



THE KINGFISHER

Kitsap Audubon Society

December 2008/January 2009

PLEASE NOTE: Our December program will feature a special "MITTEN" TREE. Please bring a new pair of mittens, hat or nonperishable food item to donate to some needy family.

ALSO NOTE: The January program will be on a WEDNESDAY because our meeting room is not available on our regular meeting day.

Program - December 11, 2008

Dragonflies—Rainbows on the Wing **Dennis Paulson.**

Dragonflies are birdwatchers' insects. Colorful and active day-fliers, they mate and lay eggs and hunt for smaller insects in and near wetlands and are important talismans for wetland conservation. Dennis Paulson has studied them for over 40 years, and he will tell us in a profusely illustrated lecture about their ecology, their behavior, and their diversity.

Dennis Paulson is a noted author whose books include *Dragonflies of Washington*, *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest* and *A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington* (coauthored with Terence Wahl). He is retired from the University of Puget Sound where he taught and served as Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History from 1990 to 2004, and now is Director Emeritus.

Program – WEDNESDAY, January 7th, 2009

The Owl and The Woodpecker **Paul Bannick**

Award-winning photographer Paul Bannick will take you on a visual journey of 11 key North American habitats through the needs of all 41 of North America's owl and woodpecker species. This stunning photographic study will be accompanied by field stories, and rich natural history derived from thousands of hours in the field. His talk will look at the way owls and woodpeckers define and enrich their habitat and how their life-histories are intertwined.



Common Whitetail.
Photo by Dennis Paulson

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.



Kitsap Audubon Society

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Kitsap Boy Scout Annual Breakfast - February 11

The annual Kitsap Boy Scout breakfast will be February 11th, 7:00 a.m., at the Kitsap Conference Center. The keynote speaker will be Steve Pool of KOMO 1000 and KOMO TV Channel 4.

Scouting's founder, Lord Baden Powell, lived by an interesting motto: "We only have a short time to live, so we must do things that are worthwhile, and do them now." Few things in life are more worthwhile than making a difference in the life of a young person, and seeing the difference that same young person can make in the community and in the lives of others. We have seen young Scouts doing great things for Kitsap Audubon and our community by performing environmental projects, such as the wildlife viewing platform in Poulsbo's Fish Park, which was funded by Kitsap Audubon.

We hope you can attend the annual Kitsap BSA breakfast or consider making a donation. Jim Ullrich is Kitsap BSA Finance Chairman and Annual Breakfast Sponsor Coordinator.

You can forward donations to him at **Wild Birds Unlimited**, 7075 Corfu Blvd NE Bremerton, WA 98311. If you wish to use credit card, call Jim at the store 1-800-851-2575.

Buy Birding Supplies At The Wild Bird and Help Save Wild Animals

West Sound Wildlife Shelter and The Wild Bird in Poulsbo have teamed up to help save wild animals. During the month of December, the store will donate 10% of all sales to the West Sound Wildlife Shelter. The Shelter offers care and rehabilitation for sick and injured animals along with many wildlife-related educational opportunities.

Scott Pomtier, owner of The Wild Bird, on 7th Avenue NE, Suite B in Poulsbo, said that after visiting the wildlife shelter he was so impressed with their work he wanted to help fund new medical equipment, including a new x-ray machine

"There is nowhere else in Kitsap County for injured eagles, deer, hawks, and other animals to receive care," said Kol Medina, Executive Director of the Shelter. The Shelter is the only wildlife hospital and wildlife education center in Western Puget Sound and receives nearly all of its funding in the form of donations from individuals. It expects to treat over 700 wild animal patients this year as well as give unique live-animal education programs to over 5,000 kids and adults. You can find more information about the Shelter at www.westsoundwildlife.org and more information about The Wild Bird at www.thewildbird.net.

Audubon Adventures - Fay Linger, Education Chair

Kitsap Audubon currently provides *Audubon Adventures* kits to 39 fourth-grade classrooms in Kitsap County.

Audubon Adventures is a nationally-acclaimed environmental education curriculum supplement, based in language arts and science, produced by the National Audubon Society. Each year different topics are covered in four separate *Nature News* tabloids. Each classroom kit contains enough material for 32 students, a resource

manual for the teacher and a poster for the classroom.

This year's program is entitled "Feats of Nature." The individual tabloids are:

Migration, dealing with bird migrations as well as the migration of the grey whale, salmon, caribou, Monarch butterfly and others.

Animal Builders, dealing with why, how and what animals build.

Animal Defenses, investigating strategies that animals use, such as camouflage, spitting, mimicking.

Plants, discussing ways that plants shape our universe.

