



THE Kingfisher

February 11, 2016, Program

Woodpeckers of North America - Paul Bannick



Paul Bannick, co-author and photographer for the new book, "Woodpeckers of North America, A Naturalist's Guide" will examine each of the North American woodpecker species through award winning images, intimate sounds and stories and observations from the field. Paul's presentation will help you distinguish between species by behavior, habitat and field markings. He will also touch upon races of woodpeckers,

adaptations to specific habitats, morphology and cultural ties.

Paul will bring along copies of his award winning book "The Owl and The Woodpecker" as well as a new book "Journey of the Owl" for which he was the photographer

Paul Bannick is an international award-winning wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North

America with a focus on birds and habitat. Paul is a winner of both the Canon prize in the International Conservation Photography Awards and of the Birds in Their Habitat category in Audubon Magazine's annual photography contest. Paul is the author of the book, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*. His new book, *OWL: A Year in The Life of North American Owls* will be published by Braided Rivers, the Conservation imprint of Mountaineers Books this fall.

Paul's work can be found in bird guides from Peterson, Audubon, The Smithsonian, Stokes, The National Wildlife Federation, and in the Handbook of the Birds of the World. His work as has also been published by National Geographic, The New York Times, Natures Best Photography, Audubon and many more. Paul currently serves as the Major Gifts Director for Conservation Northwest, an organization dedicated to protecting and connecting wild areas from the Pacific Coast to the Canadian Rockies.

Christmas Bird Count Results

The final results from our 40th annual Kitsap Christmas Bird Count are on Page 5. This year 66 volunteers identified 120 species and counted more than 17,000 birds in Kitsap County. Janine Schutt, our official compiler, tallied the data from our eight area leaders, owling group and backyard counters, and submitted it to National Audubon. Our 15-mile diameter count circle is one of nearly 2,000 in the Western Hemisphere. The Kitsap count is coordinated by Gene Bullock.

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President's Letter - Sandy Bullock

Except for a short spate of cold weather in December, our El Niño winter is shaping up to be wet and warm in the low lands, with a fairly good mountain snowpack this season. Good news for farmers and skiers, and possibly birders. An early spring could bring some nice surprises to jump-start the migration. As the month wears on, it's a good idea to keep an eye on web sites like eBird, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "allaboutbrds.org," to find out which bird species are already well on the move north, or identify that "strange" bird at your feeder that doesn't quite seem to fit any of the pictures in your field guide.

If you're not into early spring field trips, clean up and restock your feeders, and get ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Your February Kingfisher has everything you need to know to participate with birders all over the country, from the comfort of your own home at a time of day that works for you. This is serious citizen science, and the data you'll be reporting is a valuable tool for tracking changes that may be occurring due to global warming, loss of habitat, or both.

With spring not far away, it's time to ready your bird houses for this year's tenants. A solution of 1 part household bleach to 9 parts warm water is recommended to clean and sanitize both feeders and bird houses. Clean feeders and houses are very important



to the health of our birds. The smaller birds are especially vulnerable to deadly salmonella. If you're planning to buy or make some bird houses, make sure you chose designs that make sense for birds. Many of the ready-made bird houses I see, are decorative but not built with birds' needs in mind. The size of the opening, height of the perch, and inside depth can be critical for the comfort and safety of the species you wish to attract.

The reason birding has become such a popular hobby, is because it's one that everyone can enjoy from the avid hiker or traveler, to the shut-in with a window to look out of. Birds are everywhere, from the Peregrine on the skyscraper window ledge to a robin's nest outside the kitchen door. You can spend thousands of dollars on gear, or bird on a small budget and get just as much enjoyment from it.

Photo by Don Willott

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

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

Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2016

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and make a difference for birds. It's free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count, visit www.birdcount.org and view the winning photos from the 2015 GBBC photo contest.

Bird watchers young and old from more than 100 countries are expected to participate in the 19th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Anyone anywhere

in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations at a scale that would not otherwise be possible.

The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada.

GBBC Sets New Species Record

Nearly half the world's species were identified in four days during the 2015 GBBC using the eBird online checklist program. Participants from more than 100 countries submitted a record 147,265 bird checklists, breaking the previous count record for the number of species identified. The 5,090 species reported represents nearly half the bird species in the world.

Internationally Recognized Important Bird Area (IBA)

Point No Point Lighthouse Park is one of more than 70 IBAs in Washington State designated by the National Audubon Society as critically important to birds. Key habitat and location make these IBAs critical stopovers that need special protection to ensure the survival of some bird populations.



