



# THE Kingfisher

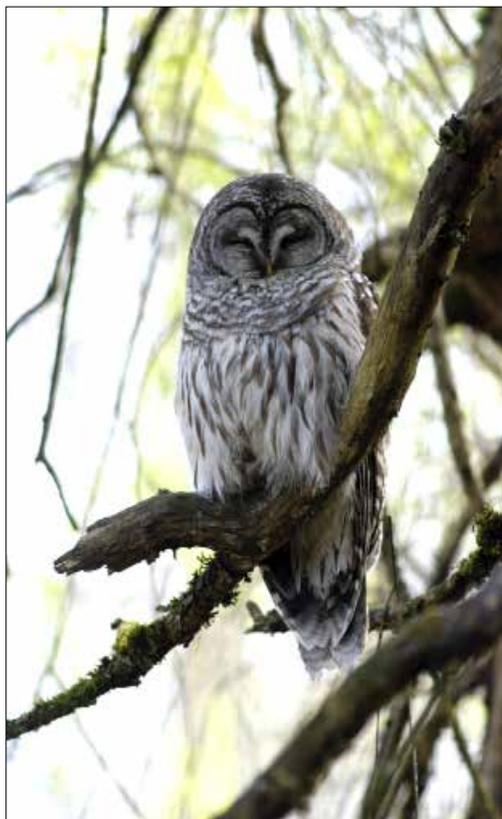
**March 10, 2016, Program**

## Birding by Habitat - Brian Bell

Brian Bell is coauthor of the field guide, *Birds of Washington State*. He is a past president of the Washington Ornithological Society and served on the WOS Board for eight years. Brian has taught Seattle Audubon's Master Birder program, and teaches birding classes at North Seattle and Shoreline Community Colleges, as well as Seattle and East Side Audubon. He has led countless birding trips, both professionally and as a much sought after leader.

Brian's presentation will focus on Washington habitat, the typical tree species within each habitat and the birds you can expect to find in these habitats.

Gene and Sandy Bullock first met Brian when he was the professional guide on a 1998 Elderhostel (now Roads Scholars) birding cruise in the San Juan Islands. Brian also accompanied a group that included Sandy and Gene Bullock and Judy and Don Willott on a weekend trip to scout birding hotspots



in the San Juan Islands for the *Puget Loop Map of the Great Washington Birding Trail*.

**Photo of Barred Owl at Marymoor Park in Seattle by Brian Bell**

## BI BioBlitz - May 14

On May 14, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and IslandWood are partnering again to host the second-ever Bainbridge Island BioBlitz, a 24-hour intensive survey of selected properties with the goal of identifying as many species of flora and fauna as possible. And we have exciting news: This year the event will be sponsored by National Geographic, and will be featured as a premier BioBlitz in Washington State!

We're looking for volunteer TAXA TEAM LEADERS, field experts responsible for leading and engaging small teams of volunteer participants in the field, while identifying as many species as possible. If you or someone you know is an expert in a particular taxa or field of biology who might enjoy leading a team of inquisitive minds during the BioBlitz, or if you have questions about the role of a Taxa Team Leader, please contact Becca Nissley at [becca@bi-landtrust.org](mailto:becca@bi-landtrust.org). For more information, visit <http://bi-landtrust.org/default>.

## Special Thanks

With some 325 members and supporters on Bainbridge Island, Kitsap Audubon has been an important part of the BI community since our founding almost 44 years ago. Our Bainbridge members and friends have responded by designating a generous portion of their ONE CALL FOR ALL donations to Kitsap Audubon, which gives back to the community by helping fund and support a wide range of programs.

## Kitsap Audubon Society

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## President's Letter - Sandy Bullock

It's scholarship time again, and I was amazed when I realized 2016 is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our scholarship program. This year, in addition to the three \$1,000 scholarships offered to 2016 Kitsap high school graduates, we have established a \$3,000 Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship, available to Kitsap County residents who have successfully completed at least one academic year toward a four-year degree in environmental science, marine or wildlife biology, forestry or related studies. This scholarship will be funded annually by Ann's generous bequest to Kitsap Audubon. Knowing Ann, I'm sure she would be pleased, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Look for more information on how to apply for these scholarships in this issue of the Kingfisher.

