or print the form and mail your payment.

Speakers include:

- ♦ **Hilary Franz, Washington Commissioner of Public Lands**
- ♦ **Rob Gelder, North Kitsap County Commissioner**
- ♦ **Deborah Jensen, VP and Executive Director, Audubon Washington**
- ♦ **Nate Daniel, Executive Director, Great Peninsula Conservancy**



President's Letter - Lynn Willmott

I want to start with an important update from National Audubon Society (NAS). After much deliberation and input from chapters across the country the NAS Board of Directors has decided to keep the organization's name moving forward. (See following announcement)

At this time, Kitsap Audubon Society (KAS) will also keep its name.

On March 11th KAS hosted the **Annual Region II Meeting** at the Village Green Community Center in Kingston. Region II consists of Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) in Sequim, Admiralty Audubon Society in Port Townsend, and KAS. Leaders from the three chapters met with the Audubon Washington staff to share our successes, current projects, and our future plans.

Election of Officers at April 13th meeting

Our Nominations Committee has recommended the following slate of officers for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors: Kevin Eyer for President, Lynn Willmott and Gene Bullock as co-Vice Presidents, and Judy Willott as Secretary. Any member can nominate themselves or another to any of these positions by contacting the Board. The election will take place at the April 13th "hybrid" membership meeting.

The position of Treasurer is still open. The Board has decided to hire a bookkeeper, but KAS will need a Treasurer to serve as the Board's liaison with the bookkeeper, handle banking (deposits, checking), and report to the Board at monthly meetings as a member of the Executive Committee.

The **Education Committee** continues to

provide bird talks and related presentations to Kitsap community organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards. The Committee also features interactive displays at such annual events as the Kitsap Water Festival and Earth Day on Bainbridge Island. The annual Kitsap Water Festival is a day-long event that hosts up to 1,200 third- and fourth-grade students, with programs and exhibits about the importance of water.

The **Conservation Committee** continues to be involved in the ongoing stewardship of Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. Kitsap Audubon has also agreed to fund a proposed Motus bird-tracking station at Point No Point County Park.

Long-time member and noted owl researcher Jamie Acker is working with the U.S. Coast Guard to install Motus equipment on their communications tower at Point No Point County Park in Hansville.

KAS also continues to partner with Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group on the proposed saltwater estuary restoration at Point No Point, an internationally designated IBA (Important Bird Area).

Kitsap Audubon continues to interact with State legislators and actively promote legislation and government policies aligned with our environmental priorities.

Reserve your 50th Anniversary Celebration tickets

Please don't put off buying your tickets.

Your presence and public show of support are the

Audubon retains name

The National Audubon Society (NAS) Board of Directors has announced the decision to keep the organization's name moving forward.

Their evaluation considered many factors to determine how the decision would impact NAS's mission to protect birds and the places they need long into the future. Based on the critical threats to birds that Audubon must urgently address and the need to remain a nonpartisan force for conservation, the Board determined that retaining the name would enable NAS to direct key resources and focus towards enacting the organization's mission.

While John James Audubon had a significant impact on the field of ornithology, he was also an enslaver, whose racism and harmful attitudes toward Black and Indigenous people are now well-understood. We do not wish to ignore the importance of reckoning with the racist legacy of John James Audubon, the man. The organization will continue to promote an awareness and understanding of his problematic legacy as an individual and the inherent inequalities in the conservation movement as a whole.

In addition, NAS is pledging \$25 million over the next five years to expand its diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) work.

Kids' Corner: Spring Planting with Birds in Mind

Did You Know?

Most land bird species depend on insects for food. Even birds that eat fruit most of the year, like Cedar Waxwings (pictured below right) choose insects to feed their babies! This is because insects are a source of protein and energy for growing birds.

Gardeners can help birds out by planting flowers, trees, and shrubs that insects need in their life cycle. Native plants (plants that have always grown here without help from people) are the best choice. Some butterflies and moths only lay eggs on one or two kinds of native plants, and the caterpillars that hatch from the eggs are what many birds eat. One of the best parts about having native plants is they are easy to take care of! They are used to living in our area and don't need extra watering. To learn more about what to plant, see this month's challenge!

Word Search

Can you find all 10 words related to this month's topic in the word search below?

