

NOVEMBER 2018

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



THE Kingfisher

November 8, 2018, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Poulsbo Library

How Salmon Recovery Helps Birds

Paul Dorn, Salmon Research Scientist (retired)

All things are connected when it comes to habitat. The terrestrial environment essential for healthy salmon stream habitat is home to many species of birds, other vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants. Birds help distribute returning adult salmon nutrients around our watersheds to support healthy forests.

Paul has worked in salmon research and salmon recovery since 1969, studying high seas migration patterns in Alaska, spawning density success at the UW's Big Beef Creek Research Station on Hood Canal, and 40 years with the Suquamish Tribe working to restore Kitsap natural salmon populations. In retirement, Paul works with Trout Unlimited volunteers documenting Grover's Creek and Curley Creek outmigration populations and the Friends of Miller Bay protecting terrestrial and estuarine habitat.



Paul Dorn's display and talk about the five species of salmon are a popular attraction at the annual Poulsbo Fish Park Salmon Viewing. This year's Salmon Viewing will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, from 10 - 2. Photo by Gene Bullock

2018 Christmas Bird Count dates:

Kitsap County: Saturday, December 15

NK/Port Gamble/Hansville: Saturday, December 22

Pre-CBC Orientation: Saturday, December 8, at

Hansville Point No Point Park- 9:00 a.m.

**Kitsap Audubon \$5,000
donation to the Bl Land Trust
"Stand For the Land"
Campaign will be matched.**

Kitsap Audubon Society

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President's Letter - Diane Bachen

Congratulations to Gene and Sandy Bullock who were the recipients of the Helen Engel Volunteer of the Year Award at this year's fall meeting of the Audubon Council of Washington. The Helen Engel Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a volunteer(s) who has contributed outstanding service to our Audubon cause at the chapter, state, regional or flyway level. This was the first year that it was given to a couple and it couldn't have gone to a more deserving pair who have been involved with Kitsap on so many, many levels for the past 15 years.

Climate change and Initiative 1631 were important topics at ACOW this year. Audubon Washington is a strong supporter of I-1631 as is National Audubon.

With the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change prediction that we have just over a decade to get climate change under control, it is essential that I-1631 pass as a way of starting this monumental process. It may seem like a small effort but other city and state governments, corporations and organizations are also working on addressing carbon emissions. It was encouraging to read an article the other day about the innovative programs that are being implemented to decrease and counter carbon emissions using natural ecosystems as the first line of defense. Planting trees in urban forests will help cool cities and absorb carbon, restoring dunes and wetlands and building oyster reefs will restore shoreline and near-shore habitat. Even Pakistan is working



hard at reforesting areas that have been drastically affected by development and illegal logging.

Restoring nature is one of the powerful tools in the effort to stop climate change and part of Kitsap Audubon's mission.

We recently received an inquiry on our website about donating abandoned bird's nests that had been recently blown out of trees. Gene Bullock, our Education Chair, did a little research and learned that in order to keep a nest a scientific collection permit must be obtained from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These can be found on-line at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/scp/>.

Nancy Sefton will be at our November general member membership meeting selling her beautiful bird themed note cards. She is donating the proceeds from the sale to KAS. Never too early to start your Christmas shopping!

The KAS board is very grateful for all our dedicated members and wish all of you a lovely Thanksgiving with family or friends.

Kitsap Audubon Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through June, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on the lower level of the Poulsbo Library, 700 NE Lincoln Rd. Programs free, open to the public.

Bullocks Receive Audubon Award

Gene and Sandy Bullock were presented with the Sixth Annual Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2018 Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW), on October 13.

Gene and Sandy Bullock have served in leadership roles with Kitsap Audubon and Audubon Washington for 15 years.

Sandy has served a total of five years as President and a total of eight years as Treasurer of Kitsap Audubon. She is also a founding member and chair of the Kitsap Audubon Scholarship Committee, which has awarded \$45,000 in scholarships to Kitsap area students pursuing or planning to pursue academic degrees in fields related to

Kitsap Audubon's mission of protecting birds and wildlife habitat.

Gene has served as President, Conservation Chair and Education Chair. He has also edited the Kitsap Audubon chapter newsletter for 13 years and organized the annual Kitsap Christmas Bird counts for 15 years. Gene wrote a monthly column on birds and birdwatching for six years that appeared in six Kitsap weekly newspapers, and has given presentations to dozens of Kitsap community organizations on birds and related topics.

Gene has received previous volunteer of the year awards from Washington Conservation Voters in 2006 and Washington State Audubon in 2008.



Photo: Judy Willott (left) presents Helen Engle Award to Gene and Sandy Bullock, assisted by Gail Gatton (far right), Executive Director of Washington State Audubon. Photo by Don Willott.

