

MAY 2022

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



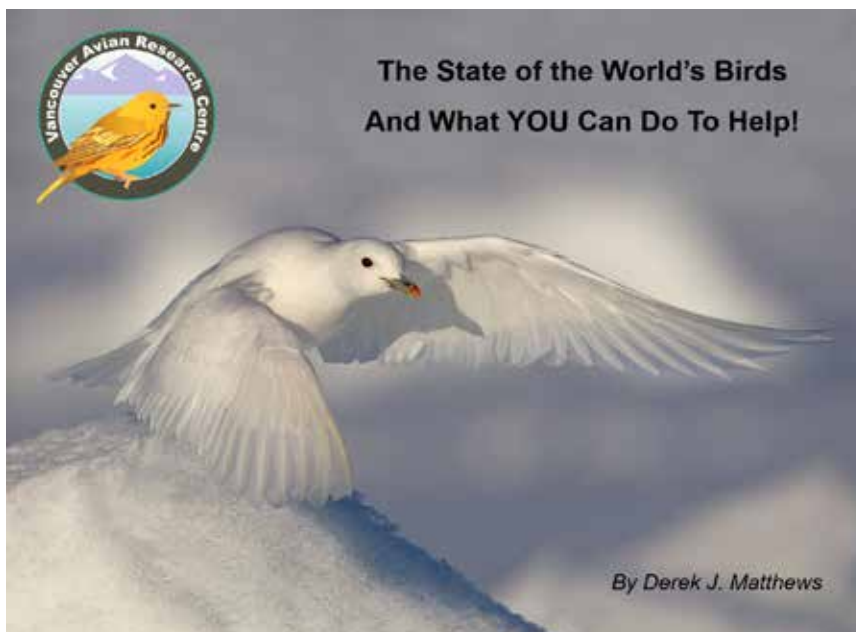
THE Kingfisher

May 12th Program (7:00 p.m. via Zoom)

State of the World's Birds and What You Can Do To Help

Derek Matthews, Chair of the Vancouver Avian Research Centre, will talk about its bird monitoring and banding program, provide an in-depth review of the state of the world's birds, cover the miracle of migration and show why and how birds are making astounding journeys from breeding grounds to winter grounds and then back to breeding grounds each year and remind each of us what we can individually do to help birds and the environment.

Derek is a passionate ornithologist, avian researcher and conservationist. He is a Master bird bander (A Master Bander is an individual licensed by Environment Canada to capture and band wild birds) and an NABC (North American Banding Council) Certified Trainer. With his wife Carol, he has traveled extensively, birding throughout the world in over 80 countries and they have a life list of over 5,000 species. They developed World Bird Traveler as a resource to help birders plan trips. He also leads field trips and bird tours, and hosts Bird Monitoring and Banding and Bird Identification workshops. Derek was born near London, England, and lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



Zoom Program, Thursday, May 12thth at 7:00 p.m.

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91811374785?pwd=Tm12VlBHWGhRYnRQUmg2RIUrMkJpdz09>

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785 ; Passcode: 935230

To join by telephone: 1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 918 1137 4785; Passcode: 935230

Election of officers for coming year

Kitsap Audubon held its annual election of officers at the April membership meeting, and the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President: Lynn Willmott (serving second term)

Vice President: Kevin Eyer (currently an at-large

Booard member)

Treasurer: Sandy Bullock (currently co-treasuer with Jennifer Standish)

Secretary: Judy Willott (will be serving her second term)

In-person meetings to resume in September

Kitsap Audubon plans to resume in-person meetings in the Poulsbo Library Community Room in September. We expect to offer *hybrid* meetings

that allow both in-person and virtual participation. Most programs will be recorded and made available on our website.

Join us at Pathways:
Life Without Salmon?



May 1- 4, 2022
Kitsap Conference Center
Bremerton, WA, USA

Kitsap Audubon has donated \$1,000 to become a sponsor of the 2022 Pathways Conference, hosted by Colorado State University and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This year's theme is "Life Without Salmon?" Kitsap Audubon volunteers will be on hand to talk about birds and answer questions at our lobby display during the opening day of the conference.

Washington Ornithological Conference

The 2022 Annual Conference of the Washington Ornithological Society will be held June 9 – 12, 2022, at the CenterPlace Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley, Washington.

