



THE KINGFISHER

Kitsap Audubon Society

April 2009

Program--April 9th^h, 2009

Grizzlies in the North Cascades

David Knibb



Phil Hansten of Port Hadlock snapped this spectacular photo of an Osprey carrying a fish in its talons.

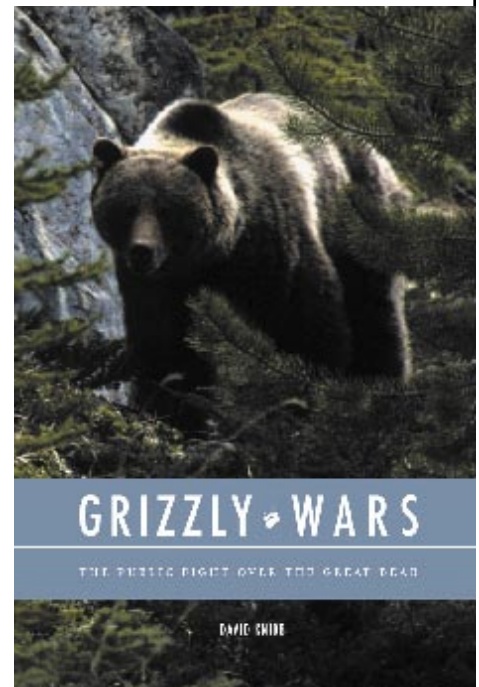
May 14th Program
Live Raptors, With Mike Pratt, Director Of Wildlife Services At West Sound Wildlife Shelter.

May is our last meeting until September. We will share a pot-luck dinner followed by a great program.

The Kitsap Audubon Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through May, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on the lower level of the Poulsbo Public Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. Meetings are open to the public. There is free parking behind the Library. Enter from the rear.

This program will discuss the grizzlies of the North Cascades, including how many live there, where they are, if they can survive on their own, their importance to the ecosystem, whether they should be saved, and what it would take to restore them to a viable population. We will also discuss what may happen in the next year. Grizzlies are likely to be in the news. We may review the broader issue of grizzly bear recovery throughout the Northwest, including the controversial decision to take them off the Endangered list in Yellowstone.

Dave Knibb has been active in the Cascades most of his life, first as a forester, then as a lawyer and environmental activist, always as a hiker and naturalist, and now as a writer. His new book **Grizzly Wars: The Public Fight Over the Great Bear**, was published by Eastern



A bundled-up band of binocular-bearing birdwatchers? A gaggle of agreeable goose gawkers? A friendly flock of fowl followers? Or a happy group of Kitsap Audubon friends enjoying a day of birdwatching in Bremerton area parks? (See Trip Report, Page 6.)

Kitsap Audubon Society

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Annual Meeting And Election

Thursday, April 9th, 2009

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers and board members for the term beginning July 1, 2009:

President - Judith Willott

Vice President - Jim Ullrich

Treasurer - Sandra Bullock

Secretary - Diana Sheridan

At Large Members of the Board:

Tracy Fairbanks, John Finkbeiner, Sharon Ham,

Byron Kane, Helen Stone

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at our April meeting.

Nominating Committee:

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Diana Sheridan 206-842-4562, dianabsheridan@msn.com

Spring 2009 ACOW – May 1-3

Twice each year, the staff of Audubon Washington and leaders from the 26 chapters gather for a three-day Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) Conference. Each is hosted by a different chapter on a rotating basis.

The Spring 2009 ACOW will be held at the Tierra Learning Center Lodge in Leavenworth, and will be hosted by Spokane Audubon.

These stimulating conferences give chapter members a chance to share ideas, hear great speakers

and attend workshops on such topics as chapter building, fundraising, conservation and education. The conferences are preceded by half-day meetings for chapter conservation and education chairs. The conferences typically include special field trips.

Chapter members are encouraged to attend these informative conferences. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Special Thanks

Our special thanks to the following:

Wild Birds Unlimited in Gig Harbor, owned by Jim Ullrich, donates raffle prizes and gives back to Kitsap Audubon Society a percentage from sales to KAS members.

Wild Birds in Poulsbo. Our thanks to Scott Pomtier of Wild Birds in Poulsbo for his contributions to our raffle table.

One Call For All. Bainbridge Island members and friends have contributed generously by designating KAS for donations.

Wood Ducks and White-winged Thrushes

We receive amazing photos from Kitsap Audubon members and friends. These two are especially exciting:

Susan Steuemann in Port Orchard has eight active Wood Duck nest boxes by a seasonal pond in her yard. From her window, she can count 16 to 18 at a time, feeding on her raised platform.

