

CELEBRATING

50
Years



THE Kingfisher

FEBRUARY 2023

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1973

**February 7th Program (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
Hybrid meeting: Both in-person and Zoom)**

Glorious Gulls - Connie Sidles

When many people - including a lot of birders! - see a gull flying by, they shrug and say, "Oh, there goes another gull." They don't see the glory of these silvery inhabitants of sea and shore. Gulls are wondrous birds: smart survivors in a world much changed by humans; graceful flyers that fill our skies; raucous communicators full of secrets. If you're curious about their lives, come hear master birder Connie Sidles explore the wild nature of gulls. You'll never shrug them off again.

Constance Sidles is a popular Seattle author and storyteller who has given several previous presentations for Kitsap Audubon. She is a master birder, a former board member of Seattle Audubon Society, a current member of Seattle Audubon's Conservation Committee, chair of Seattle Audubon's Publications Committee, an environmental educator, and an author who has written four books about nature.

Photo of Bonaparte's Gull © Gregg Thompson



To join Zoom Program, Thurs., Feb 7th 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

**Combined in-person and Zoom meeting
February 7th Program, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
North Kitsap High School Library**

Note earlier start time.

Kitsap Audubon will hold its first in-person meeting since the pandemic suspension nearly three years ago. Participants can choose to attend in person or via ZOOM using the link above.

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

President's Letter - Lynn Willmott

As we embark on Kitsap Audubon's fiftieth year I'm excited to say that our plans to meet in person again for our monthly Membership Meetings will begin on Thursday, February 9th at the North Kitsap High School Library! Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the program will start at 6:30. It will be great to see folks face to face for the first time in many years. This meeting will also be available on Zoom as a hybrid meeting if it is easier for you to join from the comfort of your own home. Please see cover page for speaker details.

Hope everyone is enjoying and sharing the Education Committee's new Kid's Corner activity page. Please stand by as we start to create more family and youth oriented programs. If you would like to help us out we would love more volunteers to get these programs up and running. Wouldn't it be great to have walks for beginning birders and families during the spring migration?



Trina Bayard at trina.bayard@audubon.org for details."

Avian Monitoring in Salish Sea Estuaries

I'm pleased to announce the release of a regional framework for avian monitoring in Salish Sea estuary wetlands. The development of the framework represents the latest milestone in our multi-year effort to deliver science support for avian monitoring and management in estuaries, including our inventory of monitoring efforts associated with Puget Sound estuary restoration ([Koberstein et al. 2017](#)), recommendations for a regional avian monitoring framework ([Bayard et al 2019](#)), and avian habitat suitability models ([Michel et al. 2021](#)).

Many of you are involved in avian monitoring projects at your local estuaries and have real-world experience surveying birds in this landscape. I invite you to review the [framework summary](#) and join the project team for an informational webinar and **Q&A on Monday, February 13, 2023 from 12-1 pm** Pacific, zoom link [here](#).

2022 Salish Sea Avian Monitoring Inventory: Teresa Anderson of Audubon Washington announced the following: "Audubon Washington is seeking help from state chapters to ensure that chapter monitoring projects are included in the **2022 Salish Sea Avian Monitoring Inventory**, a collaborative effort of the **PSEMP Marine Birds Work Group**. The goal of the Inventory is to compile information on the breadth of avian monitoring programs associated with the marine, nearshore, and estuarine habitats of the U.S. and Canadian Salish Sea. Our hope is that this inventory serves as a resource for both the research and monitoring community and other data end-users, and that it helps connect the community of avian monitoring practitioners currently active in the Salish Sea. Contact

Environmental

Lobby Day

The 2023 Washington State Legislative Session kicked off January 9th and we're here to make sure that the voices of bird lovers around the state can help push key conservation and climate issues across the f Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC), so we're asking our supporters to join this year's Environmental Priorities (virtual) Lobby Days on February 14, 15, and 16. Register at <https://www.environmentallobbyday.com>

Two of Audubon's top priorities are also EPC priorities, so please register for EPC Lobby Days and advocate for birds and spread the word. You can track our priority bills and receive key action emails by signing up for our ACTION NETWORK at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineaction/>

Thank you to all of our members for your ongoing support and participation! If you would like to contact me or become a volunteer please do so at: tuvmott@gmail.com.

Photo by Don Willott.

Kids' Corner: Migratory Birds & Winter Residents

Did You Know?

