# The Kingfisher

*Kitsap Audubon Society* *May 2009*

***The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a common, but seldom seen, resident of conifer forests. It is noted for feeding upside down. Its repetitive call is said to sound like a tiny tin bugle. Photo couretsy of Don Willott.***

**Printed by Blue Sky Printing**

**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.**

***Program--May 14, 2009***

## *Washington Owls*

***Mike Pratt, Director of Wildlife Services***

***West Sound Wildlife Shelter***

### *Program will feature a live Great Horned Owl*

This program will discuss owl species found in Washington State and their adaptations.

Mike Pratt joined West Sound Wildlife Shelter in 2007 with more than 17 years experience in wildlife rehabilitation, avian captive managment and training of raptors.

## *Annual Potluck Dinner And Awards Presentation (No Auction)*

May will be our last meeting until September. Come just for the program or come early and join us for our annual potluck dinner. If you come to the potluck dinner, bring a dish to share and your own place settings. We have cancelled the auction.

## *Agenda*

**5:30 p.m. - Potluck Dinner**

**6:30 p.m. - Rearrange chairs**

**7:00 p.m. - Awards Presentation and Program**

## Kitsap Audubon Society

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# Jack Hendry 1918- 2009

John "Jack" Henry, 90, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2009. Martina, his wife for 61 years, died in May 2006.

It has been many years since Jack and Martina passed the torch to a new generation at Kitsap Audubon; but they will be fondly remembered because they were such an important part of our history. They were a vital part of that devoted group that formed the heart, soul and backbone of Kitsap Audubon.

The Hendrys joined Kitsap Audubon at a time when interest was lagging, and they helped breathe new life into it. They served as Treasurer. They were the Hospitality Committee. They led the Seabeck Christmas Bird Count and the Purple Martin Project. They hosted monthly potluck parties to fold and mail the newsletter that became the social highlight of the month. And they did it all with such warmth and good humor they were an inspiration to everyone who knew them. In 1997 they were awarded Kitsap Audubon's highest honor, the Kingfisher Award, for their many years of selfless service.

However, advancing age took its toll, and the Hendrys were phasing out when I joined Kitsap Audubon nine years ago; yet they rarely missed a meeting while they were able to travel. I know we are not alone in feeling privileged to have known them. They were generous, giving spirits who made the world a better place. *Editor*

*Note: Paul and Janet Rogerson (the Hendry's niece) made a generous donation to Kitsap Audubon in remembrance of Jack and Martina.*

# Collecting Dead Birds

Elizabeth Warren will collect dead birds you find and take them to the Burke Museum in Seattle, where she serves as a docent. **Handle dead birds with caution!** Put your hand in a plastic bag turned inside out to pick it up, as you would pet waste. Double-bag in plastic bags and note the date and where it was found. Please keep it frozen until you can get it to her. Call 360-297-2151 or email bizw11@msn.com.

# Special Thanks

Our special thanks to the following merchants.. Be sure to metion you are a member of Kitsap Audubon when you purchase supplies.

***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.

Thanks to Dawn and Hans Hansen for managing the raffle table and to those who donate raffle items.

# New KAS Officers and Board Elected

Kitsap Audubon members elected new officers and a new board at the April 9th annual meeting. Their term begins on July 1st.

**Judy Willott** of Bainbridge Island will be our new President, aided by **Jim Ullrich**, Vice President; **Sandy Bullock**, Treasurer; and **Diana Sheridan**, Secretary.

" At-large" members of the Board will be **Traci Fairbanks, John Finkbeiner, Sharon Ham, Byron Kane** and **Helen Stone.**

Gene and Sandy Bullock remain on the Board as Past Co-Presidents.

### *Volunteers Needed*

Helping staff our Kitsap Audubon booth at local events is an enjoyable way to get involved. Upcoming events include the annual **Water Festival** on May

***Judy Willott***

5th at the Fairgrounds, the **Family Backyard Habitat Fai**r on June 28 at Islandwood, and the two-day **Great Peninsula Future Festival** (see article, Page 5), August 1st and 2nd in Port Gamble.

### *Purple Martin Project*

John McDonald has co-chaired this project with Paul Carson for many years, and would like to scale back his involvment. We need volunteers to help in specific locations, such as Seabeck, Brownsville, Bremerton and Poulsbo. If interested, contact John at 360-830-2029, jcmcd@earthlink.net.

