

CELEBRATING

50
Years



THE Kingfisher

MAY 2023

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1973

May 11th Program (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
Hybrid meeting: Both in-person and Zoom

Tracking birds in a time of change By Dan Froehlich

In our community—as around the world—the steady drumbeat of development pressure raises the question again and again how to identify the lands most valuable for conservation. Community activists, like the active membership of Audubon chapters, seek to guide land-use decisions to protect birds in particular. Other goals, like affordable housing, equitable recreational opportunities for diverse identities, and expanding access to natural landscapes are, we all agree, goals worth prioritizing. At some point, prioritizing these worthy causes will intersect and eventually conflict with priorities for effective bird conservation. Will we recognize that moment when and where it arrives? How can we as an NGO that centers birds in our mission provide quality counsel for our community and its leaders about critical milestones for bird conservation when we ourselves struggle to find agreement on what it means to prioritize bird conservation?



Dan Froehlich is an ornithologist studying avian life history cycles around the world. With weather becoming less predictable, he encounters a wide variety of birds migrating, molting, breeding, surviving—just doing their thing—that struggle to adapt as conditions change around them. During this ambitious program, he will explore perspectives and concepts that are often overlooked when discussing conservation priorities. Birds' extreme mobility and their seasonal needs highlight the role our own backyard plays in ecological processes as far-flung as northern Alaska and Central America. Using avian examples from both far and close by, we will ponder life cycle sensitivity, shifting baselines, and bird population dynamics to enrich our understanding of how best to advocate for the birds we love and which so effectively bring our community together.

Photo: The worn-out flight feathers of a young Wilson's Warbler on its first 3000-mile northward migration passing through Puget Sound in spring 2016. Dan Froehlich

To join Zoom Program, Thurs., May 11th, 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

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.**

**Reserve your tickets by May 8th for our 50th Anniversary Celebration,
Sunday, May 21, 1-4 p.m. (see Page 2)**

We're celebrating 50 years of advocating for birds, wildlife habitat and the environment with a happy gathering of members and friends you won't want to miss!

**Hood Canal Vista Pavilion, Port Gamble, Washington
Sunday, May 21, 2023, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Includes brunch
Tickets (\$25) may be purchased online or by mail until May 8th**

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

Speakers include:

- **Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands**
 - **Deborah Jensen, Vice President of National Audubon Society and Executive Director of Audubon Washington**
 - **Rob Gelder, North Kitsap County Commissioner**
- **Nate Daniel, Executive Director of Great Peninsula Conservancy**

Founding member special guests: Joan Carson, Tage and Charlotte Blythman, Dale and Regina Spoor, Ross and Paulette Waggoner.

Brief history of Kitsap Audubon Society

The first organizing meeting for Kitsap Audubon Society was held November 3, 1972, in the home of Paul and Joan Carson. A public meeting was then held December 7 at the Poulsbo Marine Center, where Liberty Bay Marina is now located. **Seventy-five** people attended, including legendary mentors Hazel Wolf of Seattle Audubon and Helen Engle of Tahoma Audubon. A slate of temporary officers was elected: President, Joan Carson; Secretary, Ray Coleburg and Treasurer, Jean Doar. Acting committee chairs were also appointed. Membership, Zane Lumbley; Conservation, Steve Wilson; Field Trips, Ann Sleight; Publicity, Sylvia Nelson; Refreshments, Rosemary Doar; Kingfisher co-editors, Harold Kelley and Dale Spoor.

The first official meeting of the newly chartered Kitsap Audubon Society was held on January 18 at the Poulsbo Marine Center. An official slate of chapter officers was elected: President, Ray Coleburg; 1st V.P., Dale Spoor; 2nd V.P., Jack Nelson; Secretary, Charlotte Coleburg; Treasurer, Jean Doar. Committee chairs remained the same, with the exception of the Kingfisher Editor. Joan Carson was appointed to that position, and served as editor for most of the next 27 years.

Kitsap Audubon today

Today, Kitsap Audubon Society has more than a thousand members in Kitsap County, including 554 dues-paying chapter members and 456 National Audubon members living in Kitsap County.

