

OCTOBER 2017

Kitsap Audubon Society – Since 1972



THE Kingfisher

Welcome to Subirdia by Dr. John Marzluff

October 12, 2017, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Poulsbo Library



Dr. John Marzluff, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, is famous for his research on the intelligence of crows. His newest book, *Welcome to Subirdia*, is about the surprising diversity of birds and wildlife in the pockets of trees, shrubs, pocket parks and green belts interspersed throughout our suburbs.

Even as growing cities and towns

pave acres of landscape, some bird species have adapted and thrived. How has this come about?

In his book, *Welcome to Subirdia*, John Marzluff, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington,

presents a surprising discovery: the suburbs of many large cities support incredible biological diversity. Populations and communities of a great variety of birds, as well as other creatures, are adapting to the conditions of our increasingly developed world.

In this fascinating and optimistic book, John Marzluff reveals how our own actions affect the birds and animals that live in our cities and towns, and he provides ten specific strategies everyone can use to make human environments friendlier for our natural neighbors.

Over many years of research and fieldwork, Marzluff and student assistants have closely followed the lives of thousands of tagged birds seeking food, mates, and shelter in cities and surrounding areas. From tiny Pacific wrens to grand pileated woodpeckers, diverse species now compatibly share human surroundings. By practicing careful stewardship with the biological riches in our cities and towns, Marzluff explains, we can foster a new relationship between humans and other living creatures—one that honors and enhances our mutual destiny.

Bainbridge One Call For All

We are especially grateful to our many Bainbridge members and friends who each year generously designate a portion of their **ONE CALL FOR ALL** donation for Kitsap Audubon.

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President's Letter - Diane Bachen

Sunny warm days and longer cool nights are all signs that Fall is here, in addition to the migration of children back to classrooms and birds heading south. The KAS field trip to Nisqually National Wildlife Preserve on October 21 is a wonderful opportunity to see some of those migrating birds. If interested, sign up with Al Westphal for this trip.

I had the chance to visit a friend on Sanibel Island in Florida this past year and go on an Audubon sponsored trip to J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Preserve there. The birds and scenery were beautiful. Concern about my friend prompted me to contact her and stay in touch with her throughout the storm. After I found out that she was safe, I started to think about that lovely preserve and some of the unique birding areas in Texas and Florida. I wondered what happened to all the birds that reside in those areas or migrate there. This newsletter contains some interesting information about where birds go in hurricanes.

In this Kingfisher, as well as coming issues, we'll introduce you to the hard-working volunteers who are board members, committee chairs or administer our web page. They are the folks that make KAS run.

Although not everyone may want to take on those responsibilities or have time to, there are a number of ways that members can help out. Folks can participate in the Christmas Bird Count, donate to our Mitten Tree in December, bring goodies for our general meetings and perhaps help out at a number of events KAS is invited to over



the year. In the future, we may also have an opening or two on the board. Further information about these opportunities will be included in the Kingfisher throughout the year. We welcome any and all interest.

Diane - Brief Profile

My interest in birding started early as my parents were avid backyard birders. I also had a wonderful opportunity to see some unique birds when we lived in Southeast Alaska. But it wasn't until I retired 5 year ago that I could really put time into birding and Audubon. I have been on the board for four years and have been secretary for two of those years, vice president for one and now president. Being on the board affords me the opportunity to be involved in the decisions, big and small about the tone and direction of this organization and what projects we will put our time and energy into. It is a great group of very dedicated people and I feel very lucky to be a part of KAS and the board.

-- Diane

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.

Annual Audubon Council of Washington

October 14, 2017; Jamestown Tribal Center, Sequim WA

The Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) is an annual state-wide conference that brings together the Audubon Washington staff and members from Audubon Chapters throughout Washington State for a day of information sharing, knowledge gathering, and fellowship. This year's ACOW will be held Saturday, October 14, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center in Sequim, and is hosted by the Olympic Peninsula, Admiralty and Kitsap Audubon Chapters. The tribal center is located on Discovery Bay at 1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim WA.