To learn more or register:

<https://wos.org/annual-conference/current-year/registration-instructions/>

Purple Martin summer talks

Each summer, an impressive journey ends up on the Poulsbo waterfront when Purple Martins (largest member of the swallow family) return from their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

This summer, Kitsap Audubon volunteers will be at Oyster Plant Park on Fjord Drive in Poulsbo to share information about these amazing travelers. This small waterfront park is one of four Purple Martin colonies in Kitsap County funded by Kitsap Audubon and maintained by Kitsap Audubon

volunteers. We also have colonies in Brownsville, Seabeck and Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island.

Oyster Plant Park has two picnic tables and six benches. There are three parking spots adjacent to the park, but these can fill up on sunny summer days. The next closest parking (and toilet) is at Poulsbo Lion's Park, about two blocks away.

Check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kitsapaudubonsociety) for details and times when Kitsap Audubon volunteers will be at the park this summer.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Facebook at <https://www.Facebook.com/KitsapAububonSociety/>

Instagram at <http://www.instagram.com/kitsapaudubon/>

Follow us on Twitter at [@kitsapaudubon](https://twitter.com/kitsapaudubon) birding education.

Twitter handle: [@KitsapAudubon](https://twitter.com/KitsapAudubon)

Videos of previous programs

<https://www.kitsapaudubon.org/video>

BECOME A HABITAT STEWARD

WITH THE
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP!

PRICE: \$20*

*scholarships available!

Date & Time

**May 10th, 12th, 17th, and 19th
6:30–9 PM**

**Optional In-Person Field
Opportunities!**

The National Wildlife Federation is offering a specialized, multi-week online workshop (via Zoom!) to teach you how to create and restore wildlife habitat in backyards, schoolyards, and other areas in your community. You get to meet and learn from local conservation professionals and current NWF Habitat Stewards and other similarly interested folks while participating in this interactive, fun, and highly informative webinar!

REGISTRATION

<https://may22hst.brownpapertickets.com>

Questions? Contact Kellee at WAEducation@nwf.org or (206) 577-7816

**LEARN ABOUT: RAIN GARDENS • GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE • INVASIVE
PLANTS • HABITAT RESTORATION • PNW ECOLOGY • AND MORE!**



Presented by the National Wildlife Federation
in partnership with the Russell Family
Foundation

Field Trips & Festivals - Al Westphal, Field Trip Chair

COVID PRECAUTIONS! We ask the following: (1) Each household must sign up by email in advance with trip leaders; (2) be prepared to adhere to directives and advice from our public health departments; and (3) If you are not well, especially coughing, sneezing, or wheezing, please stay home.

Birding Festivals and Events: A summary of events statewide may be found at the Washington State Audubon site:

<http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

Theler Wetlands (Belfair); Saturday, May 21st. (Half-day); Al & Carolyn Westphal, leaders. An annual spring favorite! We will walk the boardwalk and trails for several hours in the morning to greet the spring arrivals, including swallows, sparrows, and hopefully a few warblers and vireos, along with the year-round residents. Event involves several miles of walking on good trails, including one short but moderately steep stretch down and back. Contact trip leaders for sign-up (westphalac@aol.com).

Field Trip Reports

Billy Frank-Nisqually NWR, March 19th. Seven of us braved a poor weather forecast and enjoyed instead a long pleasant morning on the NWR. The group accrued a tally of 45 bird species, including many thousands of waterfowl, and a nice variety of forest and edge birds, including many Yellow-rumped Warblers in bright breeding plumage. It was a great group of enthusiastic birders, and a fine way to spend the final Saturday of winter.

Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

Send your sightings to wildlifesightings@kitsapaudubon.org.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from www.eBird.org:

March 20 at Port Gamble: 4 black oystercatchers and 1 Say's phoebe
March 27 at Clear Creek Trail (Silverdale): 1 northern shrike
March 28 near Silverdale: 1 northern saw-whet owl
March 29 on Green Mountain (near Seabeck): 1 northern pygmy-owl, 12 red crossbills
March 31 near Seabeck: 20 tundra swans
March 31 near Kingston: 9 greater white-fronted geese

April 2 at Restoration Point (SE Bainbridge Island): 55 Harlequin ducks, 12 black scoters, 1 Virginia rail, 3 black oystercatchers, 90 black turnstones, 3 Wilson's snipes, 4 herring gulls, 7 Iceland gulls
April 2 at Sinclair Inlet: 1 eared grebe
April 4 near Hansville: 3 snow geese flying over
April 5 from Seattle-Winslow ferry: 1 Clark's grebe
April 6 at Point No Point (Hansville): 1 Townsend's solitaire
April 6 near Hansville: 1 barn owl
April 8 near the Agate Pass Bridge: 1 peregrine falcon
April 9 near Silverdale: 1 hermit thrush

April 11 at Clear Creek Trail: 2 mountain bluebirds
April 12 at Clear Creek Trail: 12 cackling geese
April 13 near Wicks Lake (South Kitsap): 6 mountain quails
April 13 on Bainbridge Island: 1 American pipit, 1 chipping sparrow
April 14 in Silverdale: 1 white-throated sparrow
April 15 at Clear Creek Trail: 2 Virginia rails, 1 sora

Photos:

Snow Geese - Jay Wiggs.
Red Crossbills- Stan Willey



Bird of the Month: Cedar Waxwing

by Janine Schutt

Some birds are social, while others are solitary. A gregarious songbird species with a big personality is the cedar waxwing. Often foraging in harmonious flocks, this bird's antics are highly entertaining. Here are some fascinating facts about the cedar waxwing:

- One of three species of waxwings in the world and one of two that reside in Washington. (Bohemian waxwings are found in eastern WA in winter.)
- Year-round resident of the northern United States and Canada, and winters in the southern U.S. and as far south as Central America.
- Common in Kitsap County from May to December, with vagrants passing through in winter and early spring.
- Named for the prominent, waxy-looking red secretions (a pigment called *astaxanthin*) on their secondary wing feathers, which increase in number as the bird ages.
- Varies its habitat preference, depending on the season; favors mixed woodlands for breeding and shrubby, open areas in winter.

- Flycatches for insects in spring and summer; eats mostly berries in fall and winter.
- Roving flocks can number in the hundreds or thousands and sometimes mix with Bohemian waxwings.
- Once all berries have been stripped from the tree or shrub, the flock moves on.
- When only one bird in a flock can reach the berries, the rest may line up on the same branch and several birds pass multiple berries down the row.
- Occasionally gorge themselves on fermented fruit, where they may become intoxicated and unable to fly until the tipsiness wears off.
- Can pass intact seeds through their digestive system, which increases the dispersal of seeds that start new plants.
- During courtship, a male and a female hop to and from one another repeatedly. Then the male passes a berry or other food item back and forth with the female numerous times until she finally consumes it.
- Nests in summer, later than most birds, so that there is an abundance of berries available for the young in late summer and early fall.



Photos by Janine Schutt show pair of Cedar Waxwings passing berry (left) and adult Cedar Waxwing (above).

Is it okay to feed birds? - Gene Bullock

Is it okay to feed birds? It's a question we hear often. I am an enthusiastic and unapologetic feeder of birds! I can't imagine a world without songbirds, and love seeing and hearing them in my backyard. I entice them any way I can, with bird seed, suet, bird-friendly plantings, nest boxes, and clean water, where they can splash all they want. We have a Purple Finch whose melodious songs spill over with infectious joy. And there can't be too many Anna's Hummingbirds with scintillating gorgets or American Goldfinches glowing like the morning sun to suit me.

Backyard bird feeders are a wonderful way to introduce families and young people to bird watching, and connect people of all ages with nature. If it helps swell the ranks of those who love birds enough to help protect them, I am happy to promote it. People want to save what they know and love.

\$40 BILLION BUSINESS

Bird watching gives a huge boost to our economy. It creates hundreds of thousands of jobs and pumps billions of dollars into local businesses. National Audubon estimates there are 50 million adult bird watchers in the U.S. who spend about \$40 billion each year on bird watching books, accessories and related travel.

But there are serious concerns you shouldn't ignore. If you care about birds, you'll want to minimize the risk to your avian friends.