4 billion birds migrate over U.S.

Using data from 143 weather radar stations, Cornell Lab of Ornithology researchers estimate that an average of 4 billion birds move south from Canada into the U.S. each fall. At the same time, another 4.7 billion birds cross the southern U.S. heading to the tropics. In the spring, 3.5 billion birds cross back into the U.S., and 2.6 billion return to Canada across the northern U.S. border. Researchers were surprised to find that 76 percent returned to the U.S. border; but birds wintering in the U.S. had only an average return rate of 64 percent.

Friends of Miller Bay Annual Meeting

The Friends of Miller Bay will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, November 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Suquamish Tribal House of Awakened Culture in Suquamish. The speaker will be local historian and writer, Jerry Elfendahl, who grew up exploring the beaches in Indianola and Miller Bay. The title of his talk is "Miller Bay Folklore and History": Part 1. Contact info@friendsofmillerbay.org for information.

Note cards feature NW bird art

At our November 8th meeting, we'll be selling special greeting cards with envelopes, featuring beautiful NW bird art by noted local artist Nancy Sefton. The cards are blank on the inside and make nice holiday gifts. A package of five cards, featuring five different birds, sells for \$15, and Nancy Sefton (member of both KAS and the Poulsbo Artist League) is donating all proceeds to Kitsap Audubon.

The Wild Bird store in Poulsbo, Wild Bird Center in Silverdale, and Wild Birds Unlimited in Gig Harbor donate to Kitsap Audubon 5% of the proceeds of sales to Kitsap Audubon members. Let them know you are a Kitsap Audubon member.

Meet Board member Janine Schutt

As a girl, Janine Schutt preferred playing in the woods to watching TV. Although a nature lover, Janine didn't become a birder until her late 20s. Despite having gone to college in Ohio, Janine's life list lacks the northern cardinal. She studied for a semester in Austria, but the only birds she remembers seeing in Europe were some white doves in Assisi and loads of pigeons around the Vatican. She now laments the missed opportunities and wonders what her life list would be if she had been paying attention.

Perhaps the main reason Janine seldom noticed birds is because she had cats that could go outside. Inevitably, dead birds would occasionally be deposited on the patio. But in 2002, Janine's beloved cat, a former stray, tested positive for FIV, the feline equivalent of HIV. For a chance at a long life she would have to stay indoors. Although the cat wasn't happy about this, the birds were, and they began to visit the yard.

So, a bird feeder was purchased. Then some field guides. Then some better binoculars. Then more feeders. Then a digital camera and zoom lens. Then about six dozen more books, a tripod, better camera and bigger lens. Finally, realizing she had stumbled onto a new way of life as a bird photographer, Janine took the bold step to take out a loan and buy a professional quality camera and 500mm lens. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Janine's interest in birds was hatching while she was on a private retreat at a monastery in Oregon. She had taken a stack of religious books to read



but became more interested in a *Birds of North America* field guide she had found in the retreat house. She spent hours perusing it and was excited to identify her first scrub-jay at a feeder in the garden.

In 2010, Janine joined Kitsap Audubon Society. The next year she was asked to serve as vice-president. She held this position for two years, then served as president for another two years. Janine currently serves as a board member at-large and is the data compiler for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Janine received the Kingfisher award in 2016.

Janine works as a

paraeducator with the Central Kitsap School District and is the contract Catholic chaplain at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women in Belfair. She is also the bird columnist for the bi-monthly *West Sound Home and Garden* magazine.

In 2017, Janine's photo of a mixed flock of yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds placed in the Top 100 images of the annual National Audubon Society Photo Contest. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has used her photos in publications, including *Living Bird*, *Winter Bird Highlights*, and some online articles.

Janine has birded every county in the state of Washington and posts lists to eBird.org wherever she goes. She particularly enjoys the Blast Zone of Mt. St. Helens, Eastern Washington, and the ocean beaches. She hopes to take road trips to Arizona and Louisiana someday.

A deeply religious person, most of Janine's birding adventures are also spiritual retreats. She says that waiting for a bird to show up is a great time to pray! Sometimes Janine holds a rosary and binoculars simultaneously.

Janine believes that all people are morally obligated to care for the environment and the creatures within it. She hopes she is inspiring others to appreciate nature's beauty and to work to protect it.

Janine's bird photos have appeared in several publications, including "Living Bird," the quarterly magazine of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This snowy owl is one of her favorites.

