

CELEBRATING

50
Years



THE Kingfisher

OCTOBER 2023

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1973

**October 12th Program (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
Both in-person and Zoom**

The Amazing World of Hummingbirds!

Derek Matthews, Vancouver Avian Research Center

The world of hummingbirds is a testament to the diversity and wonders of the natural world. There are over 350 different species found throughout the Americas, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, each with unique characteristics and behaviors. They shine and dazzle; they pollinate and migrate, and their unique adaptations and behaviors make them a mesmerizing group of birds that captivate and intrigue researchers and birdwatchers around the world.

Derek Matthews is a passionate ornithologist, avian researcher and conservationist. He is Chair of the Vancouver Avian Research Centre, a Master bird bander (A Master Bander is an individual licensed by Environment Canada to capture and band wild birds) and an NABC (North American Banding Council) Certified Trainer.

With his wife Carol, they have traveled extensively birding throughout the world in over 85 countries and have a life list of 6,000 species and developed World Bird Traveler (<https://worldbirdtraveler.com/who-we-are/>) as a resource to help birders plan trips. He also leads field trips and bird tours and hosts Bird Monitoring and Banding and Bird Identification workshops.

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) is a Registered Canadian Charity dedicated to wild bird research, conservation, and education. VARC conducts bird monitoring and banding, provides research, demonstration, volunteer opportunities, outreach and education including schools' programs and visitor programs at its main Colony Farm field station. VARC's primary objective is to raise awareness of the environmental threats facing birds and provide data and research support that will allow for the safeguarding of bird habitats to ensure their long-term survival by providing scientifically defensible strategies for avian and ecosystem conservation.

Photo of Sword-billed Hummingbird by Derek Matthews.



To join Zoom Program, Thurs., Oct. 12th, 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

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.**

President's Letter - Kevin Eyer

Is it already October? It's hard to keep up with all that happened this past month. September's hybrid Zoom meeting was a great success! Thanks to our webmaster Michael Szerlog, the technology ran smoothly and without a hitch. It was exciting to see some students from North Kitsap High School at our meeting, adding interesting questions to the discussion. We would love to see you in person at our next membership meeting at North Kitsap High School library on October 12th. If you are unable, feel free to join us on zoom. The link can be found on our website banner and on our new calendar.

September was a whirlwind of activity for our leadership team. I'm excited to introduce you to this year's newest executive officers, board members, and Committee Chairs. Crystal McMahon has been appointed Treasurer and Shelley White Assistant Treasurer. We are excited to have them in our flock and are so thankful for Sandy Bullock's help with the transition. Sandy will continue in leadership as a board member, along with new appointees Jeff Brown, Bella Carlson, and Lauren Eyer.

Lynn, our co-vice president, is chairing the Education committee this year. We are looking for volunteers to help with tabling for a number of events coming up. Please reach out to Lynn or send a message through our website if you might be interested. Our new Conservation Chair Bella Carlson is also looking for new recruits. We have a number of projects to follow and a chance to brainstorm future directions this year. Finally, our Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee is looking for members as well. Send me an email and I'd be happy to have you on our team. Have a great month birding!

Photo above: Kevin poses with Oakley, Barred Owl ambassador for the West Sound Wildlife Shelter Education Program.

Photo below: "Boys in the Boat" by Dorothy Rosenbladt was awarded first prize by the Bainbridge Island Photo Club.



Kids Corner

Which is the real Blue Jay?

Some people mistakenly call all three of these birds "Blue Jays." But only the bird on the bottom right goes by that name. Two of these birds show up at Western Washington bird feeders. Our most common jay, the bird on the top right, is the beautiful Steller's Jay. In the last 20 years the California Scrub Jay, the lower left picture, has become more common along the coast of Washington and British Columbia. The true Blue Jay is common in the Eastern United States, but is rarely seen in Western Washington.

There is nothing shy about these boisterous bullies! Listen for noisy squawking jays in your backyard. They are always ready to let everybody know they are around. Look at their heads to tell them apart: California Scrub Jays don't have a large crest like the Steller's Jay.

Photo right of Steller's Jay by Jay Wiggs

Photo lower left of California Scrub Jay by Jay Wiggs.

Photo lower right of Blue Jay courtesy of National Geographic.