Kitsap Audubon has awarded \$85,500 in student scholarships since 2006, and donated more than \$120,000 to preserve forest and shoreline in Kitsap County. As a leading member of the Kitsap Forest and Bay community coalition, Kitsap Audubon helped raise millions of dollars to purchase the 3,500 acres of Port Gamble forest and shoreline that now make up Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. Kitsap Audubon volunteers continue to serve in leadership positions overseeing the stewardship of the park.

50th Anniversary Planning Committee: Lynn Willmott, Michael Szerlog, Pearl Kerber, Gene and Sandy Bullock.

Befriending Birds and People who love them for 50 years

Time is running out to reserve your tickets to the Kitsap Audubon "50th" Anniversary Celebration! Ticket sales will close after May 8th. Don't miss this happy gathering of our cherished founders, devoted members and special friends who share our love for birds and our commitment to protecting them.

Annual election of officers

Kitsap Audubon's annual election of officers took place at the April Membership meeting, held in the North Kitsap High School Library, with members attending both in person and via Zoom. The slate recommended by our Nominating Committee was unanimously elected: Kevin Eyer for President; Lynn Willmott and Gene Bullock as Co-Vice Presidents; and Judy Willott as Secretary. The new officers will assume office July 1st, 2023, and serve one-year terms.

We still have an urgent need for a Treasurer. Sandy Bullock is stepping down after filling the dual role of Treasurer and bookkeeper for 12 of the last 16 years. The Board is hiring a professional full-charge bookkeeper; but needs a Treasurer. The Treasurer will not require a knowledge of accounting; but would collect our mail, make bank deposits, write checks to pay our bills, and work with our hired bookkeeper to provide the Board with monthly reports.

Kitsap Audubon helps relocate ospreys

Kitsap Audubon helped relocate two pairs of ospreys that have been nesting on school athletic-field light towers (see article, Page 8). Kitsap Audubon partnered with the Poulsbo Rotary, the North Kitsap School District and Puget Sound Energy to install a new nest platform near the North Kitsap High School athletic field where the returning pair have nested for the last seven years. Kitsap Audubon also donated \$5,000 toward the cost of a new nest platform for a pair that have been nesting on the Olympic High School athletic field. Eight years ago, Kitsap Audubon partnered with Puget Sound Energy to relocate the pair now nesting by Poulsbo's Strawberry Field and Poulsbo Elementary School.



Thank you Gene Bullock for overseeing these projects, and thank you to the Puget Sound Energy Avian Protection Program. PSE donated the poles and installation crews for both of our Poulsbo osprey relocations.

Special thanks to Bainbridge One Call For All and Kitsap Great Give donors

Kitsap Audubon is especially grateful to the many members and friends who gave so generously to Kitsap Audubon through the Kitsap Great Give and Bainbridge Island One Call for All community fundraisers.

The Region II Annual Meeting

was hosted by Kitsap Audubon on March 11th at the Village Green

Community Center in Kingston. These regional meetings bring chapter leaders from the three regional Audubon chapters, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS) in Sequim, Admiralty Audubon Society in Port Townsend, and Kitsap Audubon Society (KAS), together with the staff of Audubon Washington to discuss shared goals and priorities and explore opportunities to collaborate on conservation and education.

Exciting new opportunities

KAS is currently working on some exciting projects:

- Restoration of Kitsap Audubon's Purple Martin colony in Silverdale, bringing to five the Purple Martin colonies in Kitsap County funded by Kitsap Audubon and maintained by Kitsap Audubon volunteers.
- A Motus bird and small animal tracking station sponsored and funded by Kitsap Audubon will be installed on the U.S. Coast Guard communications tower in Point No Point County Park in Hansville.
- Kitsap Audubon's involvement and support for a 200-mile Puget Sound to Pacific Coast corridor linking the Sound to Olympics and Discovery trails into the Great American Rail to Trail system.

We will keep you up to date on these projects and more on our website (kitsapaudubon.org) and in the Kingfisher.

Photo by Don Willott

Kids' Corner: Hummingbirds of Washington State

Did You Know?

