

CELEBRATING

50  
Years



# THE Kingfisher

DECEMBER 23

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1973

**December 14th Program (6:30-8:00 p.m.)  
Both in-person and Zoom**

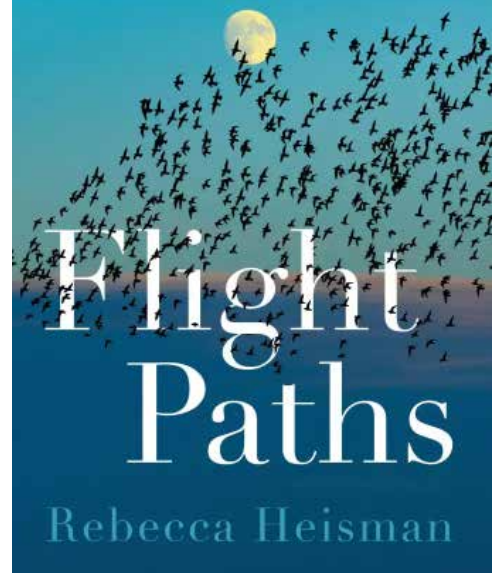
## **Solving the mystery of bird migration**

Rebecca Heisman is the noted author of *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*. In her talk, she'll share surprising stories from the history of bird migration research and discuss why understanding migration is so crucial for bird conservation.

We've all heard amazing facts about bird migration—the long distances that birds travel, the ways that they navigate, etc. But did you ever wonder how we figured all of this out? While working for the American Ornithological Society, Rebecca Heisman became fascinated with the varied and creative techniques that scientists have used to study bird migration, and this eventually became the basis for her book.

Rebecca Heisman was a keynote speaker at this year's Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW). She is a freelance science writer who lives in Walla Walla, Washington, and has worked with the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the American Ornithological Society.

How a Passionate and Quirky Group  
of Pioneering Scientists Solved the  
Mystery of Bird Migration



**To join Zoom Program, Thurs., Dec. 14th, at 6:30 p.m.:**

<https://zoom.us/j/91811374785?pwd=Tm12VlBHWGhRYnRQUmg2RIUrMkJpdz09>

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785 ; Passcode: 935230

To join by telephone: 1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785; Passcode: 935230

Kitsap Audubon meets in 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.**

### **The Kitsap Audubon Society Board is reviewing our name**

**In light of revelations that our namesake, John James Audubon, was a slave owner and ardent supporter of slavery and white supremacy. The issue goes to the heart of our values. But removing "Audubon" from our name could have both positive and negative consequences. That's why we need to hear from you! Please read our statement (Page 2) and tell us what you think ([President@KitsapAudubon.org](mailto:President@KitsapAudubon.org)).**

## President's Letter - Kevin Eyer

There are many bright moments to celebrate this December, the darkest month of the year! Despite the dismal forecast at Poulsbo's Fish Park on November 4th, our table at 2023 Kitsap Salmon Tours felt not a drop of rain. We saw a great show of families and community members and had excellent volunteer turnout! The downpour on the night of our general meeting didn't stop our intrepid membership. The meeting was well-attended, both online and in person, with many new faces to see at the North Kitsap High School library. In other November news, Vice President Gene Bullock delivered a presentation at Fieldstone Assisted Living Center that was very well-received, and several Conservation Committee members met at a restored area on Bainbridge Island to discuss possible future restoration projects in other parts of the County.



Dr. Deborah Jensen retired from her position as Executive Director of Audubon Washington, and Dr. Trina Bayard was appointed as her interim replacement. We are so appreciative of the wonderful leadership Deborah has provided since her appointment in 2020. Many of you will remember her inspiring talk at our 50th anniversary celebration.

Our December highlights will include meetings with our state legislators during Audubon's Advocacy Days (December 4-8<sup>th</sup>) and our two annual Christmas Bird Counts led by compilers Janine Schutt and Jennifer Standish (see details on Page 4). These annual Christmas Bird Counts offer wonderful opportunities to learn more about birds and participate in valuable community science. Please consider joining one of our CBC field teams or becoming a backyard bird counter.