PHOTO: CONNIE BICKERTON

The currents of Admiralty Inlet create rip tides that churn plankton to the surface, luring swarms of sand lance and herring. These swirling "bait balls" attract foraging birds, larger fish -- and sometimes even whales.



PHOTO: JANINE SCHUTT

"Bait balls" of forage fish cause "feeding frenzies" along rip tides, bringing birds like this Heermann's Gull, as well as bird watchers from near and far.

More than 300 species of birds have been seen near Point No Point.



PHOTO: DON WILLOTT

Rhinoceros Auklets are year-round residents that thrive on forage fish which feed on upwelling plankton brought to the surface by tidal rips.



PHOTO: RICK MCINTOSH

The endangered Marbled Murrelet is a robin-sized bird that is declining throughout its range, due in part to declining forage fish. However, it is still seen regularly from Point No Point.



Kitsap County Parks | www.kitsapgov.com/parks



Kitsap Audubon Society | www.kitsapaudubon.org

The interpretive sign illustrated above will be installed by the Kitsap County Parks Department at Point No Point County Park in Hansville to make visitors aware of the special importance of this location to birds.

"IBA designations are meant to call attention to the need to protect these areas because of their critical importance to certain species," notes Gene Bullock, Education Chair for Kitsap Audubon. "This sign will help us get that message across."

Rip tides that form around the Point bring nutrients to the surface that attract forage fish, as well as the birds and larger fish that feed on them. The area is especially important to wintering Bonaparte's Gulls, Brant, and such threatened species as the Marbled Murrelet. The shoreline, wetlands and upland habitat are also an important stopover for birds migrating across the Admiralty Inlet.

Gene worked with Lori Raymaker of the Kitsap Parks Department on the message and design. The project will be funded by Kitsap Audubon.

Field Trips & Festivals - Al & Andrew Westphal

Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival, February 27 - 28. Check the website for details. <http://www.snowgoosefest.org/>

Lion's Field/Port Washington Narrows: Saturday, February 27 (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 Bremerton is a tradition started many years ago by Ivan Summers. We customarily end it with lunch at the Boatshed Restaurant. Tens of thousands of marine birds winter in these protected waters, and well-maintained Bremerton parks provide outstanding views plus convenient parking. 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 unique colony of Pelagic Cormorants and pair of Peregrine Falcons that nest on the underside of the Warren Avenue Bridge.

Skagit/Samish Flats Area: Saturday, March 5 or Sunday, March 6. Al & Andrew Westphal, leaders, westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). An annual highlight! We will look for the over-wintering flocks of Snow Geese and Trumpeter Swans along with a terrific array of other waterfowl, shorebirds,



raptors, and others. This will be a long full-day event. Due to member interest, I've added a second identical event on March 6. Group size is limited, and a small number of slots or wait-list for either day may still be available. Contact Al Westphal to register and for details.

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

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

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

Olympic Birdfest:

April 15 - 17. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Details and directions at www.olympicbirdfest.org

Field Trip Reports

Point No Point/Hansville, January 16. This outing turned out much better than the forecast indicated, and the company was so good the visit to Hansville turned out to be a big success. Birding was a challenge with the visibility and sea state, but 14 intrepid winter birders did manage to accumulate a respectable slate of 37 species. There were some good sightings too. The swirling flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls in their feeding frenzy were terrific, and we had cooperation from Loons and Grebes that came close to shore. For patient watchers, there were also a scattering of Pigeon Guillemots and a fair number of Common Murres as well, although at distant ranges.

Point No Point field trip - photo by Don Willott.

Kitsap Christmas Bird Count Results

SPECIES	SUM
Brant	1
Canada - Lge	435
Canada - Cackle	3
Duck, Wood	3
Wigeon, American	3286
Eurasian	13
Wigeon, Am/Eur Hybrid	1
Mallard	527
Pintail, Northern	20
Teal, Green-winged	61
Canvasback	1
Duck, Ring-necked	75
Scaup, Greater	217
Duck, Harlequin	32
Scoter, Surf	1714
White-winged	206
Black	14
Duck, Long-tailed	43
Bufflehead	960
Golden-eye, Common	655
Barrow's	238
Merganser, Hooded	101
Common	120
Red-breastd	94
Grouse, Ruffed	2
Loon, Common	29
Pacific	30
Red-throated	10
Sp.	2
Grebe, Pied-billed	9
Horned	208
Red-necked	87
Eared	7
Western	131
Cormorant, Brandt's	45
Dble-crest	421
Pelagic	371
Sp.	6
Heron, Great Blue	61
Eagle, Bald	56
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	6
Cooper's	6