Among the biggest risks are avian diseases. When birds congregate around bird feeders, it increases the likelihood that sick birds will spread disease to other birds. Bird excrement often harbors pathogens such as Salmonella that can multiply to toxic levels if feeders are not kept clean and regularly sanitized. Smaller birds like the Pine Siskins are often the first affected. If dead birds begin showing up around feeding platforms, it's time to stop feeding for a couple of weeks to avoid reinfection by sick and dying birds. Scrub and clean feeding surfaces with a 10% bleach solution and thoroughly rinse. There are also commercial disinfectants that are said to be safe for bird houses and feeders. Feeders and feeding surfaces should be cleaned at least every other week; but cleaning more often is better, especially in hot, humid



weather. After thorough scrubbing with soap and water, you can sanitize feeders in a solution of 50-50 vinegar and water, followed by a good rinse.

CATS KILL A BILLION BIRDS EACH YEAR

Feeders can also make birds more vulnerable to predators, such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks – and cats! Free-roaming cats kill more than a billion birds a year. Feeders should be located close to protective cover, and those who love birds, as well as cats, should keep their felines indoors.

Window strikes are another major hazard. Researchers estimate that more than a billion birds die each year because of building and window strikes. Windows reflect the surrounding foliage and look to birds like an open escape path when they are spooked. Wild bird stores now offer a variety of products to reduce collisions, such as UV-reflecting sprays, films and decals that help interrupt the reflected images.

If you feed birds, please keep your feeders clean, and your seed, nectar and suet fresh. Make your backyard a safe haven for birds and wildlife. Life is hard enough for them without multiplying their risks. Your birds will repay your care with exuberant displays of sound and color that could make you feel happy as a bird.

Photo of Townsend's Warbler by Don Willott.

Audubon Adventures for 3rd and 4th grade classrooms

Kitsap Audubon donates Audubon Adventures curriculum kits to Kitsap County 3rd and 4th grade classroom teachers. Each kit costs Kitsap Audubon nearly \$50, including shipping and handling, and is sent from National Audubon directly to the teacher. National Audubon usually introduces a new set of topics each year.

Please let us know if you are a Kitsap County 3rd or 4th grade classroom teacher or know a 3rd or 4th grade classroom teacher who would like to be included.

What is Audubon Adventures?

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education curriculum product created by the National Audubon Society for grades three and four. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents **standards-based science content** about birds, wildlife, and their habitats.

Audubon Adventures introduces young people, their families, and their teachers to the fundamental principles by which the natural world functions. Our print publications and website offer an exciting, science-based exploration of those principles at work anchored in nonfiction reading and outdoor and classroom activities that help kids to care for our planet by helping birds and other wildlife. Audubon Adventures is used in classrooms, home schools, after-school programs, camp programs, ESL classes, and more.

Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program.

Easy to use; makes learning fun

Audubon Adventures can be easily integrated into the existing curriculum areas of science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, and creative arts. The only requirement for implementing Audubon Adventures in your classroom, home, or community is an interest in exploring, learning about, and enjoying the natural world around you.

Each kit includes 32 copies of each of three to four magazines on different topics, plus a printed or online teacher's guide.



Kitsap Audubon Society

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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 ten times a year, September to June. Submissions from readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for space, grammar or legal reasons. Email text or photographs to genebullock@comcast.net or mail to Gene Bullock, 1754 NE Mesford Rd., Unit 5, Poulsbo WA 98370. Our deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

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

Kitsap Audubon Society - Membership Renewal

Join/Renew online at <http://www.kitsapaudubon.org/membership>

or make check payable to KAS and mail to KAS, PO Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

- ☐ Check here to receive your Kingfisher via Email and save us the expense of printing and mailing. Members receive ten issues of the Kingfisher newsletter each year.

Select Category Of Membership:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual LIFE Membership \$300 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Annual Membership \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Annual Membership \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Annual Membership \$75 | (Contact KAS Treasurer for LIFE Membership payment options) |

Additional donation: Scholarships \$ _____ Audubon Adventures \$ _____ Other \$ _____

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

Your contact information is not sold, disclosed or shared with any entity outside KAS.

The mission of the Kitsap Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world through education, environmental study and habitat protection, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of local and regional natural areas.

Visit our website at <https://www.kitsapaudubon.org>