***Kitsap Audubon booth in Poulsbo's Fish Park during 2023 Kitsap Salmon Tours: From left, Lynn Willmott (seated), Cathy Cohoon, Isabella Carlson, Jeff Brown, Kevin Eyer, and Lauren Cummings (holding Ashton Eyer). Photo by Mark Tuvim.***

## Should we change our name? We need to hear from you!

Kitsap Audubon Society (KAS) has a 50-year history of impactful advocacy for birds, wildlife habitat and the environment. Our perceived value to the Kitsap community is amply reflected in the growing generosity and support of our members and friends. But it has become impossible to ignore the history of our namesake, John James Audubon, who was a slave owner and trader, an anti-abolitionist who actively supported white supremacy.

Removing "Audubon" from our name may erase a 118-year legacy of favorable recognition associated with the name; but if we are serious about such values as social justice, equality, inclusiveness, and accessibility, we need to think seriously about removing barriers. A big part of our mission is to model our values to all populations, particularly the young and future stewards of our environment.

For many longtime supporters, the name "Audubon" evokes overwhelmingly favorable associations. For others in our community, especially younger generations, there is no connection between the name "Audubon" and the important work we do for birds and conservation. Replacing the name with something with "Bird" in the title, as a number of other chapters have done, could help people find us and better convey our purpose and mission.

KAS is a self-supporting, self-governing chapter of the National Audubon Society, but a name change would not change our relationship with the national organization. The National Audubon Society has pledged its full support for chapters that choose to change their name.

It is important that our members participate in this process. Please tell us what you think:

**[President@KitsapAudubon.org](mailto:President@KitsapAudubon.org)**

# Kids' Corner: Winter Birds in Your Garden

## Have you ever wondered...?

What birds stay in Kitsap County all year? How do they eat and keep warm? What can we do to help them? In the winter in Kitsap, you might see all sorts of birds in your yard, or in shrubs and trees along the street. Some of the common ones are: robins, song sparrows, chickadees, crows, nuthatches, wrens, towhees, and juncos. You might also see varied thrushes, flickers, jays, ravens, hummingbirds and even a bald eagle flying above the tree tops!

Feathers are a bird's best friend. Feathers keep birds warm even in our coldest weather. Imagine being wrapped in a waterproof downy sleeping bag all winter long! Birds have many ways of finding water, even in the snow. Cedar Waxwings catch snowflakes in mid-air. Black-capped Chickadees drink from dripping icicles. Plenty of other birds scoop up fresh snow and eat it. It is truly amazing!



Above: Dark Eyed Junco  
with mouthful of snow

Below: Spotted Towhee  
Bottom Right: Varied Thrush  
Photo credit: Janine Schutt



## How to help your backyard birds in the wintertime

If you have a yard, one way to help birds is to leave wood piles, shrubs, and snags for warmth and protection. Another is to leave the fall leaves on the ground. The leaves can have bugs that will be food for birds. In a garden, dead flower heads and old seed pods can be food for the birds as well, so don't cut down all the dead plants!





## Field Trips & Festivals - Al Westphal, Field Trip Chair

### Liability Waiver Policy:

KAS requires field trip participants to complete a liability waiver. This simple online form can be accessed from our website or from an emailed link. Once a waiver has been signed, it will be valid for the remainder of the KAS operating year (September – June). Trip leaders will provide detailed instructions upon event registration.

### 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>

## Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

Send your interesting sightings to [wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org](mailto:wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org).

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org):

Oct. 14 at Olalla Bay: 1 horned lark

Oct. 18 near Hansville: **1 blue grosbeak (First Kitsap record!)**

Oct. 28 on Buck Lake (Hansville): 1 ruddy duck

Oct. 28 at Point No Point (Hansville): 1 Cassin's auklet, 1 black-legged kittiwake

Oct. 28 on Bainbridge Island: 1 black oystercatcher

Nov. 1 at Point No Point: 1 parasitic jaeger, 1 common redpoll

Nov. 3 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island):

25 harlequin ducks, 1 ruddy turnstone, 2 surfbirds, 16 ancient murrelets, 1 Iceland gull, 60 ruby-crowned kinglets