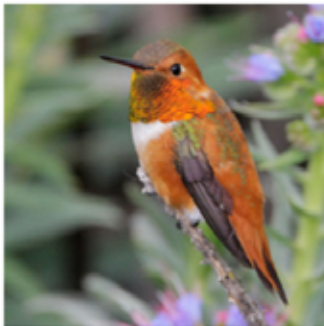
Out of the four species of hummingbirds local to our area, only one is year round! The Anna's Hummingbird does not migrate during the winter, and can be seen through all seasons. The feathers of the males have the ability to reflect light differently as the bird moves, or the viewer moves position. The other three species of hummingbird that return to Washington in the early spring include, the Rufous, Calliope, and the Black-chinned hummingbirds.

How to Make Hummingbird Nectar For Your Feeder

1/4 cup of refined sugar
1 cup of boiling water
mix and cool to room
temperature
place in feeder and enjoy!

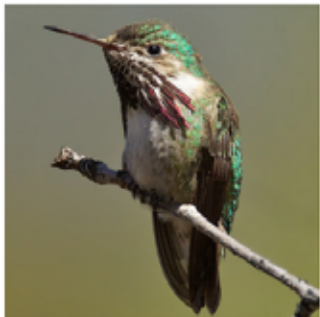


Anna's Hummingbird, photo credit
Cornell University; Kyle Blanney



Rufous

Photo Credit: Tom
Gray



Calliope

Photo Credit:
Gregg Thompson



Black Chinned

Photo Credit :
Greg Lavaty

Video of Male Anna's Hummingbird Changing Colors

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Annas_Hummingbird/photo-gallery/217311191



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: For a complete list and summary of statewide events, visit Washington Sate Audubon site: <http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

Theler Wetlands and Trails (Belfair); Saturday, May 13th. (Half-day); Al & Carolyn Westphal, leaders. An annual spring favorite! We will walk the boardwalk and trails for several hours in the morning to greet the spring arrivals including swallows, sparrows, and hopefully a few warblers and vireos, along with the year-round residents. Involves several miles of walking on good trails. Contact trips leaders for sign-up (westphalac@aol.com).

Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

On March 19th, Kitsap's first record of an **acorn woodpecker** was confirmed at Lions Park in East Bremerton. The adult female bird was viewed by multiple birders at Lions Park and at various spots around the neighborhood. The rare visitor continued in the area for a few weeks, showing a preference for oak trees and backyard suet feeders. Send your interesting sightings to wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings - www.eBird.org:

March 14 at Point No Point (Hansville): 1 black-legged kittiwake
March 18 near Holly: 1 Canada jay
March 18 near Hansville: 1 northern shrike
March 19 at Bloedel Reserve (Bainbridge Island): 1 evening grosbeak
March 26 at Long Lake (Port Orchard): 2 ruddy ducks
March 28 at Gold Mountain: 1 mountain quail, 1 sooty grouse, 2 mountain bluebirds, 3 Townsend's solitaires
March 29 near Kingston: 7 tundra swans, 18 trumpeter swans, 1 redhead
March 31 near Indianola: 2 ring-billed gulls, 1 western gull, 3 herring gulls, 5 Iceland gulls
April 1 in Port Gamble: 4 long-tailed ducks, 1 eared grebe, 1 western meadowlark
April 2 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island):

Trip Reports

Poulsbo's Fish Park, March 25. It was colder, grayer, and windier than expected, but it didn't rain and the company was good! Our tally of thirty-something species was a bit lean, but we had good looks at three merganser species in breeding plumage, a generous number of Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a nice display by a Belted Kingfisher.

Seattle's Montlake Fill, April 15. After cancelations and flake-outs, only three of us spent the morning walking the trails of Seattle's former trash dump, now a terrific restored natural area. It was a delightful morning, featuring decent weather, and nearly fifty bird species including a number of "first-of-years." Highlights included a cooperative Merlin, recently returned Ospreys, a crowd of swallows, and dozens of Yellow-rumped Warblers, with a murder of American Crows seeming to want to mob and harass nearly any other bird in the sky.