Red-tailed	6
Merlin	3
Falcon, Peregrine	4
Rail, Virginia	2
Coot, American	86
Plover, Black-bellied	22
Killdeer	56
Yellowlegs, Greater	15
Sandpiper, Spotted	4
Turnstone, Black	27
Sanderling	6
Dunlin	577
Snipe, Wilson's	1
Gull, Bonaparte's	68
Mew	164
Ring-billed	2
California	44
Herring	1
Thayer's	1
Western	1
Glaucous-winged	354
GW X Western	464
Sp.	203
Murre, Common	1
Guillemot, Pigeon	24
Murrelet, Marbled	6
Auklet, Rhinoceros	2
Pigeon, Rock	395
Pigeon, Band-tailed	10
Dove, Mourning	30
Eurasian-collared	1
Owl, Great Horned	1
Barn	2
Northern Pygmy	2
Barred	6
N. Saw-whet	7
Hummingbird, Anna's	58
Kingfisher, Belted	44
Sapsucker, Red-brstd	7
Woodpecker, Downy	15
Hairy	8
No. Flicker - Red Shaft	40
Woodpecker, Pileated	8

Vireo, Hutton's	1
Jay, Steller's	50
Crow, Amer/NWestern	741
Raven, Common	23
Chickadee, Blck-capped	195
Chest.-backed	139
Bushtit	37
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	31
Creeper, Brown	14
Wren, Bewick's	15
Pacific	57
Marsh	5
Dipper, American	2
Kinglet, Gldn-crowned	183
Ruby-crowned	70
Thrush, Hermit	2
Robin, American	374
Thrush, Varied	40
Starling, European	287
Warbler, Ornge-crown	1
Yellow-rumped	3
Townsend's	3
Towhee, Spotted	126
Sparrow, Fox	36
Song	149
White-throated	4
White-crowned	34
Golden-crown	101
Junco, Drk-eyed - Orgn	640
Junco, Drk-eyed - Slate	2
Blackbird, Red-winged	13
Brewer's	4
Finch, House	57
Purple	6
Siskin, Pine	442
Goldfinch, American	2
Grosbeak, Evening	2
Sparrow, House	42
Total Birds Seen	17,031
Total Species Seen	120

Compiler: Janine Schutt
Cordinator: Gene Bullock

KAS History: 1982 Conclusion - Joan Carson

As 1982 drew to an end, the Kingfisher included some interesting Chapter milestones. November's newsletter announced that Protection Island was finally a national wildlife refuge. "On October 15, President Reagan signed the bill adding Protection Island to the National Wildlife Refuge system. It's the first such refuge established under the Reagan administration. For eleven years, conservationists have worked toward this goal. For much of that time, just a knowledgeable few did the work. Eleanor Stopps of Admiralty Audubon more than any one person has worked long and hard for this day. Many more of us all across this state and throughout a number of the other states have entered the battle in recent years. In 1980, Kitsap Audubon held a rummage sale and raised \$3000 dollars which purchased a lot on the Island. Much of it is a very high cliff – but it's Swiss-cheesed with hundreds of rhinoceros auklet burrows."

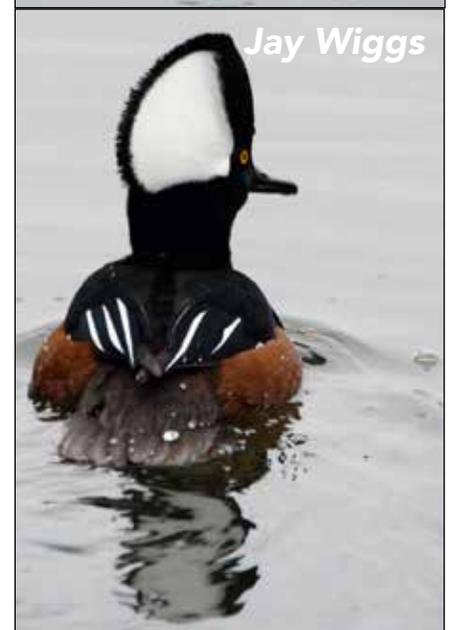
The "Wildlife Sightings" report for this issue also carried what has turned out to be an historical sighting. "Joan Carson had an eastern gray squirrel in her plum tree in Poulsbo. This squirrel hasn't been recorded in Kitsap County before so a verification is being worked on. It was watched for 20 minutes while it ate the last of the plums. This occurred on October 19." (I think it has been well verified throughout the County by many people by now.) Two field trips were scheduled for November. The weekend of November 20 and 21 would focus on pre-Christmas field trips within the County. This was in preparation for the Christmas Bird Count

in December. November's membership program was given by David Hancocks, director of the Woodland Park Zoological Gardens in Seattle. He was formerly Director of the British Wildlife Park in Salisbury, England. His program was titled: "Changing Zoos throughout the World." November's newsletter also contained a report on the first Birdwatcher's Exchange. Members from Tahoma and Kitsap Audubon Chapters journeyed to Yorkshire England to be the guests of RSPB birders. After enjoying the Brit's hospitality we would return the favor by showing them around our State several months later. This event came about because of a local publication known as NATURE GUIDE, a creation of Ilene Marx of Tahoma Audubon.