Field Trips & Festivals - Al Westphal, Field Trip Chair

Liability Waiver Policy:

Beginning this fall, Kitsap Audubon Society asks field trip participants to complete a liability waiver form on our website www.kitsapaudubon.org/fieldtrips. This 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>

Billy Frank-Nisqually NWR (near Olympia); Saturday, October 14th. Al & Carolyn Westphal, leaders. A long half-day trip, but there are few places in the region better for observing the gathering of wintering waterfowl and others. We will walk the forest and barn trails and as far out on

the boardwalk as we care to go. This event involves several hours/miles of walking on good flat trails with restroom opportunities at the start and mid-way. Contact trips leaders for sign-up (westphalac@aol.com).

Trip Report:

Point No Point, September 16th. Fourteen of us gathered on a fabulous late-summer morning of birding at Point No Point County Park in Hansville. As the receding tide created a strong current around the point, a decent flock of around 500 Bonaparte's Gulls plus many others assembled there to feed on the bait fish. We were treated to ringside entertainment as Parasitic Jaegers joined the feeding and harassed the smaller gulls mercilessly. Lots of other highlights among the 48 species in the count, and it was great to get into the field with such a great group of birders.

Photo of deer at bird feeder by Jay Wiggs



Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

Send your interesting sightings to wildlitesightings@kitsapaudubon.org.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from www.eBird.org:

Aug. 18 at Point No Point (Hansville): 18 cinnamon teals

Aug. 19 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island): 6 surfbirds, 1 least flycatcher (3rd county record), 1 yellow-headed blackbird

Aug. 19 near Poulsbo: 1 northern pygmy-owl

Aug. 25 near Keyport: 1 lesser goldfinch

Aug. 27 in Port Orchard: 1 Wilson's phalarope

Aug. 30 near Hansville: 1 solitary sandpiper

Aug. 31 near Hansville: 1 Nashville warbler

Sept. 1 at Point No Point: 1 long-tailed jaeger, 1 Sabine's gull, 2 bank swallows

Sept. 2 at Restoration Point: 56 Harlequin ducks, 2 ruddy turnstones, **1 white-breasted nuthatch (1st county record)**

Sept. 2 by Green Mountain: 1 Clark's nutcracker

Sept. 6 by Green Mountain: 1 black swift, 1 evening grosbeak

Sept. 7 at Long Lake (Port Orchard): 1 green heron, 1 Cassin's vireo

Sept. 11 at Point No Point: 1 western meadowlark

Sept. 11 south of Port Orchard: 1 hermit thrush

Sept. 11 near Hansville: 3 Baird's sandpipers, 1 whimbrel

Sept. 14 on Bainbridge Island: 1 American pipit

Sept. 15 at Point No Point: 2 parasitic jaegers, 6 common terns, 1

Canada jay, 1 white-throated sparrow

Point No Point photos by Janine Schutt: Above, juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger harassing Bonaparte's Gulls. Right, Sabine's Gull in flock of Bonaparte's Gulls.



Bird of the Month: Barred Owl- Janine Schutt

It's October and people are putting up Halloween decorations. A feature creature of the season is the owl. Not all owls have yellow eyes like the great horned owl, the quintessential Halloween owl. Following deforestation in the eastern U.S., the dark-eyed barred owl moved west across the forests of southern Canada and has now established itself as a resident of West Coast forests. It is the most commonly observed owl in Kitsap County. Here are some fascinating facts about the barred owl:

- Named for the vertical streaking or barring on the chest.
- Mostly nocturnal but is occasionally active during the day and can sometimes be found roosting on a tree branch next to the trunk.
- Is often subjected to a barrage of harassment from corvids and songbirds who are not happy to have it in their neighborhood.
- Known for its trademark "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for all?" call.
- Its only real threat is the great horned owl.
- Despite expanding its range over the past 100+ years, it is nonmigratory and relatively sedentary,

usually staying within a 6-mile radius.