March is also the month our Nominating Committee, led by Sharron Ham this year, is scouting for members willing to run for open positions on the Board for coming year beginning July first. If you think you might be interested and would like more information, you can email Sharron at shabobham@comcast.net. The Committee's recommended slate of officers will be announced at the March meeting. The election will take place in April.

May, 2016 will be the third anniversary of the Kitsap Great Give, a designated day of giving where non-profits all over Kitsap



County can receive donations over a 24 hour period, receive matching fund amounts, and compete for special cash prizes. Last year, Kitsap non-profits shared in over \$1,017,000 raised in the 24 hour period. Kitsap Audubon received nearly \$2,000 in donations and matching gifts in each of the two preceding years, and we've registered again this year. According to the rules, it's too early to tell you more right now, but April's Kingfisher will have all the details.

The other good news this month, soggy birders, is that winter is almost over. Rufus hummingbirds will soon appear at your feeders to challenge our resident Anna's in exciting aerial maneuvers, and spring migration will be underway. When we lived in New England, we had to wait until almost Mothers' Day for our ruby throated hummingbirds to return. I miss the greater variety of warblers we saw there, but it's wonderful to have hummingbirds all year long.

*Photo by Don Willott*

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

**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 Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. Open to the public. Free parking.**

# Kitsap Audubon Offering \$6,000 in Scholarships

The Kitsap Audubon Society is now accepting applications for \$6,000 in scholarships; including a \$3,000 Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship and three \$1,000 scholarships.

A new annual Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship is available to Kitsap County residents who have successfully completed at least one academic year toward a four-year degree in environmental science, forestry, marine or wildlife biology, or related fields of study.

The three \$1,000 scholarships are available to Kitsap County graduating high school seniors who intend to pursue a two-year certificate or four-year academic degree in environmental science, forestry, marine or wildlife biology, or related fields of study.

Ann Sleight was a founding member of Kitsap Audubon in 1972 and served as the chapter's first field trip chair. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Michigan, and

taught anthropology at Olympic College for 30 years. The Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship will be funded annually by her generous bequest to Kitsap Audubon.

To be considered for the Ann Sleight Memorial Scholarship, applicants must complete the application form, submit an essay of approximately 500 words stating why they have chosen this field of study, provide proof of good academic standing, and list participation in any projects and activities related to their chosen field.

The \$1,000 scholarships are open to graduating seniors from Kitsap County high schools, who are planning to pursue a two or four-year academic degree in environmental science, forestry, marine or wildlife biology, or related fields of study.

Applicants for one of these \$1,000 scholarships must:

- 1 - Complete the application form;
- 2 - Include the name and address

- of the degree-granting school for transmittal of funds, along with college student ID # if known;
- 3 - Submit a written essay, 500 words or less, stating your reason for choosing this field of study and your career goals;
- 4 - Include a current transcript, and SAT or ACT scores;
- 5 - List participation in projects or activities related to your chosen field;
- 6 - Include two letters of recommendation from teachers or other mentors.

Applications and other required materials for any of these scholarships must be postmarked by March 26, 2016, to the Kitsap Audubon Society, P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo WA 98370. Applications may be found online at [www.KitsapAudubon.org](http://www.KitsapAudubon.org), or may be requested by contacting Sandra Bullock at [roadrunner1957@Comcast.net](mailto:roadrunner1957@Comcast.net). Scholarship winners will be notified by May 1, 2016.

## Kitsap Audubon Film Event

Thursday, May 19; 7:00 p.m.; Lynwood Theater, Bainbridge Island

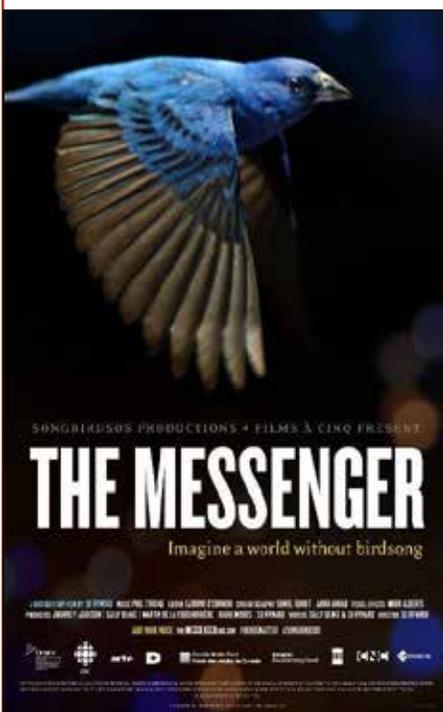
Kitsap Audubon and other soon-to-be-named sponsors have an exceptional opportunity to show this stunningly beautiful award-winning film at the historic Lynwood Theatre on Bainbridge Island, thanks to the generosity of Far Away Entertainment, the filmmaker and the National Audubon Society.