Nov. 4 near Hansville: 1 white-throated sparrow

Nov. 6 from the Winslow ferry: 1 fork-tailed storm-petrel

Nov. 7 near Hansville: 1 black phoebe

Nov. 7 on SE Bainbridge Island: 1 Townsend's solitaire. 3 hermit thrushes

Nov. 7 on Bainbridge Island: 1 barn owl

Nov. 8 at Point No Point: 1 snow goose, 2 trumpeter swans

Nov. 8 north of Poulsbo: 1 northern shrike

Nov. 8 at the Southworth Ferry Terminal: 1 eared grebe

Nov. 8 on Bainbridge Island: 2 tundra swans flying over

Nov. 10 in Port Gamble: 1 black scoter, 3 American pipits

Nov. 11 in Kingston: 1 yellow-billed loon, 1 brown pelican

Nov. 12 near Hansville: 8 greater white-fronted geese

Nov. 12 at Point No Point: 1 yellow-billed loon

Nov. 12 at Norwegian Point (Hansville): 1 evening grosbeak, 1 western meadowlark



**Immature Blue Grosbeak (first Kitsap record) photographed in Hansville by George Gerdt.**



# Christmas Bird Counts

Kitsap Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Counts are just around the corner! Please sign up by directly contacting the area leader for the area you would like to help survey. Sign up early because some teams fill up quickly. If you live in one of our count circles, you can also sign up to do a backyard count that day. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome.

The Kitsap circle count is Saturday, December 16, and the North Kitsap/Port Gamble circle count is Saturday, December 30.

Each circle is 15 miles in diameter and is divided into segments assigned to designated field teams led by experienced birders.

## Liability Waiver Policy

Kitsap Audubon requires field trip participants to complete a liability waiver. This simple online form can be accessed from our website or from an emailed link. Once a waiver has been signed, it will be valid for the remainder of the KAS operating year (September – June). Trip leaders will provide detailed instructions upon event registration.



## 2023 Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 16, 2023 -- To sign up, contact area leader directly

AREA	WHERE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
1	Port Orchard	Chazz Hesselein	360-633-0486	<a href="mailto:chazz@hesselein.com">chazz@hesselein.com</a>
2	West Bremerton	Brad Waggoner	206-780-9581	<a href="mailto:wagtail24@gmail.com">wagtail24@gmail.com</a>
3	Chico/Seabeck	Lisa Pedersen	360-830-4768	<a href="mailto:lisa_mp52@yahoo.com">lisa_mp52@yahoo.com</a>
4	East Bremerton	Vic Ulsh	360-373-4824	<a href="mailto:viculsh13@hotmail.com">viculsh13@hotmail.com</a>
5	South BI	Lee & Kirk Robinson	206-498-8872	<a href="mailto:leerob9672@gmail.com">leerob9672@gmail.com</a>
6	North BI	George Gerdts	206-842-8138	<a href="mailto:geopandion@gmail.com">geopandion@gmail.com</a>
7A	Silverdale/Keyport	Al & Andrew Westphal	206-780-7844	<a href="mailto:westphalac@aol.com">westphalac@aol.com</a>
7B	Poulsbo	Gene & Sandy Bullock	360-394-5635	<a href="mailto:genebullock@comcast.net">genebullock@comcast.net</a>
	Owls	Jamie Acker	206-499-7121	<a href="mailto:owler@sounddsl.com">owler@sounddsl.com</a>
	Backyard Count	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	<a href="mailto:jeschutt@hotmail.com">jeschutt@hotmail.com</a>
	CBC Data Compiler	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	<a href="mailto:jeschutt@hotmail.com">jeschutt@hotmail.com</a>

## NK-Port Gamble Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 30 - To sign up, contact leader directly

AREA	WHERE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
1	Hansville	Al Westphal	206-780-7844	<a href="mailto:westphalac@aol.com">westphalac@aol.com</a>
2	Kingston	Stillwaters - Cindi Nevins	360-620-4895	<a href="mailto:tenevins@earthlink.net">tenevins@earthlink.net</a>
3	Port Gamble	Judy & Don Willott	206-842-6939	<a href="mailto:jdwilott@mac.com">jdwilott@mac.com</a>
4	Port Ludlow/Shine	Jennifer Standish	206-293-9320	<a href="mailto:magma1306@gmail.com">magma1306@gmail.com</a>
5	Poulsbo	Gene & Sandy Bullock	360-394-5635	<a href="mailto:genebullock@comcast.net">genebullock@comcast.net</a>
6	Miller Bay	Nancy D'Archangel	360-271-6565	<a href="mailto:njdarchangel@gmail.com">njdarchangel@gmail.com</a>
	CBC Compiler	Jennifer Standish	206-293-9320	<a href="mailto:magma1306@gmail.com">magma1306@gmail.com</a>
	Owling	Jamie Acker	206-499-7121	<a href="mailto:owler@sounddsl.com">owler@sounddsl.com</a>
	Backyard Count	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	<a href="mailto:jeschutt@hotmail.com">jeschutt@hotmail.com</a>

