



THE Kingfisher

October 13, 2016, Program

Welcome to Subirdia

by Dr. John Marzluff

We all know that human development is threatening our environment. Runoff pollutes our streams. Homes and businesses encroach on wilderness habitat. Energy use warms the planet. Too many species are in decline. And yet... for some of our most charismatic wild creatures, suburban and urban habitats offer surprising opportunities to thrive.

In *Welcome to Subirdia*, I reveal that our suburbs and city parks are often remarkably rich in bird diversity—holding more species than either wilderness areas or urban centers. In fact, suburbs may play a key role in preventing loss of species in the face of the dramatic disruptions of climate change and other human impacts. *Welcome to Subirdia* shows us how.

We are an integral part of an ecosystem, and our everyday actions affect the fabric of animal life that surrounds us. Drawing on examples from across the country and around the world—Kansas City, Seattle, New York, Arizona, New Zealand, Europe,

Central America, Asia—I show how some birds are adapting and thriving in moderately urban ecosystems, often evolving before our eyes. Business parks and vacant lots are home to rare and fragile species. The diversity of plants and trees in our gardens and parks creates valuable habitat for many birds. Our birdfeeders, ornamental ponds and fountains, and nesting boxes bolster populations and help some species to flourish.

Just as we affect the birds around us, they shape our culture, commerce, and quality of life. When we make an effort to enhance bird habitat in our cities and towns, we cultivate communities that value nature, that are attractive and exciting places to live and work, and that improve the mental and physical health of our neighbors. Humans are now a distinctly urban species, and the fascinating information in *Welcome to Subirdia* is increasingly relevant as we think



about our future on both local and global scales.

Of course, the news is not all good. Many birds cannot adapt to the pressures of human development. They retreat to our limited wilderness areas or become scarce. In tropical zones, people must make extra effort to ensure that their presence does not reduce diversity. And many other creatures—especially those that cannot fly—are more vulnerable than birds to urbanization.

But *Welcome to Subirdia* gives us something to celebrate. The herons in our urban streams, the barred owls whose shrieks wake us in our city neighborhoods, the woodpeckers that nest in our

Continued next page

Yarn & Cookie Donations

Diane Bachen and Sharron Ham collect yarn year round for volunteers at the women's prison in Purdy, who knit caps, scarves and other items for our annual Christmas Mitten Tree. Please bring your donated yarn to our monthly meeting or contact either of them (see contact info next page). As Refreshment Chair, Sharron also wants to remind you that donations of cookies and snacks are always welcome at our monthly meetings.

Kitsap Audubon Society

President: Sandy Bullock; 360-394-5635
roadrunner1957@comcast.net

Vice President: Diane Bachen, 206-855-1667, dianebachen@comcast.net

Treasurer: Judy Willott; 206-842-6939
jdwillott@mac.com

Secretary: Connie Bickerton, 206-200-8425, connieb_1999@yahoo.com

Immed. Past President: Janine Schutt;
360-830-4446; jeschutt@hotmail.com

At-Large Board of Directors:

Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635;
genebullock@comcast.net

Ray Coleburg, 360-535-4105
Sharron Ham, 360-779-5458,
shabobham@comcast.net

Alan Westphal, 206-780-7844,
westphalac@aol.com

Lynn Willmott, 360-613-0044,
tuvmott@comcast.net

Standing Committee Chairs:

Field Trips: Alan Westphal,
206-780-7844, westphalac@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Don Willott
206-842-6939, dwillott@mac.com

Education Chair: Gene Bullock,
360-394-5635; genebullock@comcast.net

Greeters: Milly Bellemere & Bob
Schumacher. 360-830-4231, rbellemere@
wavecable.com

Membership Administrator: Sara Kane
297-2716, membership@kitsapaudubon.org

Programs: Vic Ulsh
360-479-6900, vic@bradleyscottinc.com

Publicity: Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635;
genebullock@comcast.net

Refreshment Chair: Sharron Ham
360-779-5458, shabobham@comcast.net

Purple Martins: Sandy Pavey,
360-930-0807, s4sandy55@gmail.com

Raffle Coordinator: Dawn Hansen;
Roberta Heath

Wildlife Sightings: Joan Carson
joancarson@comcast.net or 360-779-2612

Scholarship Chair: Sandy Bullock
360-394-5635, roadrunner1957@comcast.net

KAS Facebook Page: Connie Bickerton,
connieb_1999@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Mike Szerlog,
360-881-0470, szerlog@comcast.net,
www.kitsapaudubon.org

Kingfisher Editor:

Gene Bullock, 360-394-5635
genebullock@comcast.net
1968 NE Lind Ct., Poulsbo WA 98370

Welcome to Subirdia - continued

wooded parks, and the chickadees that entertain us at our birdfeeders can motivate us to seek a future filled with birds. The ways we manage our property, plan our towns, and think about the nonhuman residents of our ecosystems can make a difference for our children and grandchildren.