Rae Hight photographed this colorful white-winged Varied Thrush through her window.

We have received photos of single leucistic (partial albino) Siskins, Juncos, Fox Sparrows, Robins, Crows and nuthatches. Pure albinos are rare, but this melanistic variation seems to be common. An albino Yellow-billed Loon visited the Tacoma waterfront for several years.



Festivals and Events

Olympic BirdFest 2009, Sequim, Washington, April 3-5, 2009.

Join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center. Check out the offerings at (<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>).

Birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 5-7, 2009. Also this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a ***three-day, two night birding cruise of the***

spectacular San Juan Islands.

Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>. Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, or e-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, April 24 - 26, 2009, Hoquiam.

Call 1-800-303-8498 or visit www.shorebirdfestival.com

Easter Egg Hunt April 11th FREE at Wild Birds Unlimited of Gig

Harbor, 10:30 am prizes, etc for all. visit www.wbu.com/gigharbor

Optics Presentation June 6th by Jim Danzenbacker of KOWA Optics on how to chose, fit and pick out the best Binoculars or Spotting Scopes for your personal use. At Wild Birds Unlimited June 6th--4pm, snacks and wine provided. Optics specials for attendees and remember Jim Ullrich of Wild Birds Unlimited donates 5% of all Kitsap Audubon Member sales back to our Chapter. visit www.wbu.com/gigharbor

Stormwater—Pay Now or Pay Later - Gene Bullock

Those who make public policy often defend their bias toward development by insisting that “growth is inevitable and we have to prepare for it.”

Typically, however, the tail wags the dog. Developers plot thousands of “spec” homes and then spend huge amounts on advertising to lure buyers from other areas. With short-term profits at stake, they are strongly motivated to push accelerated growth.

It’s also tempting for cities and counties. Revenues depend on property and sales tax, so a sure way to grow revenues is through annexation and development. As a result, the math is often weighted to favor near-term gains over long-term costs.

Hidden Costs

It’s not just about protecting wildlife or preserving pristine wilderness. And it’s not just about residents who see their quality of life steadily eroded by increased traffic, longer commutes and the rising cost of

water, sewers, schools and other services. There are hidden costs too routinely ignored.

One of the hidden costs of new construction is the accepted practice of removing all trees, vegetation and topsoil to “optimize” buildable area. For our forests, it’s “death by a thousand permits.” Yet our forests and forest beds are efficient stormwater buffers and have a huge

Our forests are natural “time release” buffers that recharge our aquifers, filter out pollutants and release water gradually into streams.

impact on the cost of stormwater management. They are natural “time-release” components of our hydrologic system. They release water gradually into streams, filter out pollutants and recharge our aquifers.

Cost of Managing Stormwater

Stormwater runoff is now recognized as the number one source of pollution in Puget Sound. It washes pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer and

petrochemical residues from roads and driveways into our lakes, streams and waterways. Erratic stream flows cause costly, devastating flash floods. They scour stream beds, flushing away salmon eggs and burying estuaries with silt so they can’t function as hatcheries for a rich variety of marine life. Stormwater runs off too quickly to recharge our aquifers. That’s an ominous threat to future water supplies. Some think the scarcity of fresh water could replace oil as our most serious problem.

The fiscal value of our forests is huge; but it seldom figures into the math for new construction. Stripping away our forests to make way for more roads, sidewalks, shopping malls and parking lots is an unsustainable “path to prosperity.”

Low-impact development is an encouraging trend, but low impact does not mean “no impact.” It doesn’t make up for an unsustainable rate of growth.

Kitsap Stormwater Code Revisions

The proposed revisions to Title 12 **Storm Water Drainage** appear to meet the minimum technical requirements for new development and redevelopment required by the Department of Ecology (DOE). The revisions will not prevent polluted stormwater from entering our streams, ground water or our Sound. The revisions will slow the rate of increase of pollution resulting from some new development.

DOE recognizes that stormwater runoff is the leading source of toxic contamination of Puget Sound. (90+%) DOE has not chosen to provide the political cover to local jurisdictions to deal aggressively or sufficiently with the toxic runoff problem. DOE’s established minimum requirements for Western

Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit allow for more stringent requirements.

Federal or State regulation will be required if stormwater runoff pollutants are to be controlled. The toxins are the result of our normal activities. Oil products, phthalates, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, zinc from chain link fences and culverts and copper in our brake pads all find their way to our Sound via stormwater. If we want to clean our stormwater, we will have to pay the price.