The Keynote Speaker is Washington Commissioner of Lands Hilary Franz.

The Washington Audubon State Conservation Council will meet Friday evening, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; and there will be an Education Workshop Friday afternoon, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Three field trips will be offered on Sunday, leaving from the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim. Advance registration for these trips is required and the number of participants for each will be limited to 20.



Photo from 2007 ACOW at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

You can register online at wa.audubon.org/events/Audubon-council-washington-0

How Do Birds Survive Hurricanes? - Gene Bullock

Hurricanes and tropical storms are nothing new to birds. They have been surviving and rebounding from large storm systems for millennia. But rising temperatures are dramatically increasing the intensity of these storms, and the severity and devastation are setting new records every year.

Ornithologists have found that birds can hear low frequency sounds generated by storm systems that are inaudible to human ears. This gives them an early warning that enables many to avoid storm hazards. Birds have even been known to take refuge in the relatively still eye of the hurricane.

But with dwindling habitat, birds are finding it harder to rebound when shoreline habitat is

devastated and fruit and berries stripped away by hurricane force winds.

Not all birds escape these killer winds, however. Migrating birds usually wait for favorable wind and weather conditions before striking out over large bodies of water. But sometimes, migrating birds are far from land when the storm begins. Large flocks of chimney swifts have been killed during tropical storms, and many birds perish over the Gulf of Mexico because their energy gives out after days of battling severe headwinds. Others are blown far off course, and may starve before they can make their way back to suitable habitat.

Global temperatures will rise another five to seven

degrees over the next 60 years, according to some estimates. As temperature zones shift northward or upward in elevation, birds will need to adjust the timing of their migrations to synchronize with changes in insect hatches and the earlier ripening of fruit and berries. As temperature zones shift upward in elevation, species will be squeezed, and some may have nowhere else to go.

As Jennifer Ackerman notes in her best-selling book, *Genius of Birds* (Penguin Press, 2016), "We can't simply write them off as collateral damage of human progress....our canaries are telling us that our mines are in serious trouble."

The Wild Bird store (next to Elmer's Restaurant in Poulsbo) will donate to Kitsap Audubon 5% of the proceeds of sales to Kitsap Audubon members. Let Owner Karen Dieter know you are a Kitsap Audubon member at the time of your purchase. She will deliver larger bags of bird seed anywhere in North Kitsap, Keyport or Bainbridge Island, as well as to our monthly meetings. Call her 360-598-4141 or email karenthewildbird@gmail.com

Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

Birdfest and Bluegrass (Ridgefield, WA): October 6 – 8. Check the website for details and schedule of events: <https://ridgefieldfriends.org/events/birdfest-bluegrass/>

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

Billy Frank - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge: Saturday, October 21. Al Westphal, leader: westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). One of the best locations in our area to observe an array of migrating and over-wintering waterfowl along with many other birds. We will walk the forest and barn trails and as far out on the boardwalk as we care to go. There is a good option for lunch after birding at Norma's just outside the refuge. Watch weather forecasts and dress accordingly! Meet at the parking lot by the visitor center at 8:30 a.m.

Port Gamble Stewardship Day, October 21 (see poster).

Owl Prowl with Jamie Acker: Sunday, October 29th, 5:00 a.m. Jamie's early morning Owl Prowls on Bainbridge Island are a unique experience. He knows all of the owl spots and will call them right into your view. Because of his long-term studies of the Bainbridge owl population, he is a on a first-name basis with many of the resident owls. Call him after 4:00 p.m. at 206-499-7121 or e-mail owler@sounddsl.com for a reservation, instructions, and meeting location.

44th Annual Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count (Kitsap County from Poulsbo, south to



Manchester), Saturday, December 16. Compiler: Janine Schutt. To signup, contact genebullock@comcast.net; 360-394-5635.