The number of classrooms enrolled in this program has been steadily increasing each year, with enthusiastic reports from repeat teachers. The cost of each classroom kit is \$45.65, for a total of \$1780.35. The kits are paid for by KAS memberships and membership contributions and supplied free to each classroom. This direct contribution to the classrooms is a major item in KAS's annual budget.

Stillwaters Yuletide Auction

The Annual Stillwaters Yuletide Auction will return this year to the historic Pt. Gamble Theater, on Sunday, December 7, from 4 - 7 p.m. The theater is located on the second floor of the post office building in Pt. Gamble.

In addition to live holiday music, hors d'oeuvres, beverages and desserts, auction-goers will be able to win hundreds of wonderful and useful auction items, including quality items from wine baskets to stays in Mexico.

This year you can try out the "Golden Ticket". For only \$20, you could win your pick of any live auction item! Only 50 tickets will be sold from now until the time of the live auction. Before the live auction starts, the winning ticket will be drawn and the lucky

winner can choose any item they want from the live auction, including a week-long stay in Mexico.

You will find great gifts for yourself and others at this auction! You can begin viewing auction donations on our website (www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org) and place your absentee bids by Thanksgiving.

All proceeds benefit Stillwaters Environmental Center in Kingston. Please join us! Tickets are only \$20 at the door, or \$15 if purchased in advance. Contact Stillwaters at 360-297-2876 or info@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org (credit cards accepted) or go to Sacks Feed & Garden in Kingston.



OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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.

Scott Pomtier of **The Wild Birds** in Poulsbo for his generous contributions to our raffle table..

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

Just in time for the holidays
Water bottles and coffee mugs with a kingfisher and the name Kitsap Audubon Society. Art is the work of Craig and Joy Johnson of Whidbey Island.

Aluminum Water Bottle - \$12.00

Coffee Mug - \$8.50

Available at December meeting

Priorities For a Healthy Washington

SAVE THESE DATES

Environmental Legislative Workshop for Citizens Lobbyists. Saturday, January 10th, 9:30 - 2:15. Seattle Pacific University, Gwinn Commons.

Environmental Lobby Day, Thursday, February 19th in Olympia.

These annual events are your opportunity to be involved as the state's leading conservation groups lobby for the following legislative priorities. You'll hear from legislators, environmental lobbyists, and others regarding our Environmental Priorities.

Environmental Priorities

Each year more than 20 of the State's leading environmental organizations jointly select four environmental priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The groups then combine efforts to lobby for these priorities.

Cap and Invest

By implementing real limits on global warming pollution, we will create new jobs and stimulate the growth of a clean energy economy in Washington State. This effort starts by putting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and then having polluters pay when they pollute. This new revenue will be invested to reduce fossil

fuel dependence and spur new clean-tech innovation, while assisting moderate- and low-income people with volatile energy prices. Through state action now, we will reduce global warming pollution in a manner that benefits Washington's economy, helps us shape regional and national programs, and situates us at the cutting edge of the new clean energy economy.

Efficiency First

Promoting energy efficient homes, businesses and public institutions will save money, enhance energy security, and significantly reduce global-warming pollution. Energy efficiency is the cheapest and most immediate way to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and will create thousands of good, family-wage jobs in Washington. This bill will put "efficiency first" by promoting super-efficient, low-energy-use buildings, providing incentives to maximize energy efficiency, requiring energy use information on buildings offered for sale or lease; and making our public buildings models of energy efficiency. This policy will also help ensure that low-income consumers can cope with rising energy costs.

Transit-Oriented Communities

Washingtonians want to live in

affordable, walkable and transit-oriented communities. With population growth, we are facing increased traffic congestion, diminished quality of life, and ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions. *Transit-Oriented Communities* would revise the state's transportation and land-use planning framework to assist local jurisdictions to plan for growth in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. The bill will provide incentives for cities and developers to create affordable, livable, transit-oriented development, increasing transportation choices.

Invest in Clean Water

From Puget Sound to the Spokane River, clean water is Washington's lifeblood and our communities can't thrive without it. This package of targeted polluter-pays fees will protect the taxpaying public and ensure that polluters take responsibility for the impacts of their actions. The effort will raise new revenue to fund critical projects to save Puget Sound and restore Washington's rivers and lakes. By investing in stormwater infrastructure, toxics prevention and other programs, we create new jobs, relieve financial pressure on local government, and promote new economic stimulus.

(visit www.wecprotects.org):

WASTE-FREE HOLIDAY

SHOPPING includes gifting experiences. Try www.wastefreeholidays.com for a listing of discounted offers on gifts. This is a project of Kitsap County Reusable Materials Exchange.