Most birds migrate (or travel away) during the fall so that they can spend the winter in warmer places. In Kitsap County, we see birds each winter that have migrated to us from places far North! We also see birds called residents that can live here year round. Some species of birds, like Bald Eagles, can be both migratory or a resident.

The Varied Thrush (in the picture below) is a bird you may see in your yard this time of year. Look for the orange slash behind its eye to tell it apart from a Robin or Towhee. Sometimes these birds fly into windows because they don't know the glass is there! Keep reading for a way you can help protect these pretty birds from hitting your windows.



Photo Credit: Graham Gerdeman, Cornell Lab

Word Search

Can you find all 12 words related to this month's topic in the word search below?

PNW Migrating & Wintering Birds

H	E	N	I	R	T	O	T	I	M	E	R	MIGRATORY
W	M	T	I	K	R	O	R	R	I	P	O	KITSAP
H	I	I	E	B	E	O	E	T	G	I	T	MIGRATE
G	E	N	G	Y	O	O	T	N	R	O	S	ROBIN
I	R	E	D	R	B	R	N	E	A	G	T	EAGLE
T	R	E	R	O	A	I	I	R	T	E	T	TOWHEE
H	N	I	U	R	W	T	W	E	E	L	N	THRUSH
K	I	T	S	A	P	M	O	R	M	G	E	PROTECT
N	N	N	O	N	E	R	G	R	N	A	D	RESIDENT
E	E	H	W	O	T	I	I	G	Y	E	I	WINDOW
G	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	I	O	I	S	WINTER
I	K	H	A	H	S	U	R	H	T	R	E	CRASH
M	M	G	E	T	C	R	A	S	H	H	R	
N	E	I	A	A	O	E	A	N	O	H	N	

Challenge:

Do you see winter birds in your back yard? Send us a picture or a drawing to: info@kitsapaudubon.org

Do-It-Yourself: Make a window decal using simple ingredients to let birds know to watch out for your window

Complete instructions with video can be found here:

<https://ny.audubon.org/conservation/how-create-window-decals-prevent-bird-collisions>

You'll need: Elmer's glue, dish soap, a paint brush, smooth plastic surface, a cup, and colored permanent markers (optional)

- 1) Pour about 2 tablespoons of glue into a cup and add 2 drops of dish soap
- 2) Gently and completely stir the glue and soap mixture together
- 3) With the glue-soap mixture, paint a design of your choosing onto your smooth plastic surface (saran wrap, a sandwich bag, or paper protectors are great choices)
- 4) Wait two hours
- 5) Add color with the markers if desired, and then carefully peel off the drawing sticking the non-colored side to the window of your choosing!

Image (at right): North Kitsap High School Wildlife Club members take a break from making window decals. From left to right, Emily Lam, Bailey Ritter, Carmella Targett, Talon Grant, Owen Stewart, Cassy Benton, and Trish McCoskrie.



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. Carpooling limited to family and social pods.

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>

Fort Flagler and Marrowstone Island (Jefferson County) Saturday, February 11th (full-day). Al & Carolyn Westphal, leaders: westphalac@aol.com. A late-winter visit to a bird-diverse state park with excellent access and lots of variety in its habitats, from woodland to wetland and shorelines fronting inlets and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Contact trip leader to register and for details.

Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

Since November, there have been repeated sightings of a swamp sparrow at Foulweather Bluff Preserve near Hansville. Since December, a pair of long-eared owls have been roosting by the trail at Theler Wetlands in Belfair. Also since December, a ruddy turnstone has been spotted multiple times along the Port Orchard waterfront. On January 10 in Manette (East Bremerton), Vic Ulsh spotted a first-year snow goose in a flock of Canada geese and a Townsend's solitaire eating berries. Send your interesting sightings to wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org.

Notable Kitsap Sightings from www.eBird.org:

Nov. 17 at Foulweather Bluff Preserve: 1 snow bunting
Nov. 19 in Keyport: 1 canvasback
Dec. 10 at the Clear Creek Trail (Silverdale): 1 American bittern
Dec. 17 at Bangor: 2 ruffed grouse, 2 evening grosbeaks
Dec. 31 at Norwegian Point Park (Hansville): 1 western meadowlark
Jan. 1 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island): 10 snow geese, 2 tundra swans, 32 Harlequin ducks, 13 black scoters, 2 black oystercatchers, 27 surfbirds, 2 ancient murrelets, 1 herring gull, 9 Iceland gulls, 1 mountain bluebird, 1 hermit thrush, 35 American goldfinches, 1 swamp sparrow
Jan. 2 at the Southworth Ferry Terminal: 2 trumpeter swans
Jan. 3 near Kingston: 1 Virginia rail, 1 peregrine falcon, 2 brown-headed cowbirds
Jan. 4 on north Bainbridge Island: 1 northern saw-whet owl
Jan. 4 at Port Gamble: 1 eared grebe, 4 black oystercatchers, 1 western gull
Jan. 5 near Fort Ward Park (SW Bainbridge