North Kitsap-Port Gamble Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 30. This circle is has been dormant since 1999; but is being revived this year. It includes some of the premier birding hotspots in Kitsap County. We are recruiting field teams for five or more areas. Compiler: Jennifer Standish. To sign up, contact genebullock@comcast.net; 360-394-5635.

Lion's Field/Port Washington Narrows: Saturday, February 24, 2018 (half-day). Contact Gene or Sandy Bullock to reserve a spot (360-394-5635; genebullock@comcast.net). This morning field trip to Port Washington Narrows in Bremer-ton is a tradition started by Ivan Summers. The trip usually ends with lunch (optional) at the Boatshed Restaurant. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at Lion's Field Park on Lebo Lane. We'll also visit Evergreen Park and stop at Lower Rota Vista Park. Kitsap Audubon has installed steps, a

handrail and an interpretive sign at this charming little park at the end of Elizabeth Avenue, which offers exceptional views of a colony of Pelagic Cormorants and pair of Peregrine Falcons that nest on the underside of the Warren Avenue Bridge.

Field Trip Report

Point No Point/Hansville, September 16. Fourteen members enjoyed a great and productive morning at PNP. While we did not get to witness the high drama of a seabird feeding frenzy today, it was a great visit just the same. The weather and company were both excellent, and we were easily able to observe a terrific variety of birds. The Parasitic Jaegers are always sought after species, but we also saw many other seabird species, and the walk along the marsh trail was especially productive with lots of sparrows, an unlikely Cassin's Vireo (for a few of us), and nice looks at several Western Meadowlarks, which as it turns out is a "rare" bird for the location. We finished the event with a very respectable list of 41 species.

Photos by Don Willott



Trading Shotguns For Binoculars

History of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count - Gene Bullock

In the late 1800s, Passenger Pigeons weren't the only bird species teetering on the edge of extinction. Commercial market hunters were slaughtering some five million birds every year to supply feathers for the hottest fashions in women's hats. There was also an old holiday tradition called the Christmas "Side Hunt," when teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small game in a single day. They would then pose for photographs by wagons heaped with dead birds and small mammals.

With growing concern about the threatened extinction of some of our most beautiful birds, Audubon clubs started forming in many states to help save them.

Back then the shotgun was indispensable for anyone who studied birds, including John James Audubon. But his publication of 435 paintings of North America birds inspired generations of bird and nature lovers. He became the namesake for a new movement that culminated in the founding of the National Audubon Society in 1905 and the Migratory Bird Act in 1918.

Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman was one of the movement's leading champions. He was passionate about protecting birds, and created the first federal bird sanctuary. His Bird Lore magazine eventually became the National Audubon Magazine. Alarmed by the mass slaughter of so many bird species, Chapman proposed counting birds instead of shooting them. His first count



in 1900 involved 27 dedicated birders in 25 locations, and their combined tally was 90 species.

Now in its 118 year, the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count has become the longest-running bird census on the

planet. Last year some 76,669 volunteers counted birds in 2,505 count circles. Their 2016 tally totaled 58,878,071 birds.

The counts have become an invaluable source of data used by scientists to monitor population trends and the effects of climate change on shifting ranges.

Kitsap Audubon has been conducting the annual Kitsap County CBC without interruption since its founding 44 years ago. This 15-mile diameter circle encompasses most of Kitsap County, from Manchester to Poulsbo, and from Seabeck to Bainbridge Island.

But Kitsap County birders have lamented the fact that the traditional Kitsap County circle excluded some of the County's premier birding hotspots. An adjoining circle in North Kitsap was opened in the 1980s, and then abandoned. Scott Downes revived it in 1997, but it became dormant again when he moved away in 1999.

This year Kitsap Audubon will once again sponsor both Christmas Bird Count circles in Kitsap County, and is inviting volunteers to sign up for either or both events:

--Annual Kitsap County CBC - Saturday, December 16.