What You Can Do

By bearing the well-being of birds in mind as we develop and live in exurban, suburban, and urban environments, we can have a tremendous and lasting positive impact.

Welcome to Subirdia identifies Ten Commandments for securing the future of birds and other wildlife among us.

1. Do not covet your neighbor's lawn. Devoting less space to mowed and cultivated lawn and more space to diverse plantings encourages bird diversity.
2. Keep your cat indoors. Free-ranging cats kill one in ten wild birds.
3. Make your windows more visible to birds. After death by cat, collision is the leading cause of preventable death among urban birds.
4. Do not light the night sky. Birds, especially those that migrate at night, are attracted to the light of buildings. Many die colliding with towers, wires, windows, and walls.
5. Provide food and nest boxes. Birdseed and shelter provided by people increases bird abundance by bolstering overwinter survival and reproduction.
6. Do not kill native predators. Native predators cull the weak and overabundant, and reduce non-native predators that are more dangerous to birds. Avoid

the use of rodent poison, which kills the hawks and owls that help control rodent populations.

7. Foster diversity of habitats within cities and the natural distinction among cities. When we resist homogenization, respecting regional differences and cultivating distinct neighborhoods within each city, we support bird diversity.

8. Create safe passage across roads and highways. A resilient ecosystem needs more than birds. Wildlife tunnels and bridges can make crossing roads less deadly for those that must crawl. Leaving spaces near highways unmowed can save eggs and nestlings. Converting roads to walking trails benefits all creatures, including people.

9. Ensure functional connections between land and water. Many birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects require access to both land and water.

10. Enjoy and bond with nature where you live and work! Conservation requires people to care about nature. Nurturing wildlife within human environments develops environmental ethics. We become better stewards of the planet when the natural world is a valued part of everyday life.

About the Author: John Marzluff is James W. Ridgeway Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, where he teaches classes in ornithology, urban ecology, conservation and field research. His previous books include, *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, *Dog Days*, *Raven Nights*, and *Gifts of the Crow*. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologist's Union.

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.

Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

Birdfest & Bluegrass (Ridgefield, WA): October 1 - 2. Check the website for details and schedule of events: http://ridgefieldfriends.org/?page_id=47

Billy Frank - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge: Saturday, October 22. Al & Andrew Westphal, leaders: westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). One of the best locations in our area to observe an array of migrating and overwintering 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 by the visitor center at 8:30. a.m.

Owl Prowl with Jamie Acker: Sunday, November 20th, 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 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.

CBC Training and Warmup at Point No Point, Saturday, December 10th, 9:00 a.m. Gene Bullock and Al Westphal, co-leaders. No advance registration required. Novice birders and first-time Christmas Bird Counters are encouraged to come out to one of the county's premiere birding locations for some background and training on the annual Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count. This instruction will address CBC history, procedures, data collection, and bird counting techniques, and should be helpful in preparing for our CBC on December 17th. Of course we'll look at the winter birds of Point No Point too!

2016 Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 17. Join our annual census of Kitsap County birds. This 116-year-old Audubon citizen science tradition is the largest, longest-running animal census on the planet. All skill levels welcome.

Contact area leader directly to sign up (see list below). Or sign up with Janine Schutt to count birds that day in your own backyard.

Field Trip Report

Point No Point County Park, September 16. Leader - Al Westphal. A big group of 20 birders tallied a bird list of 26 bird species and numerous marine mammals, featuring humpbacked whales and a California sea lion. We timed the event to coincide with a nearly full moon phase and an afternoon high tide, followed by a strong ebb current around the point. We were rewarded with good looks at the resulting heavy feeding activity, including the following highlights: close-in looks at the many migrating Heermann's and California Gulls, sideshows by diving Caspian Terns, a surprise fly-in by a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers, and a distant look at a flight of Red-necked Phalaropes. While we missed on the big flock of Bonaparte's Gulls and accompanying Jaegers, the good looks at Common Murres and Rhinoceros Auklets, and the hoped for but unexpected appearance of several Cassin's Auklets more than made up for it.