18 Harlequin ducks, 5 black scoters, 2 black oystercatchers

April 3 in Keyport: 1 Townsend's solitaire

April 7 at Green Mountain: 1 northern pygmy-owl

April 12 at Clear Creek Trail (Silverdale): 1 cinnamon teal, 4 Virginia rails

April 13 at Point No Point: 38 long-tailed ducks, 1 merlin

April 15 on Bainbridge Island: 1 white-throated sparrow

April 15 at Point Julia (Port Gamble): 3 black oystercatchers, 1 western gull

Cinnamon Teal at Clear Creek by Arlen Price.



Bird of the Month: Turkey Vulture - Janine Schutt

Raptors, particularly eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls, are often viewed as majestic symbols of strength. But there is another raptor that many find despicable, primarily for its preference for carrion. The scavenging raptor with this undeserved reputation is the vulture. There are three species of vultures in the United States: turkey vulture, black vulture, and California condor. The turkey vulture is the only one found in Washington. Here are some fascinating facts about the turkey vulture:

- Has the greatest range of the three American vultures.
- A migratory breeder in most of the United States. Year-round resident from the southern U.S. to South America and the Caribbean Islands.
- Migrant flocks can number in the hundreds or thousands.
- Found in a variety of habitats with a preference for open country near forests.
- Has a 5 to 6-foot wingspan.
- One of the few species of birds with a highly developed sense of smell.
- Soars on thermals to detect dead animals, which

it locates by scent.

- Can also soar at low altitudes by holding its wings in a slight V-shape (called a *dihedral*), which allows it to maintain lift and stability by means of a wobbly flight.
- Dines on carrion, with a preference for fresh carcasses.
- Has highly acidic stomach acid, which allows it to digest anything without getting sick, even the carcasses of diseased animals.
- Provides a critical service to the ecosystem by consuming rotting flesh that might otherwise spread disease.
- Its distinctive red head is featherless to keep rotting flesh from matting any feathers.
- Cools itself on hot days by defecating on its legs and feet.
- Nests on rock ledges or in large, abandoned nests of herons and hawks.

Clutch size is 1-3 eggs, which both parents incubate for about a month. Young can fly after 9 weeks and usually leave the nest site after 2-3 more weeks.

Photos by Janine Schutt.



Sandy Pavey receives 2023 Kingfisher Award

The 2023 Kingfisher Award, Kitsap Audubon's highest award, was presented to Sandy Pavey at Kitsap Audubon's May membership meeting. The award is given annually to an individual or couple who have given outstanding service to Kitsap Audubon for five or more years.

Sandy has been Kitsap Audubon's Purple Martin Chair since February 2010, 13 years. In that role, she leads the team of volunteers that maintains the Brownsville Purple Martin colony, one of four colonies funded by Kitsap Audubon and maintained by Kitsap Audubon volunteers. In addition to the Brownsville Marina colony, Kitsap Audubon supports colonies in Poulsbo's Oyster Plant Park, the Seabeck marina, and Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island.

As Chair, Sandy assists other volunteers with expert guidance, education and training, as well as assessment of potential sites. She is currently working with Cathy Cohoon to re-establish a former Kitsap Audubon Purple Martin colony in Silverdale.

Sandy says she first became infatuated with Purple Martins in Virginia when one of her co-workers mentioned that she had a perfect setting for Purple Martin houses. Not knowing anything about these birds, she and her husband Robert did some research and installed an apartment-style house with eight compartments. The apartments were so successful in attracting Purple Martins they put up more and were hooked!



Soon after moving to Poulsbo 15 years ago she attended a meeting of Kitsap Audubon and learned that Purple Martins migrate here as well. Once she witnessed the Kitsap Audubon colonies in Poulsbo, Brownsville, and Seabeck she wanted to get involved. She and Robert now maintain the colony at Brownsville marina. This includes monitoring their arrival, their nesting activity, and successes, and cleaning out their gourds at the end of the season in preparation for the next year.

Sandy and her husband also installed four gourds on their own property on Liberty Bay and look forward to the return of the Purple Martins each year.

Photo by Robert Pavey

Kingfisher Award

Honor Roll

The Kingfisher Award is Kitsap Audubon's highest honor. The winner must be an individual or couple who has been an active participant in KAS for at least five years, has produced high quality work, and has shown a dedication to KAS, to the environment and to wildlife. The selection committee is comprised of the last three award winners. It is usually awarded at the May meeting.