--North Kitsap-Port Gamble CBC - Saturday, December 30

For information, contact genebullock@comcast.net or call 360-394-5635.

USFWS Photos

Profile of Ray Coleburg

First in a series introducing the people who make Kitsap Audubon run.

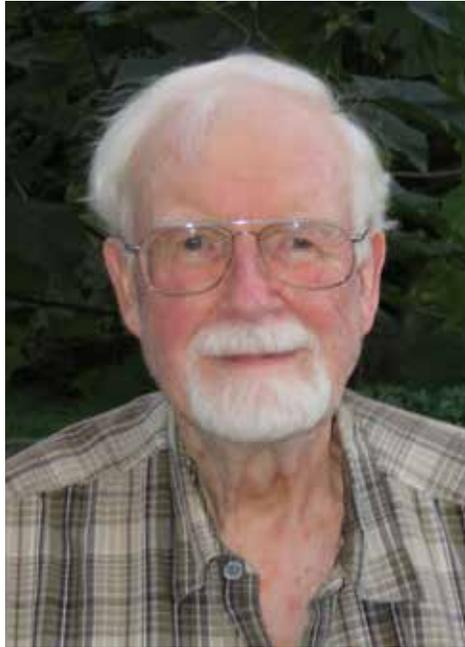
Ray Coleburg smiles as he recalls that day in November, 1972, when he and former wife Charlotte went to a meeting organized by Joan Carson. Joan had invited a group of birding friends to help start a new Audubon chapter in Kitsap County. "I raised my hand to ask a question, said Ray. "The next thing I knew, Joan had appointed me secretary of the charter committee, which she chaired."

But Joan had sized him up pretty well, because Ray went on to become the first President of the newly fledged Kitsap Audubon Society in 1973. That December, Kitsap Audubon conducted its first Christmas Bird Count, a tradition it has continued uninterrupted for 44 years. Ray was Kitsap Audubon's first delegate to the annual state-wide ACOW (Audubon Conference of Washington).

From the beginning, Kitsap Audubon has involved itself in the environmental issues of the day, including early versions of the Shoreline Management Plan, and the cataloguing of public access sites in Kitsap County, many of which had been illegally fenced off.

Ray never let his membership lapse, and is now a Life Member of Kitsap Audubon. He rejoined the Kitsap Audubon Board in April 2014, just in time to help write Kitsap Audubon's Endowment Spending Policies and serve on the newly formed Endowment Spending Committee. The new policies and committee were prompted by the wonderful bequest to Kitsap Audubon by founding member Ann Sleight.

Ray was born and raised on the north shore of Long Island,



New York; and graduated from the State University of New York. He married Charlotte Stillwell in 1956, and they had two daughters, Ellen and Tiami.

A spectacular red bird appeared at their bird feeders, and sparked an enduring passion for birds in both Ray and Charlotte. Cardinals weren't common yet in northern states. They joined the Huntington Audubon chapter in 1963 and attended the Audubon summer camp on Hog Island in Maine. They also had the first recorded sighting of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Suffolk County.

In 1965, the couple decided Long Island was getting crowded. After assessing the possibilities, they chose the Northwest Coast and put their belongings on a van headed for Tacoma. They camped their way across the U.S. and around the Pacific Northwest, and found what they liked in Poulsbo. Ray told a Poulsbo barber he was job hunting and she sent him to Ole Berg's Chevron Station. Ole was overloaded with work because

of a union mechanics' strike, and he really want to go fishing with friends in Alaska. Ray worked for Ole for eight years.

Ray became a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and served as one of its negotiators. Ray says one of his proudest moments was when he proposed and won paid dental care for IAM families.

Ole finally retired and Ray went on to become owner and manager of two consecutive gas station franchises on Kitsap Way in Poulsbo. Each franchise closed when parent companies left the area -- but not before Ray's performance won him an expense paid trip to Tahiti.