### *Scholarship Recipients*

Each year Kitsap Audubon awards $500 scholarships to two or more graduating high school students who plan to pursue careers in studies related to our mission. Our 2009 Scholarship Recipients are: **Thomas Jenson** of Poulsbo, North Kitsap High School; **Emily Owen** of Bremerton, Central Kitsap High School; and **Jessica Randall** of Kingston, Kingston High School. The scholarship recipients will be introduced at our May meeting.

# Bullocks To Receive Kingfisher Award

The 2009 Kingfisher Award recipients are Sandy and Gene Bullock.

This is Kitsap Audubon's highest honor, and is awarded annually to an individual or couple who have given outstanding service to Kitsap Audubon for five or more years.

The Bullocks' involvement began in 2003 when Gene joined the Board as a Member at Large. Both Gene and Sandy have served continuously in many capacities, on the Board of Trustees and on various committees, and represented KAS at numerous ACOW Conferences. Gene has also served as Vice-President on the Board and Sandy has served as Treasurer.

Gene has been Conservation Chair since 2006 and received recognition from Audubon Washington for his tireless efforts to defeat Initiative 933 (a roll back of environmental protections). He has been editor of the ***Kingfisher*** since 2005.

They haved served as the KAS Compilers/Coordinators for the Christmas Bird Count, as well as leading the Poulsbo Area count, since 2003.

Sandy stepped in as Acting President in 2007-08,, amd she and Gene have served as Co-presidents for the 2008-09 year.

## *Previous Recipients*

**2008-Dawn & Hans Hansen**
**2007-John & Dee 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**

# "String of Pearls" Has Strings Attached

Olympic Property Group, the real estate subsidiary of Pope and Talbot paper company, owns and manages some 8,000 rural wooded acres in North Kitsap. As an alternative to the existing zoning of one dwelling per 20 acres, OPG has proposed an "open space" alternative. The highly controversial ***Rural Wooded Incentive Program*** would keep 75%% of the land as open space, accessible to the public. Jon Rose of OPG says it's an opportunity to create an interlinking network of trails across North Kitsap, which he refers to as a "string of pearls." His offer is getting a favorable reception from hikers, bikers and outdoor recreation groups.

### Cluster Communities

But there are strings attached to his "string of pearls." The Rural Wooded Incentive Program would allow OPG to quadruple the number of dwellings now permitted. These developments would be made up of dense clusters that leave 75% of the surrounding land as open space.

One major obstacle is that OPG wants to continue owning and harvesting timber in the open areas.

Many see OPG's proposal as preferable to converting our rural lands and forests into private 20-acre building lots and hobby farms that won't support wildlife habitat or healthy forests.

Kitsap County commissioners, planners and taxpayers are faced with a serious dilemma. The County has about 50,000 acres of rural land that could be affected.

### Contrary to GMA

The underlying premise of the Growth Management Act is that it is far more costly and wastefully inefficient to extend services—water, sewers, schools, police and fire protection, roads, maintenance, etc.—into scattered rural locations than to concentrate them in urban growth areas (UGAs).

Critics point out that building four times as many homes in rural areas will mean disproportionately higher costs for services, plus a proliferation of new roads. Rural sprawl requires more roads, more cars and longer driving distances to jobs and shopping. That means more traffic and more pollution. Despite the appeal of having more lands open to trails and recreation, they insist that the price tag is too high. Critics are especially troubled by OPG's insistence on continuing to harvest timber in these open areas. They fear that logging could leave token ribbons of green masking ugly clear cuts.

In their view, sprawl is still sprawl by any other name. They believe Kitsap commissioners should rescind the program and work out a better deal for the county.

Many are torn by the choices and see strong arguments on both sides.

### Vanishing Wilderness

The "Evergreen" State is losing timberlands at an alarming rate.

John Lombard, author of ***Saving Puget Sound: A Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century,*** notes: "Western Washington lost 648,000 acres (more than 1,000 square miles) of timberland to development between 1978 and 2001, according to researchers at the University of Washington and the U.S. Forest Service. This trend may well worsen in the years ahead. Given our increasing population, some such losses are inevitable. But the scale of these losses and their location (driven by economics, with little regard to ecological impact) will overwhelm efforts to conserve our natural heritage, if left unchecked. We must change the economics of this land to support forestry and agriculture where it matters most ecologically."

### Decision Time Is Here

In February 2008, Kitsap County Commissioners imposed a moratorium on application of the Rural Wooded Incentive Program. However, the moratorium will expire June 25th, 2009.