2023 – Sandy Pavey

2022 – Jennifer Standish

2021 – Lynn Willmott

2020 – Connie Bickerton

2019 – Diane Bachen

2018 – Alan Westphal

2017 – Michael Szerlog

2016 – Janine Schutt

2015 – Sharron Ham

2014 – Milly Bellemere

Bob Schumacher

2013 – Judy & Don Willott

2012 – Vic Ulsh

2011 – Byron & Sara Kane

2010 – Jim Ullrich

2009 – Sandy & Gene Bullock

2008 – Dawn & Hans Hansen

2007 – Dee & John Finkbeiner

2006 – Glenn Anderson

2005 – Richard Anderson

2004 – Fay & Ernie Linger

2003 – Nancy Ladenberger

2002 – Morry Walsh

2001 – Morna Blessing

2000 – John & Claudia

McDonald

1999 – Ivan & Phyllis Summers

1998 – Paul & Joan Carson

1997 – Jack & Martina Hendry

1996 – Ken Short

1995 – Frank Beyer

2023 Environmental wins and losses

The 2023 session of the Washington legislature produced some huge wins for the environment, as well as some notable losses.

SHB1460 – Creates and funds a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land transfer program that makes it easier for DNR to transfer surplus land into public ownership for parks, community forests and conservation. Kitsap County acquisition of the Eglon forest parcel now seems assured.

SHB1181 – Updates the Growth Management Act to reflect climate change.

ShB110 – Allows duplex and fourplex units to be built in neighborhoods currently zoned single family only.

S5104 – Requires survey of Puget Sound marine shoreline habitat to identify armoring and other problems that need to be remedied to improve salmon and forage fish survival.

SB5371 – Increase to 1,000 yards protective buffer to protect southern resident Orcas.

HB1170 – Integrates climate resilience into statewide business planning.

Notable failures:

HB1131/SB5154 – WRAP Act would have improved recycling in Washington State and shifted more responsibility to manufacturers and retailers for minimizing waste and recycling.

HB1723/SB5651 – Would have required updating the Growth Management Act to reflect social justice and equity.

SBN5688 – Would have allowed DNR to sell carbon sequestration as a forest management resource..

Kitsap Audubon helps relocate Ospreys

Safer nest platforms have been installed in three Kitsap County locations to provide safer places for annually returning pairs of Ospreys to raise their families.

Kitsap Audubon partnered with the Poulsbo Rotary, the North Kitsap School District, and the Puget Sound Energy Avian Protection Program to install a new osprey nest platform near the North Kitsap High School athletic field, where ospreys have nested on a stadium light tower for the last seven years. The relocation had become urgent because of the excess weight of the nest and the threat it posed as a health, safety and fire hazard. The recently returned ospreys watched as the pole and platform were installed, and promptly began rebuilding their nest on the new platform. PSE donated the pole and installation crew.



Kitsap Audubon also donated \$5,000 toward the cost of a new osprey nest platform for a pair that have been nesting on an athletic field light tower at Olympic High School.

Eight years ago, Kitsap Audubon partnered with Puget Sound Energy to relocate an osprey pair that had been nesting on a light tower in Poulsbo's Strawberry Field. PSE also donated the pole and installation crew for that nest platform. Kitsap Audubon recently hired an arborist to reduce the accumulated weight of that nest because it threatened the supporting structure. The ospreys watched as the arborist worked and promptly began adding nest material.

The Poulsbo Ospreys are especially attracted to the area because of the pond behind the North Kitsap School Horticultural Building. The Poulsbo Lions Club stocks the pond with trout for their annual Kids Fishing Derby. Poulsbo Lions Club members enjoy knowing they are helping support two thriving families of ospreys plus a family of otters.

Photo of NK High School Osprey by Jay Wiggs

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.



Kitsap Audubon hired arborist Tony Otto to remove excess nest material from Osprey platform at Poulsbo's Strawberry Field. At 400 pounds, the accumulated weight threatened the support. Kitsap Audubon led the installation of this platform eight years ago. Photo by Gene Bullock

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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 _____

Email Address: _____

- 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>