This environmental documentary is a "must see" for songbird lovers everywhere. As the storied "canaries in the coal mine," our birds are sending us an urgent message. The film combines exquisitely beautiful

cinematography with travels around the globe to interview leading ornithologists and look at why our songbirds have been declining for decades.

A well-qualified moderator will lead a discussion following the film about what we can do to save our songbirds.

We are still finalizing details (ticket sales, etc.); but it's not too soon to put this special evening event on your May calendar and tell your friends about it. If you care about birds, wildlife, or the health of our environment, this is one film you won't want to miss.



# Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

**Skagit/Samish Flats Area:**  
**Saturday, March 5 or Sunday, March 6.** Al & Andrew Westphal, leaders, westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). An annual highlight! We will look for the over-wintering flocks of Snow Geese and Trumpeter Swans along with a terrific array of other waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and others. This will be a long full-day event. Due to member interest, I've added a second identical event on March 6. Group size is limited, and a small number of slots or wait-list for either day may still be available. Contact Al Westphal to register and for details.

**Othello Sandhill Crane Festival: March 18 – 20 (Othello, WA).** Check the website for details: <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

**Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island: Saturday, March 19 (BI Parks & Rec. event).** Aboard a chartered tour boat with George Gerdts as leader/naturalist. Expect great looks at three species of cormorants; sea ducks; rocky-shore sandpipers; a Bald Eagle or two; great scenery; and a unique, close-up view of the Bainbridge Island shoreline. The trip starts mid-morning and finishes mid-afternoon at the Winslow City Dock. E-mail George at [geopandion@gmail.com](mailto:geopandion@gmail.com) or call or 206-817-6979 or 206-842-8138 for further details. To reserve a space call the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation Department

at 206-842-2306 ext. 118. There is a fee for this event, and credit card payment is accepted. KAS members will have 20% of the cost of the trip donated to KAS. Be sure to tell the BI Parks when you sign up that you are a KAS member so the donation can be made. Leave your e-mail address when signing up, and directions and a map of Bainbridge Island will be sent to you via e-mail.

**Point No Point/Hansville: Saturday, March 19.** Al & Andrew Westphal, leaders, westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). If you aren't with George on his excellent boat trip, join us for one last shot at the wintering seabirds of Kitsap County's premier IBA (Important Bird Area). Visibility during our January visit was less than desired, so we'll hope for better weather and divide

our time between a sea watch and a walk along the marsh trail at Point No Point, then finish the morning with a stop at Norwegian Point Park. We'll meet at the Point No Point County Park parking area at 8:30 to start off.

**Olympic Birdfest: April 15 - 17.** Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Details and directions at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

## Field Trip Report

**Marrowstone Island, Feb. 3.** George Gerdts led a group of eight birders from Port Gamble to Fort Worden by way of stops on the Hood Canal, Marrowstone Island, and the Kah Tai Lagoon in Port Townsend. While the day was chilly and windy, the predicted rain did not arrive until after conclusion of the day's activities. Among the highlights of the 69 bird species observed were a Merlin at Port Gamble; Trumpeter Swan flocks in the fields south of Chimum; and a gathering of hundreds of Black-bellied Plovers, Dunlins, and Sanderlings at Fort Flagler. As always, the group appreciated George's instructive style and entertaining puns. We are fortunate to have a birder and teacher of his caliber as a regular trip leader!

**Preening Ruddy Duck at Kah Tai Lagoon - Don Willott**

**George Gerdts with Kitsap Audubon group at Oak Bay - Gene Bullock**



# Wildlife Sightings - Joan Carson

(joanpcarson@comcast.net, or (360-779-2612)

In a short time, spring migrants will be working their way into our yards. Some will stay while others continue their journey. This is the time of the year when surprises happen. Be sure and get your reports in for the next Kingfisher.