The price could be increased cost of oil products via fees collected for enhanced stormwater processing. New fees on automobiles, trucks, etc. could be applied to stormwater processing as well as repairing

our roadways. Perhaps fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides should not be sold over the counter but rather handled by licensed applicators. Perhaps chin link fences and other galvanized products should be prohibited near impervious surfaces or waterways.

There will be resistance from those who feel their short term goals are thwarted by measures to limit and clean up toxins. Our political leaders will be wary of taking bold steps. Those who do may lose elections.

We are the polluters. The toxic waste is ours. Our everyday activities create the toxins. We own this problem. If we do not clean up our mess, who will?

Shoreline Management Plan Update

Kitsap County is required by state law to update its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) by December 1, 2011. An SMP is a comprehensive land-use plan that sets policies and regulations for land along marine, stream and lake shorelines.

The last time Kitsap County adopted a Shoreline Master Program was 1971—38 years ago.. In 1999, there were some revisions to policies relating to shorelines of statewide significance.

Is the SMP out of date now? What has changed? The shoreline is about the same place. But a lot more people are living next to it. Salmon are endangered, geoducks are becoming more valuable and our waterways are seriously polluted.

The revisions must be based on current scientific and

technical information. The SMPs should be compatible with local comprehensive plans, protect shoreline processes, and promote public access. SMPs should accommodate all appropriate shoreline uses and balance public and private interests.

Here is where the excitement rises. How is that balance achieved? This is a classic dilemma: Individual liberty and property rights vs. protection of the commons. How will this drama play out? Act One includes an inventory and analysis of the shorelines. This process has been underway since last summer (08). Act Two (or Three?) Is public participation and discussion of all the issues.

So, what are the issues? Will docks be allowed for every

shoreline property owner? Or, are the cumulative impacts of many docks detrimental to the common good? Will water views be negatively impacted? Should I be able to build close to the water's edge? Does what is built on land affect fish habitat? Whose science will we use? Yours or mine?

Will the public participation phase be calm and collected? It's unlikely. Emotions will rise on all sides of every issue.

You are the public and you are invited to participate. The when and where will be announced in the future.

One thing is certain. The Shoreline Master Program will be updated, and you have a stake in the outcome. You, your neighbors and Kitsap County could be better off – if you participate.

EcoFest

May 2, 2009, 11 am – 4 pm
Stillwaters Environmental Center

EcoFest is the most exciting way to celebrate Earth Day in Kitsap County! EcoFest is a community celebration, with a huge selection of exhibitors and displays to delight you with all kinds of enviro-education and eco-friendly products, from electric scooters to bamboo floors! There is great music, food, and entertainment all day. The Native Plant Nursery will be open for sales. Park at Gordon Elementary School or Bayside Church, where there is plenty of parking and a shuttle to EcoFest from the Farmers Market, the Kingston Garden Club Plant Sale and other events in Kingston. Contact 360-297-2876 or naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org

Leucistic (Whitish) Birds

Leucism is a genetic mutation in which color pigments are lacking in some feathers. It has stimulated much discussion on Tweeters, the Washington area "bird chat" web site. Here are informative comments by Doug Schonewald, including an internet link for those who want to learn more.

Truly albinistic birds appear to be rare and seldom survive to adulthood, based on some research. Almost all these anomalies in feather pigmentation are leucistic, partially leucistic, or one of a number of other genetic disorders such as Dilution, Ino, Schizochroism, etc. All are genetic, but differ from albinism in that the coloring agents (eumelanin and phaeomelanin) are present, but are either not transferred to the feather or are present in lower amounts, which creates diluted plumage.

An excellent treatise on the subject can be found at: [http://www.vogelringschier.nl/DB28\(2\)79-89_2006.pdf](http://www.vogelringschier.nl/DB28(2)79-89_2006.pdf)

The paper was written by Hein van Grouw, longtime curator of the Natural Museum of History - Netherlands in 2006 and is written in a way that us common folks can understand most of it.

A contrary paper using the terminology of albinism to describe all white occurrences in plumage is: <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/JFO/v036n02/p0067-p0071.pdf>

As for terminology, I don't think it really matters. The terms albino, partial albino, leucistic, and partial leucism have been used interchangeably for years by both researchers and lay birders, and it is unlikely to change. However, understanding the processes at work will help us better understand how and why birds sometimes look like they do.

Field Trips

John Finkbeiner
Field Trip Chair
360-895-0374

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FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

1. Trips are limited to 12 participants unless otherwise specified.
2. Children 12 and under are welcome only on designated family trips or with permission of the leader.
3. Call the leader or contact person as soon as possible to reserve a spot and get details.
4. If the weather is questionable, or if you must cancel, call the leader the morning of the trip.
5. Dress for the weather. Please refrain from wearing white or bright colored clothing.
6. Bring binoculars, cash for ride-sharing (see below), and bring a lunch for all day trips.