Island): 1 white-throated sparrow
Jan. 5 in Yukon Harbor: 3 herring gulls, 28 Iceland gulls
Jan. 6 on Green Mountain (near Seabeck): 2 Townsend's solitaires
Jan. 6 near Hansville: 4 Wilson's snipes
Jan. 8 at Dickerson Creek (Bremerton): 2 American dippers
Jan. 10 in Port Gamble: 3 black scoters, 5 long-tailed ducks
Jan. 10 at Kitsap Lake (Bremerton): 3 ruddy ducks
Jan. 10 at the Clear Creek Trail: 10 cackling geese, 1 northern shrike
Jan. 11 in Port Orchard: 2 greater white-fronted geese

Photo of Swamp Sparrow by Janine Schutt.



Bird of the Month: Hutton's Vireo - Janine Schutt

Kitsap is home to many songbirds. Some stay year-round, while others are migratory. A seldom noticed year-round resident is the Hutton's vireo. A drab, olive green passerine, it bears a close resemblance to the ruby-crowned kinglet. Here are some fascinating facts about the Hutton's vireo:

- Named for naturalist William Hutton.
- Range extends from southern British Columbia, Canada, to northern Baja California, Mexico.
- North America's only non-migratory vireo species.
- Resident of coastal and inland forests, particularly evergreen forests with a moderately dense understory.
- In winter, individuals often join with mixed flocks of songbirds, including chickadees, nuthatches, warblers, and kinglets.
- Often mistaken for the ruby-crowned kinglet.

Hutton's vireo is stockier, has a shorter thicker bill, and black feet, as compared to the thin bill and orange feet of the ruby-crowned kinglet.

Has a more relaxed approach to foraging for insects, spiders, and berries on tree branches, as compared to the hyperactive ruby-crowned kinglet, which constantly flutters from branch to branch.

- In late winter and early spring repeatedly calls, "zu-wee, zu-wee, zu-wee" which is how birders often detect them.
- Builds a round nest of lichen, grass, and spiderwebs in a fork of a bush or tree, which is well hidden by the surrounding foliage.
- For about two weeks the parents are busy bringing food to the nestlings and carrying fecal sacs away to keep the nest clean.
- To confuse potential predators, parents take an indirect flight to the nest by making two or three stops in other trees along the way.
- Families stay together for about three weeks after the fledglings have left the nest.

Photos by Janine Schutt.



Birdwatching boosts mood

People who saw birds or heard birdsong got a 53 percent boost in their emotional well-being according to a recent study in the United Kingdom.

Reported in the October, 2022, issue of *Science Reports*, the study involved 1,292 people. Study volunteers used an app to assess their happiness, social connection, and confidence, as well as anxiety, stress, and low moods, several times a day.

Researchers found that being around birds boosted the positive feelings of participants for several hours.

The study was also cited in the February issue of the *Consumer Reports On Health* newsletter.