As a Poulsbo businessman, Ray served as an ombudsman for the North Kitsap School District, helping them align their occupational education programs with the needs of the community.

Ray had written many poems over the years. Charlotte and her current husband Tage Blytman persuaded him to publish his collection for family and friends. A printer and skilled bookbinder, Tage printed and hand bound 25 copies, which Ray dedicated to his immigrant parents from Sweden and Finland, Ragnar and Ingne (Haapanen) Coleburg. Ray was invited to read his poems for a local poetry group at the Poulsbohemian Restaurant.

Ray retired in 2000. He has three grandchildren, Jordan, Molly, and Shayla Rose. His beloved dog Inga is 13. Daughter Tiami operates an animal rescue farm near Lofall, where she cares for a number of rescued horses.

Photo by Gene Bullock

Confessions of an Armchair Birder - Gene Bullock

Curiosity may have killed the cat; but for me it's a pesky, persistent itch that impels me to read everything I can about a subject that interests me. The trouble is then I want to share my new-found knowledge with friends, family, or anyone who will listen. But once they've heard more than they really wanted to know, my only outlet is to write about it.

Actually, this quirk worked well for me during a professional career that consisted of immersing myself in arcane subjects like clinical chemistry, membrane microfiltration and laboratory water purification. My employers paid me to distill this information in marketing and advertising materials.

About 40 years ago, the company I worked for relocated me to their plant in El Paso, Texas. Situated in the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert, it offered many perks, including backpacking with the local Sierra Club chapter. We soon discovered that many of our Sierra Club friends were also avid bird watchers. We learned that El Paso is a winter haven for many migrating birds from the north, as well as the northernmost range for a spectacular variety of Mexican species.

My wife Sandy and I were soon hooked on birds! We would spend rapt mornings sitting next to the local sewage treatment pond. The only open water for miles around, it was irresistible to water-deprived birds from the surrounding desert. We made weekend jaunts to birding hotspots in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, from Big Bend in the Chihuahuan Desert to the Chiricahua Mountains and Sonoran Desert.



After we retired, we bought a motorhome and took to the road. For six years we traveled almost full time, from Belize to the Arctic Circle, planning every year around bird watching. We called ourselves "Geritol Gypsies," and visited birding hotspots all over the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Belize. Thanks to regional field guides and friendly local birders, we were able to tally a "Life List" of more than 600 North American birds – a respectable total even for elite birders.

Eventually we came home to roost and put down local roots. But I soon found myself settling into my preferred habitat, perched in a chair with a good book about my favorite subject. While other birders are out pacing the fields and shorelines in search of birds in the wild; I'm happy to spend much of my time reading about birds and writing about them.

As Education Chair for Kitsap Audubon, I get to answer the

fascinating questions people send to Kitsap Audubon. Questions also come from people who read my monthly columns in Kitsap weekly newspapers. I don't always know the answers; but I enjoy digging for them and talking with local experts to come up with answers that are helpful and accurate. Often, I learn enough to write another monthly column about birds and bird watching.

Reading about birds and weaving travel stories, observations and interesting facts about birds into articles and PowerPoint presentations is my idea of fun. And so far, readers and audiences have been encouragingly receptive in indulging my curiosity and fascination with birds.

Janine Schutt captured this photo of me happily holding a Northern Goshawk during a Kitsap Audubon program on falconry.

Sustainability Discussion Course

Six weeks: 7:00 P.M., Tuesdays October 3 - November 14 (except Oct. 31)

Stillwaters Environmental Center (26059 Barber Cut Off Road; Kingston)

We are bringing back the inspirational and popular sustainability discussion course by demand. This six-week course offers an opportunity to explore the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment. The course is created by the Northwest Earth Institute.

