

JANUARY 2023

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



THE Kingfisher

January 12th Program (7:00 p.m. via Zoom)

Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure: The ecology of dead wood -Ken Bevis, DNR Stewardship Biologist

What happens to trees after they die, and how does that play into the way forests work? And who lives in those dead stems? I will talk about primary cavity excavators and other denizens of this important habitat, and discuss human management of dead wood.

Ken Bevis is the Stewardship Biologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) Service Forestry program. His career in forestry and wildlife spans 36 years, working for the U. S. Forest Service, the Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (15 years) and now, DNR. He holds a BS from Virginia Tech (1979), and an MS from Central Washington University (1994), where he studied woodpeckers and dead trees. He now helps landowners learn how to manage small private forest lands for forests and wildlife. He frequently teaches workshops and classes for Washington State University Extension programs. He sings, is fascinated with dead trees and works to find humor in everything.



To join Zoom Program, Thurs., Jan. 12th at 7:00 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

Save the date for Kitsap Audubon's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Help us honor our founders, members and community partners at Kitsap Audubon's 50th Anniversary celebration, Sunday, May 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m., at the elegant Hood Canal Vista Pavilion in Port Gamble. Enjoy a sumptuous brunch followed by an unforgettable program featuring

State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz

plus other prominent leaders.

Watch for unfolding details in future Kingfishers.



President's Letter - Lynn Willmott

Happy New Year to all of our members!! The Board would like to thank everyone for a successful 2022. We are so excited to celebrate Kitsap Audubon's 50th anniversary!

Please save the date for our 50th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, May 21, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Hood Canal Vista Pavilion in Port Gamble. And watch for more details as our plans take shape (see announcement on front cover of this *Kingfisher*).

We are thrilled to report that Kitsap County and Forterra have completed the purchase of 756 acres of high-priority timber rights in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. Some 450 donors were involved in raising \$500,000 for the purchase, including \$10,000 from Kitsap Audubon and \$10,000 from the Willott family.

The Education Committee has had the pleasure of meeting many families and children at local events, and so many have asked about programs for kids. We plan to add family walks and educational programs geared toward new birders of all ages. The Committee has started a ***Kid's Corner*** in the issue (Page 5). We hope you will share it with your children and grandchildren.

We hope to start holding in-person membership meetings in Poulsbo in February. The meetings will be hybrid so you can join us either in person or virtually via ZOOM. It will be great to see folks face-to-face. We hope to add a pre-talk education sharing time and will look forward to

your ideas on topics you would like to discuss, like how to buy binoculars, great places to bird in Kitsap and surrounding areas, and what plants will support birds in my garden.

The 2022 Christmas Bird Count was completed in December, and the results will be summarized in the February *Kingfisher*. We want to thank our official compilers, Jennifer Standish and Janine Schutt, for organizing our two CBCs and providing training for volunteers who are new to these counts. We would also like to thank all of the dedicated field team leaders and volunteers who took part.

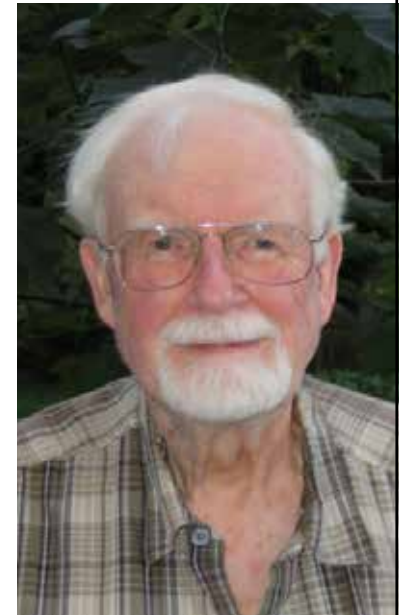
Your ongoing support means so much to the Chapter and helps us protect and advocate for the birds we all enjoy. Help us become successful with our new family-oriented programming. We need volunteers to help plan and lead the events that will ensure the continued success of Kitsap Audubon now and into the future.

Above photo by Don Willott. Photo below of Golden-crowned Sparrows by Jay Wiggs.



Remembering Ray Coleburg - Gene Bullock, Editor

Raynard Coleburg passed away on Friday, December 9th, 2022. He was founding President of Kitsap Audubon in 1973, and served on the current Kitsap Audubon Board for five years. I interviewed and photographed Ray in 2017 for the following article in the October, 2017 Kingfisher:



Ray Coleburg smiles as he recalls that day in November, 1972, when he and his former wife Charlotte went to a meeting organized by Joan Carson to talk about starting a new Audubon chapter in Kitsap County. "I raised my hand to ask a question, said Ray. "The next thing I knew, Joan had appointed me secretary of the charter committee."