December's newsletter for 1982 was full of bird-related events – the upcoming Christmas Bird Count, Field Trip Reports and interesting Sightings around the County. The Membership Program was given by Jim Hein and Frank Beyer and it was devoted to the Christmas Count. Those attending were introduced by slides to many of the birds they could expect to see. The Potluck Dinner following the Count was announced and the upcoming weekend of field trips focusing on the Count were announced. The lengthy Sightings report included more records for the County. On November 8, Joan Carson with visiting birders, Nancy Christenson and Bob Rice, saw three red phalaropes at Kitsap Memorial State Park at Lofall. It was a new record for Kitsap County. The following day, November 9, Scott Hall saw 2 of these birds at Salisbury Point County Park also on the Canal.

A Kitsap Audubon Cookbook was a venture undertaken in 1982 and pleas for recipes were often inserted on the newsletter's pages. I remember the piles and piles of recipes that eventually came in but I don't think that endeavor was ever completed. However, in this day and age of computers, another try might be worthwhile. I've enjoyed going over the 1982 newsletter pages. Some years stand out more than others and this was one of them.

Next month – 1983. END



Jogs of Winter Birding - Gene Bullock

When the weather outside is frightful, winter bird watching can be delightful. Our tidal estuaries, sheltered inlets and seed-filled feeders are irresistible to many species of wintering birds.

It's a special time for avid birdwatchers, when our waterways bustle with birds from the frozen Arctic and boreal forests of the far north. It's also a special time for those with well-tended backyard feeders. Even in their subdued winter hues these fleeting bursts of life make colorful and fascinating neighbors.

Bird watching is one of America's fastest growing hobbies. According to National Audubon, some 47 million U.S. bird watchers spend \$40 billion a year on bird watching. In Washington State alone, wildlife viewing and photography add more than \$7 billion a year to State and local economies.

Audubon encourages backyard bird feeding, but there are risks involved (dependency is not one of them). One of the major risks is that bird feeders



encourage birds to crowd together and spread diseases. If feeders are not kept clean, seed can become contaminated (see following article).

Audubon encourages responsible bird feeding because it's a great way to connect people – and especially kids – with nature. For Audubon it's about building an active political constituency for birds. We want to swell the ranks of their devoted friends because people want to save what they love. Many of our birds are in trouble, and urgently need friends who care enough to do what's necessary to protect them.

Bird watching is more than a hobby for many of us. We're passionate about birds and we love to share our wonder and fascination with these amazing creatures. We hope our passion is contagious, because it can change the way you look at the world around you.

Cedar Waxwing - Jay Wiggs

Downy Woodpecker - Gene Bullock

Dirty feeders can spread disease

We love birds and enjoy feeding them; but if feeder surfaces aren't regularly scrubbed and sanitized they can spread disease. Often, the first sign is sick and dying Pine Siskins.

Bird excrement often contains Salmonella, which can grow to toxic levels in seed residue. The best way to prevent this is to clean and sanitize feeding surfaces monthly. Scrub with soap and water, rinse, and then sanitize with a 10% bleach solution, followed by an additional rinse. If you see sick or dying birds, take your feeder down for a week or two so they

don't become re-infected.

Backyard bird feeders and bird baths can be a wonderful way to enjoy birds and introduce people to bird watching. We encourage backyard bird feeding because it is one of the best ways get more people involved in America's fastest growing hobby. We want to grow the ranks of their devoted friends, because people want to save what they know and love.

Encouraging birds to mingle in crowds increases the risk of spreading avian diseases. For that reason, some avoid feeding birds altogether.

It can also attract other critters, such as rats, squirrels, bears, raccoons and opossums, as well as making birds more vulnerable to predators. There is a wealth of information available on how to minimize these problems.

Many of us delight in feeding birds and look forward to seeing and hearing them in our yards. But if you feed them, please make sure you are not needlessly jeopardizing their health and safety. Birds face so many threats to their survival, your feeders shouldn't be one of them.

Gene Bullock



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

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

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

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

Visit our website at www.kitsapaudubon.org