## Bird of the Month: Mourning Dove- Janine Schutt

Washington has two native dove species: the band-tailed pigeon and the mourning dove. (Washington is also inhabited by two non-native dove species. The rock dove, commonly called "pigeon," was introduced to North America from Europe in the 1600s. The Eurasian-collared dove was introduced to multiple parts of the world from its native southern Asia. It spread across North America in the 1990s.) The band-tailed pigeon is a native forest bird of the West Coast. The mourning dove inhabits southern Canada, all of the lower 48 states, Mexico, and Central America.

### Here are some fascinating facts about the mourning dove:

- One of the most abundant birds of North America, with an estimated U.S. population of 350 million birds.
- The most hunted bird in North America, with about 20 million birds harvested each year.
- Graceful and slender, with a long tail. Known for its fast and straight flight.
- Named for its mournful cooing.
- Can be found in multiple habitats, particularly

open country with scattered trees, grasslands, fields, forest edges, and backyards.

- Can survive in the desert by drinking brackish spring water.
- Forages on the ground for seeds, which make up 99% of its diet.
- Consumes up to 20% of its body weight per day and can store thousands of seeds in its crop for later digestion.
- Makes a flimsy nest of twigs and grass in dense tree branches. Male brings construction materials to the female who weaves them together.
- Clutch size is usually two eggs. Pairs may raise up to six broods per year, which is more than any other native species of North America.
- Both males and females produce "pigeon milk" in their crops, which they feed to their nestlings.
- Young leave the nest when they are two weeks old and are fed by the parents for another fortnight before becoming independent.

**Photos by Janine Schutt.**





# 70 -80 American birds will be renamed

Get ready to say goodbye to a lot of familiar bird names, like Steller's Jay, Anna's Hummingbird, Cooper's Hawk, Wilson's Warbler, Gambel's Quail, Lewis's Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Bullock's Oriole, and more. Here are some of the famous names that will be purged from future field guides: Steller, Audubon, Bewick, Cooper, McCowan, Anna, Bonaparte, Townsend, Gambel, Barrow, Hammond, Bicknell, Swainson, Hutton, Wilson, Lewis, Ross, Clark, Franklin, Heermann, Sabine, Thayer, Swainson, Costa, Kirtland, Smith, Baird, Bullock, Lincoln, Vaux, Forster, Brewer, Cassin, Harris, Lawrence, Scotts, Cook, Murphy, Say, Spragues, Buller, Cory, Bachman, Bell, Boteri, Henslow, Le Conte, Bendire, Abert, Nuttall, Nutting. That's because the American Ornithological Society has vowed to change the English names of all bird species currently named after people, along with any other bird names deemed offensive or exclusionary.

The move comes as part of a broader effort to diversify birding and make it more welcoming to people of all races and backgrounds. The society has promised to engage the public, and says that bird scientific names won't be changed as part of this initiative.



**Hummingbirds have eyelids, including two outer eyelids (upper and lower) to block the light. They also have an additional pair of eyelids called the nictitating membrane. These are clear and allow the hummingbird to see while blocking the wind when they fly. Jay Wiggs photo**

## 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

**President:** Kevin Eyer

**Co-Vice Presidents:**

Lynn Willmott, Gene Bullock

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**Assistant Treasurer:**

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[info@kitsapaudubon.org](mailto:info@kitsapaudubon.org)

[www.kitsapaudubon.org](http://www.kitsapaudubon.org)

**Kingfisher Editor:** Gene Bullock,

[GeneBullock@comcast.net](mailto:GeneBullock@comcast.net),

360-394-5635

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## Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Annual Membership \$75   | (Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options) |

Additional donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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>**

