Help us protect birds and habitat with an online donation Tuesday, April 21.

Your online Great Give donation on Tuesday, April 21, will be partially matched.

www.KitsapGreatGive.org

Kitsap Audubon’s paramount mission is to protect birds, wildlife and habitat through education, active stewardship, public advocacy, and associated programs and activities, such as:

• Helping fund the preservation of conservation land in North Kitsap, Bainbridge Island and the Ilhahee Preserve, including some 3,400 acres now part of the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.

• Awarding $53,000 in scholarships to Kitsap area students pursuing academic degrees in fields related to our mission.

• Related monthly speaker programs that are free and open to the public

• Monthly birding field trips that are free and open to the public.

Kitsap Audubon temporarily suspends public meetings and field trips

The Kitsap Audubon Board has temporarily suspended all public meetings and field trips to reduce the coronavirus risk to our members. We may postpone our required election of new officers until our September meeting. Watch our website (kitsapaudubon.org) for updates.
Wildlife sightings – Janine Schutt

On Feb. 27th Janine Schutt was alerted to an early male rufous hummingbird in her neighbors’ yard by Wildcat Lake. On March 4th she spotted a flock of 5 western bluebirds in a clear-cut by Mission Lake. On March 10th, John McDonald reported a flock of 30-50 violet-green swallows swooping above the Wildcat Lake store. On March 11th, he heard a northern saw-whet owl from his home near Lake Symington. Send your interesting sightings to jeschutt@hotmail.com. Please put “Wildlife Sightings” in the subject line.

Notable Kitsap Bird Sightings from www.eBird.org:

Feb. 12 on the Winslow Ferry near Eagle Harbor: 1 Clark’s grebe
Feb. 14 by Mission Lake (near Kitsap/Mason Co. line): 8 mountain quails
Feb. 18 at Long Lake (Port Orchard): 4 tree swallows
Feb. 18 in Gorst: 1 glaucous gull
Feb. 18 near Hansville: 1 turkey vulture
Feb. 20 on Gold Mountain: 1 golden eagle, 4 western bluebirds
Feb. 24 at Point No Point (Hansville): 1 yellow-billed loon
Feb. 29 at Restoration Point (Bainbridge Island): 110 black turnstones, 27 surfbirds, 2 Iceland gulls
Feb. 29 in Poulsbo: 1 white-throated sparrow
March 1 in Port Gamble: 1 black scoter
March 2 on Bainbridge Island: 1 peregrine falcon, 1 western meadowlark, 22 evening grosbeaks
March 6 at Clear Creek Trail (Silverdale): 1 northern shrike
March 7 on Bainbridge Island: 1 northern pygmy-owl
March 10 at Point No Point: 13 long-tailed ducks
March 14 at Foulweather Bluff (near Hansville): 1 black oystercatcher
COVID-19: While the situation is changing daily, and will again before this newsletter is published, KAS presently hopes to keep the field trips program going as much as possible. For the time being, we will adhere to health department guidance to limit groups to ten or fewer. We request the following: (1) SIGN UP BY EMAIL IN ADVANCE with trip leaders for directions and watch for changes; and (2) Be courteous of other participants: Observe social distancing practices and IF YOU ARE NOT WELL, especially coughing, sneezing, or wheezing, STAY HOME!

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

Seattle’s Montlake Fill: Saturday, April 25 (half-day). Al Westphal, leader, westphalac@aol.com, 206-780-7844 (e-mail preferred). The Montlake Fill is an extraordinary natural area adjacent to UW and Lake Washington’s Union Bay, and it should be full of spring birds, waterfowl, and others by late-April.

Theler Wetlands (Belfair): Saturday, May 9 (half-day). Al Westphal, Leader: 206-780-7844 or westphalac@aol.com (e-mail preferred) to register. An annual favorite. Lots of spring arrivals should be present, especially big numbers and a nice variety of swallows. Maybe a few good warblers too.

Clear Creek trails and Old Mill Pond (Silverdale): Saturday, May 16 (half-day). Joe Jack Davis, John and Karla Bouck, leaders. John@creeksideplc.com 870-404-8481 (prefer Email). Join us for a stroll through the diverse habitats of Clear Creek trails and Old Mill Pond. We will start at the lowland and swampy areas of Clear Creek frequented by a wide variety of species from warblers to waders to dabblers. A second stop is planned at Old Mill Park at the outlet of Clear Creek. This urban patch can surprise with oddities and always has good views of the waterfowl on Dyes inlet.

Green Mountain & Gold Creek: Saturday, June 6. Joe Jack Davis, John and Karla Bouck, leaders. John@creeksideplc.com 870-404-8481 (prefer Email). Join us for a trip to Green Mountain. We plan to take a modest hike next to the creek and through the forest to the swampy beaver ponds of Gold Creek to find woodland species and warblers marking their territory. Our second stop we will drive to the top of the mountain and survey the slightly higher elevation forest areas. We will search for the Green Mountain Specialties like sooty grouse and Canada Jays. The outing will involve easy walking on hiking trails for about 2 miles. Driving to the top of the mountain involves about two miles of gravel roads. The roads are always in good shape but often dusty, no special vehicle is required. A Discovery Pass is required to park your car.

Billy Frank – Nisqually NWR (near Olympia): Saturday, June 13 (long half-day). Al Westphal, leader, westphalac@aol.com to register. A long half-day trip, but there are few places in the region better for observing a great variety of nesting bird species, and they should all be here by mid-June. We will walk the forest and barn trails and as far out on the boardwalk as we care to go.

Trip Report

Skagit/Samish Flats, February 29. Re-scheduled from flood conditions on February 8th, and contrary to the miserable weather forecast on the 29th, five of us ventured out into what proved to be a lovely day in Skagit and Snohomish Counties. With a group of actively involved participants, it was also an easy day to lead the event! We tallied over 60 species in all, pretty respectable. Highlights included the many raptors, especially masses of eagles and the Rough-legged Hawks, also a huge flock of Dunlins, the tornado of flushed Snow Geese, good looks at swans, our first swallows of the year, the Black Phoebe at the Wylie Slough, and of course the best look ever at a Peregrine Falcon.
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
Join/Renew online at http://www.kitsapaudubon.org/membership

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

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

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Select Category Of Membership:
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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