2016 Kitsap Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17, 2016 -- 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

Putting a Price on Carbon - Initiative 732

By Gail Gatton, Executive Director, Audubon Washington

We know climate change is the number one threat to birds, and here in Washington we have an opportunity to do something about it. On your election ballot this fall will be Initiative 732 – a tax on the consumption of fossil fuels that is balanced with reductions in the state sales tax for consumers and the business and occupation (B&O) tax for manufacturers. We could be the first state in the nation to implement a tax on carbon pollution and lead the way to a clean energy future.

Initiative 732 works this way:

- **Tax pollution, not people.** I-732 imposes a significant (\$25/ton) tax on carbon emissions. This tax rises every year, to a maximum of \$100/ton (in 2016 dollars) after 40 years. It is the most aggressive carbon pricing policy in the world and signals to the nation that it is possible to have meaningful climate policy that will reduce carbon emissions.
- **Pay less at the cash register.** I-732 will reduce the state sales tax by one percentage point, putting hundreds of dollars a year back into the pockets of each household in Washington.
- **Fund an Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.** I-732 funds the Working Families Tax Rebate to provide up to \$1,500 a year for 460,000 low-income households. It is the most progressive change to the Washington tax code since 1977.
- **Reduce the Business & Occupation tax on manufacturing.** I-732 will keep living-wage jobs in Washington

by eliminating the B & O Tax on manufacturing.

Why Audubon Washington supports Initiative 732

Audubon Washington believes Initiative 732 provides swift and effective action to reduce carbon pollution. Throughout history, birds have been indicators of human and environmental health. Canaries were used in coal mines to detect fatal carbon monoxide and make sure the mines were safe for humans. Eagles were



among the first to let us know the detrimental effects of DDT. Now it is time to pay attention to how birds are responding to a shifting climate.

Audubon science shows that climate change is the number one threat to North American birds, including 189 species at risk here in Washington. Birds have specific sets of environmental requirements governed by climate and, 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.

As advocates for birds, there are two things we can do today to protect birds from the threat of global warming: 1) protect the places on the ground that birds need now and in the future to be resilient in a warming world, and 2) prevent additional warming by reducing carbon emissions.

A tax on carbon emissions is a proven method to reduce the carbon pollution causing climate change. By putting a price on the sale or use of certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel generated electricity, I-732 will promote the use of clean, renewable energy sources, effectively reducing the amount of carbon pollution emitted in the state. Some have expressed concern regarding the potential for I-732 to cause a deficit in the state's budget.

A recent analysis by the Sightline Institute, a highly respected sustainability research institute, concludes that I-732 is within 1% of being revenue-neutral and that "as time goes on, the legislature could honor the will of the voters to keep it neutral."

Others are concerned that a revenue-neutral carbon tax will not do enough to address the needs of those disproportionately affected by effects of climate change, including low-income working families and communities of color.

Continued next page

Why Audubon Washington supports Initiative 732 - Continued

In our opinion, one of the best things we can do to avert the worst impacts of climate change is to reduce carbon pollution as quickly as possible. The futures of birds and of people in a warming world are intertwined.

Protecting clean air, water, and habitats that allow birds to thrive means that people can thrive in a healthy environment, too.

How did Audubon Washington come to support Initiative 732?

Audubon Washington, with our chapter network, spent more than a year exploring the carbon tax initiative, striving to really understand the pros and cons of being the first state to enact a carbon tax. We surveyed our Audubon

membership to get a sense of what individuals were thinking about the carbon tax. We delved into the specifics at every spring regional meeting with leadership from all chapters. Our board did a deep dive during its annual strategic planning retreat and an ad hoc committee took all of this information and developed our position.

As someone who started the process convinced that I-732 wasn't good enough and that there would be a better option in the future, the thoughtful comments and insightfulness of our chapters and members convinced me otherwise. People who care about birds truly understand the urgency of the situation. Over and over, we heard the same refrain: We must

do something **now** about climate change. Ultimately, this urgency led me to embrace the great opportunity offered by I-732: vote to put a price on carbon pollution and take action now that will benefit birds and people.

While this initiative will not complete all the work that needs to be done, I-732 will help move Washington forward as a leader on enacting the solutions that birds and other wildlife need to have a chance in a warming world. When birds thrive, we all thrive. Let's take action now for future generations of people and birds.

Ready to take action? Please visit <http://wa.audubon.org/732> or contact Gail Gatton at ggatton@audubon.org.

SavePG.org - Port Gamble Forest Campaign

The Kitsap Forest and Bay Project coalition is working to raise \$3.5M by June 2017 to secure almost 3,000 acres of Pope Resources land for public ownership.