Joan had sized him up pretty well, because Ray became the first President when the chapter was formally launched. Kitsap Audubon conducted its first Christmas Bird Count in 1973, a tradition it has continued uninterrupted for 50 years (as of December 2022). Ray was Kitsap Audubon's first delegate to the annual state-wide ACOW (Audubon Conference of Washington).

From the beginning, Kitsap Audubon has involved itself in the environmental issues of the day, including the early drafts of the Shoreline Management Plan, and the cataloging of public access sites in Kitsap County, many of which had fallen into disuse or been illegally fenced off as private property.

Ray never let his membership lapse, and became a LIFE Member of Kitsap Audubon. He rejoined the Kitsap Audubon Board in April, 2014, just in time to help write Kitsap Audubon's Endowment Spending Policies and serve on the newly formed Endowment Spending Committee. The new policies and committee were prompted by the wonderful bequest to Kitsap Audubon by Ann Sleight, another founding member and the chapter's first field trip chair.

Ray was born and raised on the north shore of Long Island, New York; and graduated from the State University of New York, where he met and married Charlotte Stillwell in 1956. They had two daughters, Ellen and Tiami.

A spectacular red bird showed up at their bird feeders, and sparked an enduring passion for birds for both Ray and Charlotte. Cardinals weren't common back then in northern states. The two joined the Huntington Audubon chapter in 1963 and attended the Audubon summer camp on Hog Island, off the coast of Maine. They also reported the first sighting in New York State of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, which has since become fairly common in northern states.

In 1965, the couple decided to move to the Pacific Northwest, and put their belongings on a van headed for Tacoma. They camped their way across the U.S. and around the Pacific Northwest, and found what they liked in Poulsbo. Ray shaved by a tree-mounted mirror in Faye Bainbridge Park and headed for a barber shop in Poulsbo. He told the barber he was looking for a job and she sent him to Ollie's Chevron Station. Ollie had more work than he could handle because of an IAM mechanics' strike, and Ollie wanted to go fishing in Alaska, so he decided to give Ray a try. Ray worked for Ollie for eight years.

Ray became an IAM union member, and served as one of its negotiators. One of his proudest moments, says Ray, was when he proposed and won paid dental care for IAM union families.

Ray had other jobs after Ollie retired, including consecutive ownership of two gas station franchises on Kitsap Way in Poulsbo. Each of the franchises ended when the parent companies left the area. However, his sales performance with the second earned him an expense paid trip for two to Tahiti.

As a Poulsbo businessman, Ray served as an ombudsman for the North Kitsap School District, helping them align their occupational education programs with the needs of the community.

Ray had written a number of poems over the years. Charlotte and her current husband Tage Blytman persuaded him to publish a limited edition of his collection for family and friends. A skilled bookbinder, Tage hand bound 25 copies, which Ray dedicated to his immigrant parents from Sweden and Finland, Ragnar and Ingne (Haapanen) Coleburg.

Ray retired in 2000. He left two daughters, Ellen and Tiami, and three grandchildren, Jordan, Molly, and Shayla Rose.

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>

Port Washington Narrows: Saturday, January 28th. (Half-day, morning). John & Karla Bouck,

leaders email john@creeksideplc.com for questions, signup, and starting time and location. Thousands of marine birds winter in these protected waters. We will explore Washington Narrows from Lions Park, Evergreen Park and Lower Rota Vista Park with perhaps a doughnut stop along the way. Kitsap Audubon has improved access to Lower Rota Vista Park at the end of Elizabeth Avenue. This charming park offers exceptional views of a unique colony of Pelagic cormorants and often a pair of Peregrine Falcons that nest on the underside of the Warren Avenue bridge.

Photo of Trumpeter Swans by Jay Wiggs.



Virtual Habitat Steward Training

Are you interested in creating habitat for wildlife? Do you want to do your part to keep Washington wild? **Now is your chance to become a Habitat Steward™!** The National Wildlife Federation is offering a specialized, multi-week virtual training to teach you how to create and restore wildlife habitat in backyards, schoolyards, and other places in your community. The training will be held twice a week over two weeks in January 2023. In addition, there will be in-person field experience opportunities offered pertaining to local habitats.

Benefits include: a comprehensive, digital training manual with local resources, instruction from local professionals, engaging field opportunities, certification as a habitat steward volunteer, and continued support from NWF staff.