Kitsap Circle Christmas Bird Count - December 17, 2022

Canada Goose	308	Wilson's Snipe	2	Common Raven	21
Wood Duck	34	Spotted Sandpiper	6	Black-capped Chickadee	178
Northern Shoveler	29	Greater Yellowlegs	13	Chestnut-backed Chickd.	108
Eurasian Wigeon	2	Pigeon Guillemot	23	Bushtit	112
American Wigeon	1995	Marbled Murrelet	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	98
Mallard	660	Rhinoceros Auklet	9	Golden-crowned Kinglet	159
Northern Pintail	27	Short-billed Gull	78	Red-breasted Nuthatch	94
Green-winged Teal	79	Ring-billed Gull	1	Brown Creeper	16
Ring-necked Duck	305	Western Gull	2	Pacific Wren	97
Greater Scaup	218	California Gull	4	Marsh Wren	4
Lesser Scaup	37	Herring Gull	4	Bewick's Wren	26
Harlequin Duck	52	Iceland Gull	1	American Dipper	2
Surf Scoter	601	Glaucous-winged Gull	332	European Starling	501
White-winged Scoter	75	Red-throated Loon	5	Townsend's Solitaire	2
Black Scoter	3	Pacific Loon	5	Varied Thrush	51
Long-tailed Duck	25	Common Loon	21	Hermit Thrush	3
Bufflehead	612	Brandt's Cormorant	68	American Robin	622
Common Goldeneye	466	Pelagic Cormorant	172	House Sparrow	249
Barrow's Goldeneye	393	Double-crested Crmt.	232	Evening Grosbeak	4
Hooded Merganser	122	Great Blue Heron	39	House Finch	140
Common Merganser	152	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Purple Finch	15
Red-breasted Mrgnsr.	44	Cooper's Hawk	4	Red Crossbill	70
Ruddy Duck	16	Bald Eagle	53	Pine Siskin	71
California Quail	10	Red-tailed Hawk	8	American Goldfinch	159
Ruffed Grouse	2	Barn Owl	1	Fox Sparrow	65
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	Great Horned Owl	11	Dark-eyed Junco	1374
Pied-billed Grebe	21	Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	White-crowned Sparrow	75
Horned Grebe	505	Barred Owl	8	Golden-crowned Sparrow	179
Red-necked Grebe	44	Northern Saw-whet Owl	8	White-throated Sparrow	4
Eared Grebe	3	Belted Kingfisher	34	Song Sparrow	215
Western Grebe	144	Red-breasted Sapsucker	8	Lincoln's Sparrow	7
Rock Pigeon	368	Downy Woodpecker	14	Spotted Towhee	179
Band-tailed Pigeon	2	Hairy Woodpecker	13	Red-winged Blackbird	60
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	Pileated Woodpecker	10	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Mourning Dove	18	Northern Flicker	63	Yellow-rumped Warbler	19
Anna's Hummingbird	88	Merlin	1	Townsend's Warbler	3
Virginia Rail	5	Peregrine Falcon	2		
American Coot	356	Hutton's Vireo	3	Unspecified Species:	1199
Black-bellied Plover	1	Northern Shrike	1		
Killdeer	28	Steller's Jay	70	Total individual birds:	16,089
Ruddy Turnstone	1	California Scrub-Jay	33	Total number of species:	119
Black Turnstone	37	American Crow	645	Number of volunteers:	46

North Kitsap/Port Gamble Christmas Bird Count - December 31, 2022

Brant	68	California Gull	39	House Finch	148
Cackling Goose	2	Herring Gull	2	Purple Finch	19
Canada Goose	354	Glaucous-winged Gull	178	Red Crossbill	8
Northern Shoveler	8	Red-throated Loon	40	Pine Siskin	26
Eurasian Wigeon	6	Pacific Loon	61	American Goldfinch	228
American Wigeon	817	Common Loon	35	Fox Sparrow	58
Mallard	308	Brandt's Cormorant	6	Dark-eyed Junco	623
Northern Pintail	13	Pelagic Cormorant	58	White-crowned Sparrow	94
Green-winged Teal	6	Double-crested Cormorant	411	Golden-crowned Sparrow	112
Ring-necked Duck	2	Great Blue Heron	28	White-throated Sparrow	1
Greater Scaup	39	Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Savannah Sparrow	2
Surf Scoter	410	Cooper's Hawk	2	Song Sparrow	178
White-winged Scoter	101	Bald Eagle	41	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Black Scoter	2	Red-tailed Hawk	11	Swamp Sparrow	1
Long-tailed Duck	4	Great Horned Owl	4	Spotted Towhee	111
Bufflehead	478	Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	Western Meadowlark	1
Common Goldeneye	384	Barred Owl	1	Red-winged Blackbird	166
Barrow's Goldeneye	26	Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Hooded Merganser	33	Belted Kingfisher	12	Brewer's Blackbird	55
Common Merganser	57	Red-breasted Sapsucker	6	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Red-breasted Merganser	332	Downy Woodpecker	12	Yellow-rumped Warbler	15
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Hairy Woodpecker	11	Townsend's Warbler	2
Horned Grebe	387	Pileated Woodpecker	6		
Red-necked Grebe	74	Northern Flicker	44	Unspecified species	541
Eared Grebe	2	Merlin	2		
Western Grebe	48	Peregrine Falcon	1	Total individual birds	13258
Rock Pigeon	115	Hutton's Vireo	15	Total number of species	116
Eurasian Collared-Dove	39	Steller's Jay	82		
Mourning Dove	24	California Scrub-Jay	2	Count week birds:	
Anna's Hummingbird	87	American Crow	308	Northern Shrike	
Virginia Rail	1	Common Raven	36	American Kestrel	
Black Oystercatcher	2	Black-capped Chickadee	117	Yellow-billed Loon	
Black-bellied Plover	2	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	103		
Killdeer	32	Bushtit	106	Number of volunteers	41
Sanderling	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	99		
Least Sandpiper	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet	257		
Wilson's Snipe	11	Red-breasted Nuthatch	51		
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Brown Creeper	15		
Common Murre	34	Pacific Wren	59		
Pigeon Guillemot	45	Marsh Wren	12		
Marbled Murrelet	22	Bewick's Wren	28		
Rhinoceros Auklet	58	European Starling	300		
Bonaparte's Gull	3000	Varied Thrush	43		
Heermann's Gull	2	Hermit Thrush	1		
Short-billed Gull	303	American Robin	392		
Ring-billed Gull	2	Cedar Waxwing	4		
Western Gull	2	House Sparrow	50		