Field Trip Transportation

Carpooling is encouraged to reduce costs and limit the parking space required. Passengers are asked to share any expenses with the driver. A contribution to the driver of \$5 for shorter trips and \$10 for overnight trips is suggested, with any ferry fares, parking fees, etc. divided equally between the driver and passengers.



Field Trips/Events

Illahee Forest Preserve with Idie Ulsh. Sunday, April 19th. Idie Ulsh will lead a birding walk through Illahee Forest Preserve which will focus on sounds of forest birds. Idie is a Master Birder and past president of Seattle Audubon. The walk will be a 1.5 mile stroll on relatively level ground along Forest trails. Bring binoculars. Meet prior to 7:30 a.m. in the new parking lot on Almira Drive at Illahee Forest Preserve. From Highway #303 take Fuson Road to Almira Drive. This is immediately behind Lowe's Hardware. Trip is limited to about 12, so advanced sign up is recommended. Contact Vic Ulsh (360) 479-6900 or email vic@bradleyscottinc.com.

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Saturday April 25th. Leader: Fay Linger (360-297-3855). This is one of the region's premier birding areas. We will be between the winter residents, migrating waterfowl and summer residents so anything is possible. Level walking along dikes, boardwalks and roads. A long morning walk, so bring a snack. For those who wish to join us, we usually lunch across the road in the early afternoon. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the Interpretive Center, Nisqually NWR (fee or Golden Eagle Pass required)

Family Birding, Theler Wetlands, Saturday, May 16. Leader John Finkbeiner (360-895-0374). We encourage families to bring younger children from the 3rd grade and above. Meet at the Theler Wetlands Nature Center (just south of Belfair) in Mason County. Just off Highway 3 at him 2nd red light. Meet at 8:30 a.m.

Eastern Washington; June 8th - 9th - 10th - 11th; Bridgeport and Omak, Pend Oreille NWR and Turnbull NWR . Leaders: John Finkbeiner and Fay Linger. The first day we will be birding along the Columbia River around Bridgeport with an overnight in Omak. The second day we will drive Highway 20 to Colville, birding along the way and spend the night. The third day we will bird the Pend Oreille NWR and overnight near Cheney. The fourth day we will bird the Turnbull NWR before returning home. These are tentative plans. Call John (360-895-0374) or Fay (360-297-3855) if you are interested

Field Trip Report

Washington Narrows, Feb. 28 – Leaders: Gene & Sandy Bullock. More than a dozen Kitsap Audubon birders joined us for a morning of Bremerton area bird watching. We tallied 45 species, with good weather and great views. Lion's Park offered Eurasian Wigeon, Red-throated Loon, Harlequin, Long-tailed Ducks, Barrows & Common Goldeneye, as well as Mew, Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls. At a near-by pocket park we had a Fox Sparrow and Western Scrub Jays. At Evergreen Park we had a gorgeous pair of Hooded Mergansers. At the Warren Ave. Bridge "underlook" we could see nesting Pelagic Cormorants lining the underside of the bridge. The tail end of the resident Peregrine Falcon was just barely visible.

Wildlife Sightings—Joan Carson

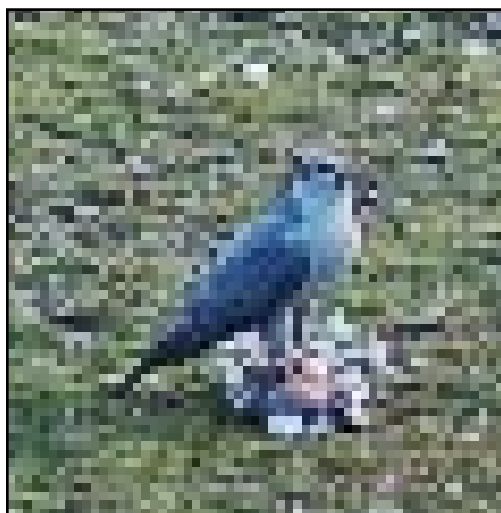
Wildlife Sightings by Joan Carson (joanpcarson@comcast.net)

A nonstop cold spring hasn't slowed the migration. It's interesting that some sightings and reports are about two weeks earlier than last year. Hopefully, the birds know something we don't and that we're in for a warm spring and summer - once it gets here.