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONFERENCE -- "Hear Our Voices" -- Friday, December 5 at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. Starts at 7:30 am. Cost is \$45 now, \$60 after Nov. 27th. This is always a good conference with outstanding speakers.

Includes lunch. Register by sending your contact information and check to Kitsap Council for Human Rights; 614 Division St. MS23; Pt. Orchard 98366.

Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Please Contact Leader Directly to Volunteer

Sinclair Inlet	John Finkbeiner	360-895-0374	finchlegs@wavecable.com
West Bremerton	Mary Hrudkaj	360-801-1360	hrudkajm@hotmail.com
Chico/Seabeck	Hans & Dawn Hansen	360-830-5222	
East Bremerton	Victor Ulsh	360-479-6900	vic@bradleyscottinc.com
South B I	Lee & Kirk Robinson	206-842-0774	lee@bosia.org
North B I	George Gerdts	206-842-8138	geopandion@aol.com
Silverdale	Fay Linger	360-297-3855	ernieandfay@centurytel.net
Poulsbo	Gene & Sandy Bullock	360-394-5635	bullockg@earthlink.net
Bangor	Brad Waggoner	206-780-9581	wagtail@sounddsl.com
Owls	Jamie Acker	206-780-5230	owler@sounddsl.com
Yard Count	Milly Bellemere	360-830-4231	rbellemere@w-link.net

Plug-In Hybrid Cars - Bruce Gunderson

Who killed the Electric Car was an eye-opening documentary about how our government and industry pushed aside the electric vehicle program in California for the promise of hydrogen fuel cell cars. But after more than 20 years of development, fuel cell vehicles are still years from production due to cost, availability of fueling stations and the storage of the hydrogen fuel with safety and storage capacity concerns.

Although the big auto companies are not coming back with an all-electric car anytime soon, a plug-in hybrid car will be coming out next year. This is probably because of the success of today's hybrid cars, most noteworthy the Toyota Prius, and consumer pressure to take the hybrid car a step further and offer a plug-in hybrid. A plug-in hybrid

has increased battery capacity and the ability to be recharged by simply plugging into an electrical outlet, even at home.

However, it seems that the auto companies are still holding back on the American driver. There have been many hybrid cars converted into plug-in hybrids at garages and small shops around the country. Reports from the owners of these conversions claim they can drive up to 40 miles without using any gasoline at all, just the electric motor. But Toyota's plug-in model, which comes out in the fall of 2009, will only be able to travel 10 miles before the gasoline engine engages. This decreased performance probably has something to do with the company's policy to not provide all available technology to

American consumers. Presently, while Prius cars in other countries contain a device that allows it to run only on the electric motor at slower speeds, this device is not included in the cars delivered in the U.S.

The bottom line is that plug-in hybrids will be one of the most efficient vehicles available. If in the market for one, however, a person may want to wait before purchasing. Washington State passed a sales tax exemption for hybrid vehicles that get at least 40 miles per gallon on the highway. This goes into effect January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010. Two existing hybrid vehicles, the Prius and the Honda Civic, would qualify, as well as the forthcoming Prius plug-in hybrid and the Chevrolet Volt, due out in 2010.

John Finkbeiner

Field Trip Chair

360-895-0374

finchlegs@wavecable.com

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

First Monday Bird Walk December 1st. Beginning birders welcome. Come on one walk or all three. We meet at Arness Park on the South Kingston Road at 8:30 a.m. to bird the Park area and then move to Carpenter Lake behind Gordon Elementary School. We are usually done by 11 a.m. If you are interested call Fay Linger 360-297-3855 or email her at ernieandfay@centurytel.net.

Sinclair Inlet, Waterman Point and Yukon Harbor with John Finkbeiner, Saturday, December 6. For reservation, contact John at 360-895-0374 or email him at finchlegs@wavecable.com. Some of the best local birding available. All three scoters, grebes and cormorants, as well as Harlequin ducks. A warm-up for the Christmas Bird Count. A late lunch is possible after the trip but bring a snack. Meet at the east end of Pt. Orchard's Marina Park at 8:30 a.m.

Port Gamble, Oak Bay, Marrowstone Island and Fort Flagler, Saturday, January 24 --- Leader: George Gerdtz, (206) 842-8138.

These are prime winter birding areas and again George has agreed to share his considerable birding knowledge and skills with KAS. Bring a lunch and plan to spend all day. Meet in the parking lot at Salisbury Point County Park just north of the Hood Canal Bridge (on the Kitsap side) at 8:00 a.m. We plan to be back at Salisbury Park by 3:30 p.m. Limit 10 participants.