NK Wildlife Club 2022 accomplishments

Kevin Eger, KAS VP and Club Advisor

It's been another great start to the school year for the NK Wildlife Club at North Kitsap High School in Poulsbo! High school students ages 15-18 have been working hard to accomplish their mission: monitoring and improving habitat for wildlife throughout Kitsap County. It is my great pleasure to share some of their accomplishments from this past year with you.

Native planting was the theme for 2022. The club planned and implemented several planting efforts on campus last spring accompanied by invasive species removals. Then in the fall, in an effort to convert more campus lawn to wildlife friendly habitat, members prepared an experimental wildflower plot, planting seeds from 12 different species of native flowers and grasses. In the picture below right, students are weighing out the proper proportions of seeds for their plot, so that no single species is likely to outcompete another. It was great fun! The club also partnered with the Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC) and Western Washington University (WWU) to help plant hundreds of trees at Klingel Bryan Beard Wildlife Refuge. This partner project had multiple intentions. First, to add vegetative diversity to an area otherwise dominated by blackberry, scotchbroom, and non-native grasses. Second, to examine the effectiveness of assisted migration, a strategy in which species native to the area but bred from a more southern stock and mycorrhizal community are planted in the hopes that these characteristics might lend them an advantage in a warming climate. It was such a wonderful opportunity for students to improve their environment directly, connect with other like-minded individuals, and participate in citizen science. We are very grateful to GPC and WWU for their willingness to work with us.

For the zealous zoologist out there, don't worry, our club activities weren't always about plants. Wildlife club members participated in several bird surveys this past year including the National Audubon's biannual climate and the annual Christmas

Bird Count. We are deeply appreciative of the team at Bloedel Reserve who allowed us to conduct our surveys on their property, and have encouraged and supported our planting efforts with expert advice. Our club is also working with GPC to monitor game cameras at Grover's Creek Preserve. We have already witnessed bobcats, coyotes, opossums, and two charismatic thrushes on these cameras and are excited to see more. I will finish with our most recent activity. As mentioned in this month's issue of Kid's Corner, we recently discovered the National Audubon's recipe for do-it-yourself window decals, and are now enjoying our artistic creations. Our next step will be to discuss whether or not to extend this art project into a larger campaign around our school or move on to something else.

I am so proud of the work these club members have put in and so thankful for our community partners who have gone above and beyond to involve our group in their projects as well. We have much to look forward to in 2023.

Some of our NK Wildlife Club members (left to right): Club presidents Annika Nulton & Trisha McCoskrie, members Carmella Targett and Gretel Maberry, and secretary Talon Grant



Great Backyard Bird Count

February 17-20 - <https://www.birdcount.org>

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days the GBBC invites people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and sharing their data via GBBC and eBird. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

In 2020 we designed a new website to help make your 4-day count easy, clear, and inspiring! In an effort to spread the love of birdwatching even further, we use pictures of birds and people from around the world participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. No matter what corner of the world you live in or visit, we want to share in your joy of birdwatching.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada. In 2013, we became a global project when we began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project.

Don Willott took this amazing photo of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet as it flashed warnings at its own image in the window.



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

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

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Kitsap Audubon Society

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To receive your Kingfisher via email and save us the expense of printing and mailing, send your request to genebullock@comcast.net.

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

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- | | |
|--|---|
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Additional donation: Scholarships \$ _____ Audubon Adventures \$ _____ Other \$ _____

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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>