Gardening for Bird Food

L	C	S	L	E	S	R	E	V	A	S	X	V	Y
S	R	A	T	R	R	T	B	T	H	T	D	S	G
E	A	Y	R	E	E	G	U	H	A	N	O	S	N
T	L	I	E	M	H	T	T	H	H	A	W	P	I
A	L	B	N	T	A	I	T	A	R	L	I	R	W
A	I	D	E	Y	E	N	E	T	U	P	T	I	X
L	P	T	D	G	N	S	R	C	E	E	A	N	A
T	R	G	R	L	N	E	F	H	H	I	E	G	W
I	E	E	A	I	R	C	L	A	T	I	P	E	P
W	T	M	G	H	E	T	Y	E	L	E	V	D	T
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L	C	O	I	S	D	G	P	G	T	T	V	R	F
E	I	T	T	R	R	N	C	A	T	N	N	N	N
N	N	H	A	P	S	R	N	C	T	A	C	P	R

NATIVE
SPRING
BUTTERFLY
HATCH
MOTH
PLANTS
GARDENER
CATERPILLAR
WAXWING
INSECTS



Challenge:

Plant at least 1 native tree, shrub, or flower this spring in your yard or at your school. Follow the link or QR code for ideas:

extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/pacific-nw-native-plants-plant-community



Share a picture of your planting!
info@kitsapaudubon.org



Upper Right: Cedar Waxwing photo by Jay Wiggs

Left: Pale Tiger Swallowtail photo by Jay Wiggs

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5377532/>

Field Trips & Festivals - Al Westphal, Field Trip Chair

COVID PRECAUTIONS: We ask the following: (1) Each household must sign up by email in advance with trip leaders; (2) be prepared to adhere to directives and advice from our public health departments; and (3) Be courteous toward others: If you are not well, especially coughing, sneezing, or wheezing, please stay home.

Birding Festivals and Events: A complete summary of events statewide may be found at the Washington State Audubon site: <http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

Montlake Fill (Seattle), Saturday April 15th (half-day). Al & Carolyn Westphal leaders (westphalac@aol.com). A beautiful restored and "re-naturalized" area with wooded uplands, wetlands, and lakeside waterfront adjacent to the UW campus. Excellent trails, all built on the site of an enormous Seattle "fill" that served as a dumping ground for Seattle decades ago.

Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

On March 9, Ray Schreiber enjoyed seeing his first two American goldfinches of the year at his feeder. Send your interesting sightings to wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from www.eBird.org:

Feb. 15 in Port Orchard: 2 greater white-fronted geese
Feb. 20 in East Bremerton: 1 peregrine falcon
Feb. 25 near Port Orchard: 6 cackling geese
March 4 in Kingston: 1 ring-billed gull
March 5 in Gorst: 1 American dipper
March 5 at Kitsap Lake (Bremerton): 4 ruddy ducks
March 6 near East Bremerton: 1 merlin
March 7 in Port Gamble: 5 black oystercatchers, 2 western gulls
March 8 near Gorst: 1 American kestrel
March 10 near Port Orchard: 1 northern saw-whet

owl

March 10 on Bainbridge Island: 2 white-throated sparrows

March 11 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island): 16 Harlequin ducks, 11 black scoters, 2 black oystercatchers, 3 surfbirds, 1 Iceland gull

March 11 near Port Orchard: 1 hermit thrush

March 11 in Port Gamble: 7 black scoters, 2 long-tailed ducks

March 12 at the Brownsville Marina: 1 eared grebe

March 12 at Point No Point (Hansville): 1 black-legged kittiwake

March 12 near Hansville: 1 northern shrike

March 13 near Hansville: 12 trumpeter swans flying over

March 13 near south Bainbridge Island: 4 Harlequin ducks

Photos of Long-tailed Duck and Ruddy Duck by Don Willott.



Bird of the Month: Savannah Sparrow - Janine Schutt

Kitsap's sparrows are generally year-round or winter residents. The chipping sparrow is occasionally seen in the spring and summer months. But the savannah sparrow is the only migrant sparrow that officially takes up residence here from spring to fall. Here are some fascinating facts about the savannah sparrow:

- Common in meadows and small patches of open grassy areas, from sea level to the mountains.
- Breeds across the northern United States, Alaska, and Canada. Winters in the southern U.S., the Caribbean islands, and Mexico.
- Named by 19th century ornithologist, Alexander Wilson, who collected a specimen in Savannah, Georgia.
- Has a strong instinct to return each year to the location where it hatched, which has led to numerous subspecies

- There are 17 recognized subspecies across North America.
- Covered in heavily streaked patterns with a yellow stripe over the eye.
- Male sings a series of short notes followed by a trill from an exposed perch or while on the ground.
- Male performs his flight display by slowly flying low over the grass with tail raised and feet dangling.
- Consumes insects in the breeding season and primarily seeds and berries in the non-breeding season.
- A nest of grass is placed on the ground through a protective tunnel of thick grass or other matted-down vegetation.
- Broods consist of 4-5 eggs. Parents continue caring for fledglings up to 3 weeks after they leave the nest.

Photos by Janine Schutt.