- Preferred habitat consists of large tracts of mature mixed forest of deciduous and coniferous trees, usually near water.
- Looks for prey while perched. Eats small mammals no larger than rabbits, birds no larger than grouse and sometimes amphibians, fish, and crustaceans.
- In diminishing Pacific Northwest old growth forests, it is creating problems for spotted owl conservation, as it hybridizes with or outcompetes its smaller cousin for nesting sites.
- Mostly nests in tree cavities 20-40 feet high and sometimes uses nest boxes or stick nests abandoned by hawks or corvids.
- Breeding pairs are monogamous. Clutch size is usually 2-3 eggs, and incubation and nesting periods last about a month each.
- Fledglings can climb trees by walking upward and gripping bark with their talons and curved bills while flapping their wings for stability.
- Juveniles are capable of sustained flight 12 weeks after hatching.

Photos by Janine Schutt.



Coyotes here to stay - Gene Bullock

Wolves have always fueled irrational fears and stalked the imagination in myths and fairy tales. It was mainly their appetite for domestic sheep, cattle and other farm animals that drove farmers and the government to wage all-out war using bounties, traps and poisons. But one of the unintended consequences of eradicating wolves was the proliferation of coyotes. Unlike wolves, however, coyotes now thrive in residential neighborhoods. And when humans intensify efforts to get rid of them, Nature responds by increasing the size of their litters.

Like crows, squirrels, raccoons and rats, coyotes are multiplying and prospering in neighborhoods everywhere. Wildlife experts say they are here to stay. While they can be a threat to outdoor cats and other small pets, the coyote's diet consists almost entirely of rodents, rabbits, squirrels, crickets, and berries. But they are clever, resourceful opportunists who quickly take advantage of free food offerings, such as pet food left outdoors or garbage carelessly strewn or enclosed in loose-fitting containers.

Don't expect much help from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Wildlife specialists have long since admitted defeat. Coyotes are thriving despite all efforts to control or eliminate them. Wildlife experts encourage people to learn to live with wildlife, but avoid feeding them, keep your cats indoors and don't leave small pets untended in early morning or late evening hours when the mostly nocturnal coyotes are active. And don't depend on fences to keep your pets safe. Coyotes can easily leap up onto the top railing of your fence – even with a small pet gripped in their jaws.

Adult coyotes weigh between 30 and 40 pounds, similar to a medium-sized dog. They are crafty and bold, but very good at making themselves invisible. Wildlife specialists say the cardinal rule of living with wildlife is to avoid feeding them. Animals that learn to associate food with people can become behavioral problems and lose their natural fear of humans. This can make them a danger to people – and especially small children. When this happens, they must be destroyed. People who think they are being kind when they feed wild animals are creating problems for both their neighbors and the animals themselves. It's the animal that always pays the ultimate price for misguided human behavior. **Photo by Jay Wiggs.**



Kitsap Audubon Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT For Period 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023

2022/2023 Ordinary Income/Expense

Income:

Chapter Dues	51%	21,312
NAS Dues Share	5%	1,988
One Call for All	21%	8,685
Kitsap Great Give	11%	4,521
Donations - Other	9%	3,651
Donations - Pass Through	0%	-
Fundraising Income - 50th Anniversary	4%	1,775
Interest - Bank	0%	2
Total Ordinary Income	100%	\$ 41,935

Expense:

Administration	7%	5,316
Newsletter - Print/Mail	8%	5,885
Washington Audubon	5%	4,000
GPC - Hansville Donation	13%	10,000
Misc. Dues & Contributions	23%	17,026
Education, Aud. Adventures/Misc.	1%	688
Programs/Speakers	2%	1,300
Rent - Meetings, Storage, P.O. Box	2%	1,839
Professional Services/Fees	10%	7,756
Special Projects	1%	1,039
Scholarships	13%	10,000
Special Events - 50th Anniversary	13%	9,569
Total Ordinary Expense	100%	\$ 74,417
Net Ordinary Income		\$ (32,482)

Cash Position on June 30, 2023

Operating Cash:

Checking	15,241
Savings - Money Market (closed)	-
Deposits/Prepays	-
Total Checking/Savings/Deposits	\$ 15,241

Investments:

Bequest Funds - Money Market	1,113
Ann Sleight Memorial Fund (Kitsap Community Foundation)	382,450
Total Investments	\$ 383,562

NOTES:

Ann Sleight Memorial Fund Activity:

Fund Balance 6/30/22	393,530
Fund Value Net Gains (Losses)	14,999
Dividends & Interest	9,802
Investment Management Fees	(6,881)
Net 2022/23 net Fund Value Increase	17,920