January 3, Ruth Waltman, Gig Harbor, enjoyed watching an Anna's hummingbird take a bath in her bird bath. The bird bathed for a good two minutes. Water in this shallow bath was about ¼ inch. That's definitely hummingbird size. January 18, Lee Robinson reported seeing a peregrine falcon on the northwest power pole near the casino at Agate Pass. This was in the morning and the bird was plucking and eating something. Jamie Acker followed up her report the same day in the afternoon. He said it was on the casino side of the Bridge at 12:18

and then on the Bainbridge side at 1:58 pm.

January 18, Alice Hogue, South Colby, saw a white-throated sparrow in her yard. She thought she had been hearing one singing a few days earlier. She recognized the song because of a clock her students had given her a few years ago. It is one of those clocks that has a bird singing each hour. The white-throated sparrow was on the program. Wonderful way to identify a new bird which this one was for her. She noted other birds in her yard were: song, fox and golden-crowned sparrows, chestnut-backed and blackcapped chickadees, towhees, juncos, Steller's jays Anna's hummingbirds and a pair of pileated woodpeckers. The previous week, she saw six bald eagles over Yukon Harbor. January 20, Margaret Joyce, Mission Lake, reported having Anna's hummingbirds in her yard

the last couple of years. This year, their feeder has become an attractant to tiny gnats. Added protein? Jeanne Snouwaert, Lemolo, has the same thing happening at her hummingbird feeder.

January 27, Don Duprey, Bainbridge Island, noted that several pine grosbeaks seen a few days earlier were in a tree in Waterfront Park. This was at the southeast corner of the tennis courts. Tom Mansfield was the first person to report these birds. George Gerdts followed up Duprey's report and took his camera to the Park. He had seen the birds in the same location the previous Sunday but didn't have his camera. This time, he was able to get several good photos of this rare bird.

Deadline for the next newsletter is March 15. Looking forward to your reports.

## Point No Point Designated IBA

National Audubon has designated 74 sites in Washington State as IBAs (Important Bird Areas). The goal is to raise local awareness of the importance of protecting these special places to assure

the survival of bird species that depend on them.

"But it doesn't work if we don't spread the message," notes Gene Bullock, KAS Education Chair.

Gene is working with Lori

Raymaker of the Kitsap Parks Department on a sign that will help get this message across.

Point No Point already has a smaller IBA sign attached to a wildlife viewing platform that was funded by Kitsap Audubon.



# KAS History: 1983 Part 1 - Joan Carson

January's newsletter opened with the acknowledgement that Kitsap Audubon had just completed its tenth year of existence. It was also announced that Charlotte Coleburg (Blytman) had designed a new masthead for the newsletter. She had also designed the original one. The short January newsletter announced the upcoming field trip that would be led by Jeanne Snouwaert. It was to be a two-day trip to the Skagit Flats and the Skagit River with the intention of seeing upwards of 200-300 bald eagles feeding along the river. The group would also look for trumpeter swans on Clear Lake and Barney Lake. The second day would focus on the large concentration of waterfowl, raptors and other birds out on the Flats. Bird sightings for this issue included a first for the County when Scott Hall spotted a brown pelican on December 23. Two sightings of Northern shrikes were reported by John Snouwaert on December 1, Central Valley Road, and Scott Hall on December 22, near Anderson Hill Road. The program for January was given by KAS member Ruth Quam. "Favorite Birding Places in Kitsap County" was the title.

February's newsletter included a report and tally on the Christmas Count. Jim Hein, Compiler, reported that 43 birders identified 42,010 birds of 115 species. Four loon species were seen, eight ruffed grouse, 2 American kestrels, 3 common snipe, 1 Northern phalarope, 12 marbled murrelets, four owl species, 1 dipper, 1 Hutton's vireo and 33 Thayer's gulls. February's field trip would be the ferry crossing from Port

Townsend to Whidbey Island and hopes were for seabirds like the murre, guillemots and other alcids. Frank Beyer gave the February program on the wildlife of the State of Maine where he and Helen had lived for 21 years. The KAS Cookbook was still a project at this time and members were being asked to send in recipes. The oft-heard complaint of "I don't have any original recipes!" was answered by Linda Bourner, one of the committee: "An original recipe is one you've cooked twice. First, it was someone else's; after trying it and adding your own special touch, it's yours."