Topics covered are:

- Finding Your 'Why': Living a Life of Happiness and Meaning
- Times Change: Busyness, Distraction and Mindfulness
- Lighten Up! Consume Less, Create More
- Technology: Connection and Disconnection
- Media Literacy: Resisting Materialistic Values
- Moving Forward: Finding a Different Way

Come join the discussion: it's friendly, invigorating and meaningful!

COST: \$40/per person, \$50/household (share a book). The cost includes your copy of the discussion book, published by Northwest Earth Institute.

Please pre-register as soon as you can at 360-297-1226.

CONTACT: Joleen Palmer, 360-297-1226
Joleen@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org
www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org

A Sideways Look at Clouds

Maria Mudd Ruth. Mountaineers Books, Sept. 2017

"This book is a true delight: a beautifully written, lyrical account of the drama and mystery of clouds."

--Richard Hamblyn, author,
The Inversion of Clouds

Maria Mudd Ruth is the author of more than a dozen books on natural history topics for children and adults. Her previous book, ***Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet***, was reissued in paperback by Mountaineers books in 2013. Although much easier to find than an elusive seabird nesting in old growth forest, the clouds proved as challenging to study, as mysterious to understand, and as joyful to behold.

As she explains: "I fell in love with clouds the same way I fell in love with marbled murrelets: madly and unexpectedly. After living in sunny Southern California from 2001 to 2006, I moved my family to the Pacific Northwest. There were many reasons for the move—the weather was one of them. I missed the seasons, the watery landscape, the drama of the skies, the clouds.

After living under the clouds for seven months out of the year (some say nine), I had a very strange experience of a cloud while standing in a friend's front hall one October morning in 2008. That experience—a spark, a snag, and the micro-epiphany that I knew little to nothing about clouds. And the only way I was going to fix that was to write a book about them. I did not expect it took take eight years but clouds are complex and they keep changing.

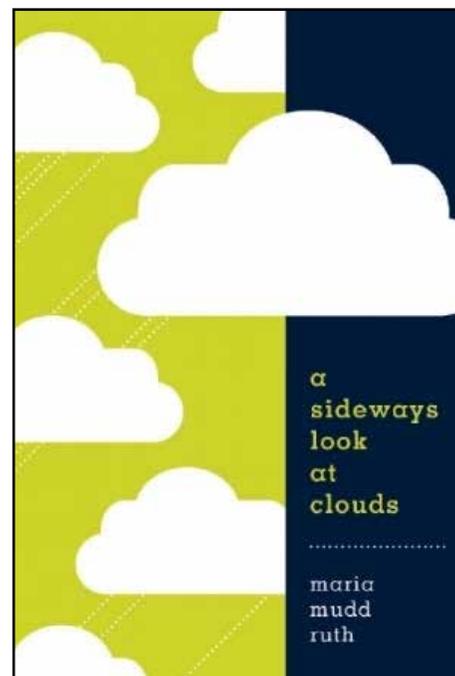




Photo by Don Willott

Port Gamble Stewardship Day October 21, 2017

WHEN: Oct 21, 2017
9:00am - 1:00pm

WHERE: Port Gamble Forest
Heritage Park – Meet at the
Shoreline Trailhead parking
south of the town of Port
Gamble at 9 am.

SPONSORED BY:



#OPTOUTSIDE this October and help
improve the Beaver Pond overlook and
trail access.

Join our work party to put the Beaver Pond overlook on solid footing and improve trail access. Come help build a woven wildlife viewing blind.

You'll help provide a firm foundation for wildlife viewing and protect the critical pond habitat of countless wetland creatures!

SIGN UP AND GEAR UP!

Volunteers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. Bring water, your favorite shovel, rakes, pruners/loppers and trail building tools. Stay for BBQ picnic! And go home with a REI water bottle.

RSVP BY EMAIL:

kate@greatpeninsula.org

OR BY PHONE: 360.373.3500



Visit [Facebook.com / GreatPeninsulaConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPeninsulaConservancy) for more info.



Kitsap Audubon Society

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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

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- 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.

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

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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