Wildlife Sightings - Janine Schutt

At his home near Seabeck, Bill Matchett reported a pair of band-tailed pigeons that stayed for the summer. On Sept. 23 he had a Cassin's vireo and also saw at least one late Sept. female rufous hummingbird. As is typical for early fall, the parasitic jaegers, common terns, and red-necked phalaropes put on quite a show at Point No Point in Hansville. On Oct. 13 in the Schutt yard near Wildcat Lake, a brave varied thrush harassed a barred owl from close range. It was joined by 3 Steller's jays who kept a safer distance and a dark-eyed junco that wanted in on the action too. The state's second record of a *phainopepla* made Sequim its home for early

fall. Send me your interesting sightings at jeschutt@hotmail.com. Please put "Wildlife Sightings" in the subject line.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from www.eBird.org:

Sept. 20 at Restoration Point (Bainbridge Island): 2 Cassin's auklets
 Sept. 21 at Hansville: 4 Vaux's swifts
 Sept. 27 at Hawley Cove Park (Bainbridge Island): 6 Virginia rails
 Sept. 27 at Point No Point: 1 northern harrier
 Sept. 28 in Hansville: 1 snow goose, 3 black oystercatchers
 Sept. 28 at Old Mill Park (Silverdale): 2 eared grebes
 Sept. 28 in Seabeck: 1 green heron

Sept. 29 on Bainbridge Island: 3 sandhill cranes flying over
 Oct. 6 at Old Mill Park: 1 hermit thrush

Oct. 7 at Kitsap Lake (Bremerton): 2 ruddy ducks, 40 bushtits
 Oct. 9 at Fish Park in Poulsbo: 1 horned lark
 Oct. 9 at Point No Point: 1 merlin
 Oct. 10 at Jamie Acker's banding station on Bainbridge Island: 14 northern saw-whet owls
 Oct. 11 at Point No Point: 18 cackling geese
 Oct. 13 at Green Mountain: 1 northern pygmy-owl

Photos of Common Tern, Red-necked Phalarope and Phainopepla by Janine Schutt



Bird of the Month: Western Grebe - Janine Schutt

As Kitsap's waterways fill with wintering aquatic birds, the western grebe is among them. Sometimes seen alone or in small groups, they are often found in flocks with dozens of individuals. With its contrasting plumage, long neck, yellow bill, and red eyes, the western grebe is striking in appearance.

Here are some fascinating facts about the western grebe:
 --Known for their synchronized courtship display, where both mates run on the water with necks fully extended
 --Gregarious colonial breeder
 --Breeds in freshwater habitat and

winters on saltwater bays

--Builds floating nest of emergent vegetation

--Fledglings ride on their parents' backs

--Spears fish with a thrusting motion aided by the long neck

--Efficient swimmer, but very awkward on land with legs connected to the rear instead of underneath the body

--Sometimes extends a lobed foot in the air and then under a wing



to reduce heat loss
 --Candidate for the Washington State Endangered Species list

Photo by Janine Schutt

Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

Birding Festivals: A summary of events statewide may be found at the Washington State Audubon site: <http://wa.audubon.org/bird-festivals-0>

Birding Bainbridge Island:
Tuesday, November 20. Brad Waggoner, Leader, wagtail24@gmail.com, 206-780-9581 to reserve a spot. One of Bainbridge Island's elite birders will lead a trip to a number of the island's hotspots with observations likely to include waterfowl, shorebirds, song birds, and the occasional raptor. Bring a bag lunch to eat during a midday break in the field. Meet at the PHELP's Road park & ride lot (near

Day Road and Hwy. 305) at 8:30 a.m. **GROUP SIZE IS LIMITED; ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PARTICIPANTS MUST COMMIT TO A FULL-DAY ACTIVITY!**

Sign up for one or both Christmas Bird Count circles

Christmas Bird Count teams welcome all skill levels. To sign up, contact the Field Team Leader for the Area that interests you (see contact lists below). Don't delay, because some teams fill up early.

If you live within a count circle, you have the option of counting birds that day in your own backyard. To sign up for the **backyard count**, contact Janine Schutt (jeschutt@hotmail.com; 360-830-4446).

Christmas Bird Count Warm-up & Orientation: Saturday, December 8; Point No Point County Park, 9:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for you to meet some of the Kitsap CBC leaders, learn more about how the CBC works.

Kitsap County Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 15.

North Kitsap – Port Gamble – Hansville Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 22.