The March program was given by Martha and Eric Edman, members of the F-67 Camera Club in Kitsap County and the Photographic Society of America. The subject was "Nature in the Olympic National Park." The Edmans had been photographing the natural wonders of the park for many years and the program would cover from sea level to the mountain tops. Elections were to be held in March and the slate of officers nominated was: President, Paul Carson; 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Frank Beyer; 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., Ron Hirschi; Secretary, Susan Ellis; Treasurer, Bob Ellis. The March field trip was to the Yakima Firing Range to see the annual sage grouse strut. Another field trip closer to home was to Bainbridge Island. An item from the newsletter files was repeated in the 1983 issue. "Ten years ago, the Bremerton Sun carried an article on the front page that said our County Commissioners planned to 'adhere strictly to existing planning policies in view of Trident.' They issued the following statement: 'It is the county's policy and goal

to encourage intensive urban development to take place in close proximity to existing urban centers. This policy recognizes the costly problems of providing efficient public services and facilities to scattered and uncoordinated developments. It recognizes as well, the merits of preserving a cohesive identifiable community with rural and other open areas surrounding it. We intend to follow those adopted policies to the letter and will not yield to the inevitable pressures to develop new business centers or high density residential areas. We urge the citizens to support our efforts. . . to safeguard the character of Kitsap County that we enjoy.' (Kingfisher files, September 1973).

"Snow Leopards" was the subject of the April Membership program. Helen Freeman of the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle was the speaker. The new slate of officers was presented and elected. The April field trip would be led by Paul and Joan Carson. This Grays Harbor Field Trip would focus on the annual shorebird migration with the destination being Bowerman Basin. The 2-day trip would continue the next day and bird the areas around Ocean Shores. (I saw my first snowy plover on that trip.) Interesting bits and pieces in this issue included the news that Game Warden Lewis Hill had trapped a bobcat on the Bangor Base. He estimated the population in that area to be between six and twelve cats. Members Dale and Regina Spoor who were in Peru and Ecuador sent a tape recording of their adventures in the area. Future programs were in several minds when it was heard.

**Next month – 1983 Part 2**

# Project Feeder Watch

If the Great Backyard Bird Count whetted your family's appetite for winter birding, here is a great way to continue the fun all winter long. Operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Project FeederWatch ([www.feederwatch.org](http://www.feederwatch.org)) is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. FeederWatch data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance.

Anyone interested in birds can participate. FeederWatch is conducted by people of all skill levels and backgrounds, including children, families, individuals, classrooms, retired persons, youth groups, nature centers, and bird clubs. You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds.

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as a bird identification poster and more. You provide the feeder(s) and seed. Then each fall participants receive a 16-page, year-end report, Winter

Bird Highlights. Participants also receive the Cornell Lab newsletter.

There is an \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). The participation fee covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (Winter Bird Highlights). Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by participation fees. Without the support of participants, this project wouldn't be possible.

**Townsend's Warbler below left - Don Willott**

**Western Tanager below right - Kathy Swartz**



## Time to Get Nest Boxes Ready

Washington Fish & Wildlife experts say it's time to get your bird nest boxes cleaned out and ready for new and returning tenants. If you don't yet have nest boxes, you can learn more at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/index.html>.

The WDFW monthly *Crossing Paths News Notes*

are a great source of timely information about wildlife. It's easy to become an "e-subscriber" at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lists/>.

Most songbirds arrive in May; but by the time migrating swallows arrive they may find nest cavities already taken by Starlings and House Sparrows.

Some nest box owners

plug the openings until their target birds arrive.

Kitsap Audubon volunteers delay putting out nest boxes for Purple Martin colonies to discourage Starlings. Sometime Purple Martins are patiently watching while the gourds and boxes are being put up. But then they promptly move in.



## Kitsap Audubon Society

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The Kingfisher is the newsletter of the Kitsap Audubon Society, P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370. It is published 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](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net) or mail to Gene Bullock, 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 expense of printing and mailing, send your request to [genebullock@comcast.net](mailto:genebullock@comcast.net).

## Kitsap Audubon Society — Membership Renewal

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 newsletter via Email and save us the expense of printing and mailing.

**Select Category Of Membership:**

Individual Annual Membership \$15

Family Annual Membership \$25

Contributing Annual Membership \$50

Sustaining Annual Membership \$75

Individual LIFE Membership \$300

Family LIFE Membership \$500

Supporting Annual Membership \$100

(Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation for scholarships and/or Audubon Adventures (designate).

*The Kitsap Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.*

**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 [www.kitsapaudubon.org](http://www.kitsapaudubon.org)**