Feb. 16, Jane Robinett, Olalla, found 2 dead red crossbills on the ground and there was no indication as to what happened. Also, it was the first time they have had crossbills. Feb. 17, Terry Avery sent a photo of his partial albino robin, a beautiful bird with a white head. Feb. 18, Gene Ollenburger, Bremerton, had the first returning male rufous hummingbird report. It was two weeks earlier than last year's date of Mar. 2. Feb. 19, Carson yard, Poulsbo, a handful of pine siskins, first in a long time. Feb. 20, Shirlee & Peter Clark, Manchester, backyard feeder report: 1 red-breasted sapsucker, 25-30 common bushtits, 2 towhees, 6-8 juncos, 6 sparrows. Feb. 21, Charlotte Blytmann, north of Poulsbo, had a returning male rufous. Feb. 25, Gene & Linda Daniels, Keyport: 200+ mergansers (sp); 200+ double-crested cormorants; 22 Northern pintails; 7 great blue herons. Feb. 26, Marvin Randall, East Bremerton (near the hospital) sent a photo of a sharp-shinned hawk with a robin in its clutches. Feb. 26, Charlotte Blytmann, north of Poulsbo, an Anna's hummingbird and also reported large numbers of pine siskins, common bushtits and PURPLE FINCHES. Feb. 27, Bob Wiltermood, Ruby Creek

Marsh, S. Kitsap, a new bird for the Marsh's list, an adult Northern goshawk. Sent a great photo that his daughter took. Feb. 27, Lila Morris, Hansville, noted a female Anna's hummingbird gathering nesting material. She was using the seed fluff off the Japanese Anemones.

Mar. 3, Rosemary Courtright, Seabeck Marina, 1 great blue heron and near Big Beef Creek causeway, a 2nd g.b.h. Mar. 4 & 5, Carson yard, Poulsbo, a Hutton's vireo calling. First male rufous returned on Mar. 6. Last



Northern Goshawk enjoys a meal of American Wigeon in South Kitsap area. Photo courtesy of Bob Wiltermood.

year it was Mar. 15. Mar. 5, Donene Munroe, Virginia Loop Rd., Keyport, had male rufous return and said the Ross' goose that has been there for several years has disappeared. Mar. 7, Charlotte Blytmann, north of Poulsbo, a white-crowned sparrow in her yard. Mar. 9, Carson yard, Poulsbo, mallard pair that nested last year, returned to pond. They were 2 weeks earlier than last

year (Mar. 23). Mar. 10, Charlotte Power, West Bremerton (hillside above Callow) had a Western scrub jay gathering nesting material. She has seen the bird 5 times this winter. Mar. 10, Camille Simon, Silverdale, an unusual hummingbird. It was primarily light gray with a dark gray throat. It also had a very long, curved bill. It looked almost as long as the bird's body. It fed from her feeder for a long time and then left. Mar. 11, Dee Molenaar, Burley-Creek Valley, S. Kitsap, sent a beautiful photo of a male pheasant feeding in his backyard. On the same day, Lila Morris, Hansville, had 15 brant on the beach. Mar. 12, Patti Wible, Port Orchard, sent a photo of a red-breasted sapsucker visiting her yard. It is great the way so many reports are accompanied by photos. The new age of digital cameras and e-mail. Love it. Mar. 14, Lila Morris, Hansville, had two turkey vultures fly by heading northward. On the same date, Tom & Sonya Ogle had a male Anna's hummingbird and a male rufous feeding on their feeder within minutes of one another. The rufous was their first for this year.

It's obvious the rufous hummingbirds have returned and more are showing up every day. So far, no swallow reports and that's a good thing. Remember last spring when the late cold snap hammered the purple martins? Let's hope the swallows arrive with warm weather that's here to stay. Please have next month's reports in by April 14.



Kitsap Audubon Society
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The KINGFISHER is the newsletter of Kitsap Audubon Society P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370. It is published eight times a year, September to May. 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 them to Gene Bullock, Kingfisher Editor, 1968 NE Lind Ct., Poulsbo WA 98370. Our deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

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

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.

Kitsap Audubon Society – Membership Application

Please make checks payable to Kitsap Audubon Society and mail to KAS, PO Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check type of Membership (All include 8 issues of the KINGFISHER newsletter annually):

- Kitsap Audubon Society Chapter *Individual Membership* (\$15 per year)
- KAS Chapter *Family Membership* (\$25 per year)
- Contributing KAS Member* (\$50 per year)
- Sustaining KAS Member* (\$75 per year)
- Supporting KAS Member* (\$100 per year)
- Check here if you wish to receive KINGFISHER by email. Email address: _____

Visit our website at www.kitsapaudubon.org