Annual Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, December 20. All skill levels welcome. Sign up for one of our eight field teams or a Feeder count that day in your own backyard. Contact Gene or Sandy Bullock at 360-394-5635; or email bullockg@earthlink.net. To sign up for the yard count, call Hans & Dawn Hansen, 360-830-5222.

Washington Narrows, Saturday, Feb. 28--Leaders: Gene and Sandy Bullock (360-394-5635; bullockg@earthlink.net). We'll bird the Port Washington Narrows, home to a well known Pelagic Cormorant roost and a Peregrine Falcon nesting site. Also we'll visit the Bremerton waterfront where we hope to see an assortment of Grebes and some Long-tailed Ducks. Meet at the concession stand at Lion's Park on Lebo Road in East Bremerton at 9:30 a.m. Plan to finish about Noon.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, April 24 - 26, 2009, Hoquiam. For information, call 1-800-303-8498 or visit www.shorebirdfestival.com

Wildlife Sightings—Joan Carson

Report sightings to Joan Carson (joanpcarson@comcast.net)

It's an interesting scene in the backyard as fall gets a little long in the tooth. Two Townsend's warblers add some color and the Anna's hummingbird(s) remind us of those long-gone days of summer. We have had no visits from varied thrush or fox sparrows, but come December that may change. This is the last Sightings report until the February issue of the Kingfisher. Please don't wait until mid-January to get your reports in! I need them no later than January 10.

Nov. 6, Richard Norton about 2 blocks north of the Manette Bridge in Bremerton, hundreds of surf scoters hanging around for at least ten days. Saw 1 horned grebe. Nov. 5, Thomas Croley, Silverdale, sent a beautiful photo of an adult sharp-shinned hawk sitting at his feeder. Nov. 4, Bernice Denton, Bredablick n. of Poulsbo, had a barred owl fly into one of her windows. It was trying to get a parrot that was sitting on the top of its cage by the window. Owl wasn't hurt and continued to sit in tree about 20 feet from the house still eyeing the parrot.

Oct. 30, Don Geidel, his yard between Seabeck and Dewatto, a flock of mourning doves and several band-tailed pigeons all feeding together. Oct. 29, John Finkbeiner, South Sound birding: Gorst, over a 100

dunlins (some still with black bellies); Yukon Harbor, south of Manchester, a large flock of 50+ black turnstones and 6 surfbirds. Also nearby, 25+ sanderlings, 3000 American wigeon and 5 Eurasian wigeon in with them; Waterman Point, Brandt's cormorants are back. He had 35 species for the day. Oct. 27, Bill Maloney & Mary Bullitt, Oak Bay on the Olympic Peninsula,



Horned Grebes in winter plumage are frequent visitors to marinas and waterfronts from November to April. Unfortunately, most leave before they acquire their spectacularly colorful breeding plumage. Photo by Don Willott

short-eared owl; Indian Island, a peregrine falcon; Fort Flagler, 12 red crossbills and 1 Western meadowlark. Oct. 25, Jamie Acker, banding owls on B.I., Birds detected: barred owl and Northern saw-whet owl. Captures - 2 Northern saw-whets. Oct. 24, John Finkbeiner, Theler Wetlands, 50-100 golden-crowned sparrows,

1 osprey, Wilson's snipe. 25 species in all. Oct. 24, Kay Aho, Illahee, a hummingbird (sp). Oct. 21, Tim & Billie Taylor, Battle Point Drive on B.I., a bird sitting in the middle of the road at night. Guesses as to I.D. include barn owl. Oct. 21, Jamie A., his yard on B.I., a white-throated sparrow at the feeder. Also reported that both peregrine falcons were on the Agate Pass Tower same afternoon.

Oct. 20, Nancy & Steve Paul asked about a nest on cell tower at Battle Point. Dawn Garcia (from California) verified it was an osprey nest. Her former neighbors had photographed the birds. Oct. 18, Jamie A., owling with B.I. Land Trust, 1 Northern saw-whet owl at Manzanita Saddle Club grounds; later with the group, 4 barred owls and 1 calling Northern saw-whet. Oct. 9, Dave Dahlke, Port Orchard, had 2 hummers (sp.) coming to his feeders. Oct. 1,

Pattie Fitzgerald, birding at Bowerman Basin saw 2 Harris' hawks. On Oct. 8, there was 1 Harris' hawk on the Ocean Shores Golf Course. She believes the birds belong to Toby Bradshaw, a local falconer.

This is the last newsletter Sightings column until after the New Year. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season and finds time to do some birding. Just think, when we get together again, we'll be looking forward to early spring!



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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 bullockg@earthlink.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 your request to Gene Bullock at bullockg@earthlink.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



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