2018 Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 15, 2018 -- To sign up, contact area leader directly

AREA	WHERE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
1	Port Orchard	Chazz Hesselein	360-633-0486	chazz@hesselein.com
2	West Bremerton	Brad Waggoner	206-780-9581	wagtail24@gmail.com
3	Chico/Seabeck	Lisa Pedersen	360-830-4768	lisa_mp52@yahoo.com
4	East Bremerton	Victor Ulsh	360-479-6900	vic@bradleyscottinc.com
5	South B I	Lee & Kirk Robinson	206-842-0774	leerob9672@gmail.com
6	North B I	George Gerdts	206-842-8138	geopandion@gmail.com
7A	Silverdale/Keyport	Al & Andrew Westphal	206-780-7844	westphalac@aol.com
7B	Poulsbo	Gene & Sandy Bullock	360-394-5635	genebullock@comcast.net
	Owls	Jamie Acker	206-499-7121	owler@sounddsl.com
	Backyard Count	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	jeschutt@hotmail.com
	CBC Data Compiler	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	jeschutt@hotmail.com

NK-Port Gamble Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 22, - To sign up, contact leader directly

AREA	WHERE	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
1	Hansville	Al & Andrew Westphal	206-780-7844	westphalac@aol.com
2	Kingston	Stillwaters - Cindi Nevins	360-620-4895	tenevins@earthlink.net
3	Port Gamble	Judy & Don Willott	206-842-6939	jdwillott@mac.com
4	Port Ludlow/Shine	Jennifer Standish/Connie Bickerton	206-200-8425	magma1306@gmail.com / connieb_1999@yahoo.com
5	Poulsbo	Gene & Sandy Bullock	360-394-5635	genebullock@comcast.net
	Backyard Count	Janine Schutt	360-830-4446	jeschutt@hotmail.com
	CBC Compiler	Jennifer Standish	206-293-9320	magma1306@gmail.com
	Owling	Jamie Acker	206-499-7121	owler@sounddsl.com

Kitsap Audubon Supports Initiative 1631

Diane Bachen, President, Kitsap Audubon Society

Last month the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that we have just over a decade to get climate change under control to prevent catastrophic climate change. Carbon emissions need to be decreased drastically in order to do this. Certainly this is a reality that we in the Pacific Northwest are beginning to deal with after the drought, wildfires and smoke of this past summer. This threat will only get worse and become more of a problem to our communities and our collective health if we don't act now.

The Kitsap Audubon Society Chapter, with almost a thousand members in Kitsap County, is supporting the passage of I-1631 as is Audubon Washington and National Audubon. Research has shown that climate change is the greatest threat to birds, seriously affecting vital habitat and food sources which they can not adapt to quickly enough.

While Kitsap Audubon and other organizations as well as individuals are doing their part to help keep Washington clean and green, bigger corporations must be involved. Initiative 1631 would place an escalating fee on emissions from burning fossil fuels by major corporations and then use those funds to develop clean renewable energy such as wind and solar which will become the "go-to" source of energy. Passing Initiative 1631 is very important in helping to address climate change.

Audubon Washington Supports Initiative 1631

"Climate change is the biggest threat facing birds and people, and the clock is ticking. Through our statewide programs, partnerships, and strong member support, Audubon Washington is steadfast in its determination to say 'Yes' to climate action. Today we stand in support of sound science and our vision for a carbon-free Washington and urge our members and all residents of Washington state to support I-1631."
-- Gail Gatton, Executive Director, Audubon Washington

"As a leading voice for conservation in the state, our number one priority is advocating for a healthier environment and protecting natural ecosystems for the benefit of birds and people. For this reason, Audubon Washington wholeheartedly supports immediate climate action and is proud to endorse I-1631."
-- Doug Santoni, Chair, Audubon Washington Board of Directors

It is time to reject the status quo and legacy of inaction in our state and put what will be the nation's strongest climate policy on the books.

As designed, I-1631 will reduce Washington's carbon pollution by 50 million metric tons by 2050. Additionally, \$250 million annually will be invested in projects to increase the resilience of our waters and forests to the impacts of climate change. This includes restoring and protecting estuaries, fisheries and marine shoreline habitats vital for birds to survive. It also includes programs to improve forest health and reduce vulnerability to changes in hydrology, insect infestation, wildfires, and drought. This is critical support that will protect important bird habitats now and in the future.

Science Says We Must Act Now

Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change Report* details how rising temperatures influence the range of 588 North American bird species, finding that 314 of those are threatened or endangered by climate change. In Washington State, 189 species of birds are at risk. During the past 50 years, more than 60 percent of wintering North American bird species have shifted their winter ranges northward. Soon, they may have nowhere left to go. To protect birds in a changing climate, we must reduce the carbon emissions responsible for climate change.

Guided by science and a moral imperative, Audubon Washington has been at the forefront of the climate conversation in our state. We strongly supported I-732, the carbon tax initiative that went before voters in 2016. In recent legislative sessions we advocated for a carbon tax and a 100 percent Clean Energy Standard. Despite the legislature's failure to act, we will continue to advance policy efforts – in the legislature and at the ballot – to reduce carbon emissions and accelerate the transition to clean, renewable sources of electricity.



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, 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.

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 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Annual Membership \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family LIFE Membership \$500 |
| <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 www.kitsapaudubon.org