Region II Annual Meeting

Kitsap Audubon hosted the **Annual Region II Meeting** at the Village Green Community Center in Kingston. Region II consists of three chapters: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) in Sequim, Admiralty Audubon Society in Port Townsend, and KAS. Leaders from the three chapters met with the Audubon Washington staff to share successes, current projects, and future plans. **Photo by Don Willott**





Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative plans 200-mile trail corridor

The new Puget Sound to Pacific Collaborative is bringing communities together to complete a 200-mile multi-use trail between the Bainbridge Island, Kingston and Port Townsend ferry docks, and the Pacific Coast at La Push.

The Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) trail network would unite the Sound to Olympics Trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail, linking communities and local trails along the route.

Far more than a recreational trail, the PS2P forms the spine of an "active transportation" corridor and greenway that shifts short commutes away from automobiles to human-scaled and people-powered travel modes like walking, bicycling, and wheelchair use. It aligns with transportation, climate, and ecological goals and policies at every level of state and local government.

"One hundred miles are already complete, after 35 years of hard work by advocates and local agencies that know the value of giving people a place to get outside," said Steve Durrant, PS2P Project Director. "That leaves only 100 miles to build to fill the gaps, make the connections and improve safety to make PS2P all it can be for our communities."

The PS2P is the western end of the 3,400-mile Great American Rail-Trail, a project of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Combined with the Washington State Parks' Palouse to Cascades Trail between the Idaho border and North Bend, the Sammamish River and Burke Gilman Trails between North Bend and Seattle, it will provide a unified transportation alternative trail across the state.

With Port Angeles as lead applicant, the PS2P Collaborative is seeking \$16.13 million in funding through the federal Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program, administered by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

Co-applicant agencies include Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties; the cities of Bainbridge Island, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Port Townsend, Sequim and Forks; the Quileute and Suquamish Tribes; the Port of Port Townsend; and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

The RAISE grant would fund planning and design of 34 multi-use trail segments across Bainbridge Island and the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. Together, the trails would fill in approximately 100 miles of gaps between existing trails.

Construction funding would be sought in future years as planning of individual trail projects is completed.

This PS2P RAISE application is supported by the Kitsap Audubon Society, Admiralty Audubon Society, and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, as well as Audubon Washington. For information about the Puget Sound to Pacific Coalition, email info@ps2p.org. See more at www.ps2p.org.

Kitsap Audubon to sponsor Motus bird-tracking station at Point No Point Park

Jamie Acker, a noted Bainbridge Island owl researcher and bander, as well as a long-time member of Kitsap Audubon, is negotiating with the U.S. Coast Guard to allow installation of a Motus bird-tracking station on the Coast Guard's Point No Point County Park communications tower. The Kitsap Audubon Board has agreed to sponsor the installation and fund it.

Audubon Washington has joined with a group of wildlife organizations that want to build a regional network of these tracking stations at key locations along the Pacific flyway.

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative network of researchers that use automated radio telemetry to simultaneously track hundreds of individuals and numerous species of birds, bats, and insects. The system enables a community of researchers, educators, organizations, and citizens to undertake impactful research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.

An extensive network of stations already exists in Canada and Eastern United States.



**Steller's
Jay by
Jay
Wiggs.**

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Facebook: <https://www.Facebook.com/KitsapAububonSociety/>

Instagram at <http://www.instagram.com/kitsapaudubon/>

Follow us on Twitter at @kitsapaudubon

Twitter handle: @KitsapAudubon

Recorded programs: <https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/video>

Kitsap Audubon Society

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Kitsap Audubon Society

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The Kingfisher is the newsletter of the Kitsap Audubon Society, P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370. It is published ten times a year, September to June. Submissions from readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for space, grammar or legal reasons. Email text or photographs to genebullock@comcast.net or mail to Gene Bullock, 1754 NE Mesford Rd., Unit 5, Poulsbo WA 98370. Our deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

To receive your Kingfisher via email and save the expense of printing and mailing, send your request to Info@kitsapaudubon.org

Kitsap Audubon Society - Membership Renewal

Join/Renew online at <http://www.kitsapaudubon.org/membership>

or make check payable to KAS and mail to KAS, PO Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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- Check here to receive your Kingfisher via Email and save us the expense of printing and mailing. Members receive ten issues of the Kingfisher newsletter each year.

Select Category Of Membership:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual LIFE Membership \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Annual Membership \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family LIFE Membership \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Annual Membership \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Annual Membership \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Annual Membership \$75 | (Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options) |

Additional donation: Scholarships \$ _____ Other \$ _____

The Kitsap Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Your contact information is not sold, disclosed or shared with any entity outside KAS.

The mission of the Kitsap Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world through education, environmental study and habitat protection, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of local and regional natural areas.

Visit our website at <https://www.kitsapaudubon.org>