Distributions:

Pt. Gamble HP - Timber Rights	(10,000)
GPC - Grovers Creek Acreage	(10,000)
A.S. Memorial Scholarships	(9,000)
Total Distributions	(29,000)
Net Fund Balance Change	\$ (11,080)

Dandelions don't get no respect Gene Bullock

Comedian Rodney Dangerfield wrung endless humor out of his signature theme "I don't get no respect." But it's no joke that dandelions don't get the respect they deserve. We think of them as pesky weeds because they are so hardy and prolific, even popping up between cracks in the sidewalk. But the entire plant is edible. In other parts of the world it is looked upon as a nutritionally valuable food source. The tender young leaves make great salads, and the flowers can be made into wine. Like many of the plants we dismiss as "weeds," dandelions help support beneficial insects, including essential pollinators.

Dandelions grow all over central Europe. The Germans needed a name for this plant so they call it "tooth of the lion," or "Lowenzahn." The French copied the German "tooth of the lion," but in French it translated "den de lion." The English overlooked the literal meaning and read the French as "dandelion."

Native wildflowers that thrive under local soil and weather conditions can easily multiply out of control. So we label them "weeds" and wage endless war to eradicate them. In their place, we grow introduced "ornamental" plants that require extra care and attention, plus additional fertilizer, water and labor. We fail to appreciate the resilience and drought resistance of native plants and their ability to thrive without extra water, labor and attention. We also fail to consider that our native plants and insects co-evolved and therefore depend on each other for survival. .

Gardening with wildlife/environment friendly native plants and avoiding the use of herbicides and pesticides is far healthier for insects, birds and us.

Kitsap Audubon Life Members

Michelle Amicucci
Winnie Barber
Remo Barr
Blair Beadnell
Milly Bellemere
Bryan Berna
Anne S. Biglow
Mary Ann Booth
Barbara Brooking
Astrid Clark
Therese Clements
Carol & Steve
Cobb
Elizabeth & Price
Court
& Sofia Scott
Debbie Craig
Vickie & Richard
Crockett
Lois Curtis
Wayne Daley
George Davidson
David & Virginia
Davison
Ellen Dlugash
Kevin & Lauren
Eyer
Tom Frey
Kathleen
Gallagher

John Garing
Debra Griffin
Dawn Hansen
Linda Hill
Byron & Sara
Kane
Mary E. Klein
Judy Lucas
Krista L. Mixon
Joan Morris
Norman A.
Mundhenk
Mark Oberle
Lisa Pedersen
Donna Poole
Kathryn Rahn
Lisa Saban
Dale & Regina
Spoor
Jennifer Standish
Stephanie Steele
Christopher Tatro
Jim Ullrich
Vic & Bonnie Ulsh
Lynn Willmott
Don & Judy
Willott
Bob Wiltermood
Grant Winther

Kitsap Audubon Society

President: Kevin Eyer
Co-Vice Presidents:
Lynn Willmott, Gene Bullock
Treasurer: Crystal McMahon
Assistant Treasurer:
Shelley White
Secretary: Judy Willott
Immed. Past Pres: Lynn Willmott

At-Large Board of Directors:

Jeff Brown
Gene Bullock
Sandy Bullock
Isabella Carlson
Lauren Eyer
Don Willott
Grant Winther (*emeritus*)

Standing Committee Chairs:

Field Trips: Alan Westphal,

Conservation Chair:

Isabella Carlson

Education Chair: Lynn Willmott,

Live Meeting Greeters: Milly
Bellemere & Bob Schumacher

Membership Administrator:

Jennifer Szerlog

Programs: Lynn Willmott

Purple Martins: Sandy Pavey

Wildlife Sightings: Janine Schutt

Scholarship Chair: Sandy Bullock

Social Media Chair: Annie Bui

Publicity Chair: Gene Bullock

Webmaster: Michael Szerlog,
info@kitsapaudubon.org
www.kitsapaudubon.org

Kingfisher Editor: Gene Bullock,
GeneBullock@comcast.net,
360-394-5635

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>

The Kingfisher is printed on recycled paper by Blue Sky Printing and mailed by Olympic Presort, both family-owned local businesses.



Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SILVERDALE WA
PERMIT NO. 111

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: \$ _____

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>