The Kitsap Department of Community Development has prepared an Executive Summary on various options and their pros and cons, which you can read or download at http://www.Kitsapgov.com/DCD.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a four-hour work session, May 13 in the Council Chambers, to review these options and decide which best serves the long-term interests of Kitsap County. It is open to the public.

There is a lot at stake. Our forests and open space are a big part of what makes Kitsap County such a great place to live and raise a family. ***Editor***

# Great Peninsula Future Festival

**August 1st & 2nd, 2009, Historic Port Gamble WA**

## *Creating a sustainable future should always be this much fun!*

- ☆ Fun for the whole family, featuring New Old Time Chatauqua, a traveling vaudeville troupe that delights and captivates young and old with humor, live music, magic shows, juggling, acrobatics and colorful parades.
- ☆ More than a hundred green exhibits, experimental cars, alternative lifestyle choices.
- ☆ Promient speakers, practical money-saving workshops
- ☆ Fun stuff for the kids, great food choices, hand-made crafts by local artisans.

***Free parking. Adults $7.00. Kids and Students Free.***

***Visit us at http://www.GreatPeninsulaFutureFestival.org***

Major Sponsors: Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer, The Kitsap Sun • Wet Apple Media, Port Madison Enterprises

# Birds and Climate Change: An Analysis of Christmas Bird Counts

Birders have noticed some interesting shifts in the winter distribution of birds over the last several decades. Many have noticed more American Robins staying farther north through winter and species like Northern Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens shifting north. Others such as Purple Finches have been harder to find because they don't seem to come as far south in the winter as before.

Audubon was interested in exploring these shifts and seeing if some of these shifts are attributed to climate change.

The annual Christmas Bird Count provides a wealth of information on the distribution of birds in early winter. More than 2000 counts are conducted across the United States and Canada each year. Additional ones are in the Caribbean and Latin America but we limited this study to data from continental US and southern Canada.

We were able to look at the winter distribution of 305 species to see if their winter range had shifted over the last 40 years. We discovered that 177 of these species showed a significant shift north and this northward shift was correlated with an increase in mean January temperatures in the contiguous 48 states of almost 5 degrees during that time.

Birds shift their range for many reasons, and any distributional pattern is a result of many factors including warming winter weather. We develop this analysis and explore the results in our publication, *Birds and Climate Change*. You can read this detailed report on the Audubon website at *http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/bacc/pdfs/Birds%20and%20Climate%20Report.pdf*

The publication also includes recommendations that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change and conservation recommendations that will help birds survive through these changes.

This report was designed for policy makers and opinion leaders. We are using it to try to influence legislation and funding for conservation issues.

# Field Trips

*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/Events

**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 the 2nd red light. Meet at 8:30 a.m.

***Bird walks in the Illahee Forest Preserve with Idie Ulsh:*** May 23rd and June 13th. Idie is a gifted birder, teacher and guide. Her April 19th two-mile walk produced 23 species, including three species of woodpeckers. Contact Vic Ulsh at (360) 479-6900 or vic@bradleyscottinc.com

**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

**Padilla Bay Natural Estuarine Research Reserve, March 21 – Leaders Dawn & Hans Hansen.** After two consecutive cancellations because of a rainy forecast, the Padilla Bay trip found a brief window of nice weather, and a dozen Kitsap Audubon birders seized the day. The delays cost us Snow Geese views, but there were scattered flocks of Trumpeter Swans throughout the region.

Highlights of the trip were a Great Horned Owl sitting on her nest at Wylie Slough, a visit to the Brazeale Visitors Center, Green-winged Teal in abundance on the mud flats (more than most of us had ever seen before), Rough-legged Hawks, thousands of Brant and a visit to a Samish Island Trust Lands heron rookery where we saw a dozen birds, nests, and heard calls we weren't used to from Great Blue Herons. We stopped for lunch as usual at the favorite Rhododendron Café in Bow.

***Padilla Bay-Skagit Island birding trip participants celebrate a succssful morning of birdwatching before lunch at the Rhododendron Café. Left to right: Sandy Bullock, Randena Walsh, Gene Bullock, Mary Gilman, Mary Bullit, Dee Finkbeiner, Rosemary Courtright, Elaine Nye, Dawn Hansen, Traci Fairbanks, Roberta Heath, John Finkbeiner, Diane Harper, and Hans Hansen.***

# Wildlife Sightings—Joan Carson

***Joan Carson, 360-779-2612, joanpcarson@comcast.net***

Spring has arrived for real. Rufous hummingbirds, tree and violet-green swallows, Townsend's solitaires, orange-crowned warblers, yellow-rumped warblers and lots more are making things interesting.