Kitsap Audubon and its members have been a very active part of this coalition over the last six years.

Donations can be sent using the <http://www.SavePG.org> website managed by Forterra, the land conservation nonprofit that is leading this campaign.



Kitsap Audubon members Judy and Don Willott and Diane Bachen join Kitsap Forest & Bay coalition work crews to build and improve trails and viewpoints around Port Gamble Bay. Here are Don's photos showing Judy next to a 400-year-old fir tree, and Diane grooming shoreline bluff access trail.

State Fears Extinction of Marbled Murrelets

By Maria M. Ruth

The past decades have not been kind to the Marbled Murrelet. Across its range, from Alaska south to central California, this imperiled seabird has suffered severe population declines—primarily from the loss and fragmentation of the forests where it nests, but also from predation, oil spills at sea, net fishing, and depletion of the small fish it feeds on.

The situation is so dire in Washington, that the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) has recommended elevating the protective status of marbled murrelets from threatened to endangered. Between 2001 and 2015, Washington's murrelet population numbers dropped 44 percent.

Wildlife biologists believe the marbled murrelet could become extirpated in the state within the next several decades if solutions aren't found to address threats to this species.

The WDFW is seeking public comment on their uplisting recommendation. Deadline for comment is October 10. Please see information below on how to submit your comments and participate in this critical conservation action.

The WDFW uplisting recommendations and draft status review are available online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/status_review/. Comments on the reviews and recommendations can be submitted by October 10, via email to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

WDFW staff members are tentatively scheduled to discuss the reviews and recommendations with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission at its November 2016 meeting in Olympia.



(Meeting dates and times were not confirmed at *The Echo* press time; please go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/> for this information.

What solutions might be found to help save the marbled murrelet? Habitat conservation is key. Currently, the management of 1.3 million acres of nesting habitat in western Washington is being decided. This acreage is public land—forested state trust lands—managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In October 2015, the DNR and U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved six alternative strategies to manage this land in a way that both protects marbled murrelets (by not logging) and generates revenue (by logging) for trust beneficiaries (schools, hospitals, libraries, and

various state services). These six strategies will be analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is expected to be released by the DNR and USFWS by the end of 2016—a mere 19 years after DNR's "interim" Long-Term Conservation Strategy was approved.

The public will have a chance to comment on the DEIS. Information on how to participate in the DEIS—perhaps the most critical stage of the protracted process of developing a conservation strategy—will be available in future issues of *The Echo* and on the Black Hills Audubon website. Background information is available here: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources>

Black Hills Audubon members—as well as many other local chapters statewide and Audubon Washington—have been stalwart advocates of the Marbled Murrelet and have successfully fought for a science-based conservation strategy that will do the most to help protect this imperiled species. Please support their efforts to give the murrelets a fighting chance.

Is it okay to feed birds? - Gene Bullock

During the past year or so, I've given 18 presentations about birds for Kitsap community groups and organizations, and this is a question I hear often. The answer is not so simple, because there are good arguments on both sides

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 lure them any way I can -- with bird seed, suet, bird-friendly plantings, and clean water where they can splash all they want. I have a Purple Finch whose warbling trills spread infectious joy at being alive. As far as I am concerned, there can't be too many Anna's Hummingbirds, with their scintillating gorgets, or American Goldfinches glowing like the morning sun.

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

Bird watching gives a huge boost for our economy. It creates hundreds of thousands of jobs and pumps billions of dollars into local businesses. National Audubon estimates that 47 million adult bird watchers in the U.S. spend about \$40 billion each year on bird watching books, accessories and related travel.

But there are serious concerns that you shouldn't ignore. If you care about birds, you'll want to take all precautions 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 transmit 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. When 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 to use on bird houses and feeders.

Feeders can also make birds more vulnerable to Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks – and outdoor cats! It's estimated that domestic cats kill up to three billion birds a year. Feeders should be located close to the protective cover of trees and shrubs. 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 a clear escape path when they are spooked. Wild bird stores offer a variety of products that can help interrupt the images reflected on your windows and reduce fatal collisions.

If you feed birds, please keep your feeders sanitized, your seed, nectar and suet fresh, and make your backyard a safe haven with plenty of protective cover. Life is hard enough for birds without adding to their risks. Your birds will repay your care with joyful displays of sound and color that can make you feel happy as a bird.

Photos from top:

Purple Finch by Janine Schutt.

Townsend's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Orange-crowned Warbler by Don Willot



Kitsap Audubon Society

P.O. Box 961, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SILVERDALE WA
PERMIT NO. 111

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