A variety of topics will be presented on habitat restoration, PNW ecology and wildlife, natural yard care, invasive plants, native plants, & much more!

Classes will be held via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9pm. The dates are: 1/24, 1/26, 1/31 and February 2nd. Multiple field opportunities in January and February will be encouraged to expand learning in the Western Washington area.

The cost of the training is \$20. *Note: scholarships are available! No one will be turned down due to lack of funds.* Once registered the Zoom link will be emailed to you. To register for the training, please visit <https://westernwahst.brownpapertickets.com> or contact Crystal Lloyd at WAEducation@nwf.org

Kids' Corner: Hibernation

Did You Know?

During winter, many animals hibernate to withstand the colder temperatures and diminished food resource. Typically, we think of bears, frogs, and turtles as animals that hibernate. But did you know that there is one type of bird that hibernates? To add to the excitement, this bird can also be found in parts of Washington state!

The Common Poorwill is the only bird known to hibernate. Their habitat consists of open shrubberies and rocky outcroppings. They prefer Oak, Ponderosa Pine, and Three-tip Sage trees. Some can be found east of the Cascade Mountains. They are able to keep their heart rate slow and can sleep for months at a time in this condition.



Photo Credit: Bruce Cyganowski, Cornell Lab

Hibernation Word Search Puzzle



Can you find the names of 16 animals that hibernate hidden in this puzzle? The 16 animals names are listed at the bottom of the page.



BAT	BLACK BEAR	CHIPMUNK	FROG
GROUNDHOG	HAMSTER	HEDGEHOG	MOUSE
OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SKUNK	SNAKE
SQUIRREL	TOAD	TURTLE	WOODCHUCK

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How To Help Hibernating Wildlife In Your Back Yard:

- **Leave dead flowers and plants in your garden**
 - The plants in your garden can provide a food, protection, and materials source for surrounding wildlife. Birds especially love year round plants such as bayberries, junipers, and cotoneasters that produce berries year round.
- **Build a brush pile**
 - Building brush piles provide safe and warm homes for ground nesting birds, reptiles, and insects.
- **Provide water that won't freeze- help keep the wildlife hydrated!**

WDFW bird flu warning

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologists recently responded to reports of sick or dead waterfowl in western Skagit County on and around Skagit Bay, as well as in northwestern Snohomish County and on Camano Island and Port Susan in Island County.

WDFW has retrieved more than 700 deceased birds of several species—primarily juvenile snow geese—from this area. Samples have been taken from these birds for testing for avian influenza (also known as bird flu), with H5N1 strain Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) suspected.

WDFW asks members of the public who find sick or dead birds to report them immediately to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/bird-flu> and do not touch them. Infected birds may appear lethargic, unable to fly, and exhibit wheezing, vomiting, or have diarrhea or secretions from their mouth or nostrils.

Avoid all contact with sick and dead birds. DO NOT attempt to move sick birds to a veterinarian or rehabilitation center, or to your home, as this can spread the disease. If a dead bird must be moved, it is best to wear disposable

gloves while handling it and to double bag and dispose of the carcass in the garbage where pets and scavengers can't reach it.

Reports of suspected avian influenza in domestic flocks should be sent to the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Call 1-800-606-3056 or [visit their webpage](#) for more information about how to protect poultry and other domestic birds.

For hunters, waterfowl and other birds that appear healthy or are actively flying likely present minimal risk but should be cooked thoroughly before consumption.

Dogs and other animals can become sick with avian influenza, and care should be taken to avoid contact between pets and either sick birds or carcasses of diseased birds. Wherever possible, maintain control of and discourage your dog from touching birds that were not shot immediately beforehand.

For additional information on avian influenza please visit: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/bird-flu>

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.

Our History

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.

Photo of Hairy Woodpecker by Janine Schutt.



Project Feederwatch

<https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

Project FeederWatch is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. **You don't even need a feeder!** All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds. **The schedule is completely flexible.** Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and to contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance.

Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents. Canadians can participate by donating any amount to Birds Canada. These contributions cover materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs.

When you join FeederWatch you will receive:

- Tools to track and learn about birds on our website or mobile app
- Our year-end summary, [Winter Bird Highlights](#)
- Our double-sided poster of eastern and western common feeder birds (optional)
- Our calendar (optional)
- Digital access to the Cornell Lab's *Living Bird* magazine (U.S. participants)

Golden-crowned Kinglet
by Jay Wiggs.



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Watch previous programs: <https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/>

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Kitsap Audubon Society

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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 _____

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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:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual LIFE Membership \$300 |
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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>