Mar. 10, Brad Waggoner, along Lyder Road in Port Orchard area, had his first tree swallows (12, an American kestrel (m.) along Sidney Road and a male on Clear Creek Trail. At the Gorst Estuary, he had a GLAUCOUS GULL and over his house, one cackling goose in a flock of Canada geese. Mar. 16, Bob Weber, East Bremerton, sent in some beautiful photos of a male yellow- rumped (Audubon's) warbler - a new bird for their yard. Tim Kelly, Beach Drive near Lighthouse Point, a turkey vulture. Mar. 18, 19, 20, Brad Waggoner, Lynwood Center, B.I.,350 Bonaparte's gulls, 250 mew, 4 California and one lst year Thayers. On the 19th, Gazzam Lake, B.I., he had 20 violet-green swallows, the 21st, his first Savannah sparrow (2) at Norwegian Point Park. On the 20th, he had 12 turkey vultures over Suyematsu's Farm, 2 over Blakely Hill. A single bird at Farm, Mar. 22. Birding on the 22nd, Brad & George Gerdts had the following: 2 mountain quail at gravel pit across from Port Orchard airport; 5 evening grosbeaks at Lyder road; one 1st yr. Northern shrike; 2 semipalmated plovers, Chico Creek Estuary along with 11 least sandpipers & huge numbers of swallows over Kitsap Lake.. Mar. 21, "Maid Marion", Meridith Heights in Poulsbo, a pair of tree swallows.Mar. 25, Kellis Sullivan had a surprise sighting at Old Mill Park in Silverdale - a "huge red rooster." Where did it come from? Rosemary Courtright, Seabeck area, a turkey vulture on a snag in her yard. Mar. 26, Gary & Lila Morris, Hansville, an osprey. John Finkbeiner, Theler Wetlands in Belfair, turkey vulture, yellow-rumped warbler and a cackling goose (31 species in all). Mar. 28, Marvin

***Gray Jay photographed by Idie Ulsh.***

Randall sent photos of a Western scrub jay near north Warren Ave. Bridge, Bremerton. His wife saw a pair 2 weeks earlier. Shirley Dineson, Port Orchard, a male yellow-rumped (Audubon's) warbler and a pair of mourning doves. Mar. 29, Dories Davies, Hansville, 80-100 brant geese. Lisa & Ray in Mason County, a returning osprey. Mar. 30, Carson yard, Poulsbo, a male yellow-rumped warbler (Audubon's). The following day, a female y.r. warbler. Brad W., Point-No-Point, one light morph Harlan's hawk and over Eglon, 8 turkey vultures. Mar. 31, Arlene Meyers reported that the CARDINAL first seen a couple of years ago, had returned to her brother-in-law's home in Burley. Apr. 2, Terry Avery, Burley, his partial albino robin with white head appears to have found a mate and is nesting in his yard. Charlotte & Ed Roe had both tree swallows and violet-green swallows return. Apr. 4, Lila Morris, Hansville, a pair of violet-green swallows checking bird house. Brad W., first of spring barn swallows at Norwegian Point. Apr. 5 & 6, a red fox sparrow in his yard on B.I. April 6, Carsons, Quilcene, first Savannah sparrow & at Oak Bay, first orange-crowned warbler. Rose- mary Courtright, Seabeck area, a pileated w.p. on snag near her home. Apr. 8, Terry Avery, sent photo of a male purple finch, a first for his yard. Janine Schutt, Wildcat Lake, a Steller's jay chased away a barred owl that showed up in her yard. Her Townsend's warbler appeared to have left around Easter after being in yard about a month. Brad W., Port Madison, 223 common goldeneye staging and 1 slate-colored junco at his feeders. Apr. 9, he had a Northern harrier over his house. Apr. 10, Brad along with Vic Nelson, Point-No-Point, 5,500 Bonaparte's gulls, 1 chipping sparrow, 1 Townsend's solitaire. Apr. 11, Victoria Irwin, B.I., a Townsend's solitaire. Ross Waggoner, Restoration Point, 1 Townsend's solitaire & 1 female mountain bluebird at Foulweather Bluff Nature Preserve, Hansville. April 15, Carson yard, Poulsbo, a Lincoln's sparrow. (Keep track of May-August sightings and save them for September newsletter, deadline August 15.)

Kitsap Audubon Society
P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

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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:_____

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