



Island Wings

- to enjoy, learn about, & preserve the diverse natural habitats of these islands & beyond

Volume 19 Number 1

July-August 2008

ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTION PLUS DOUBLE PROGRAM

7pm, Thursday, July 17, 2008, Land Trust Building 10014 SW Bank Rd.

Contact: Laura Bienen 567-4613

Kozak Sisters on Raising Bantam Chickens

Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 7pm, Vashon-Maury Audubon chapter hosts its annual meeting with its board election and a split program. The program is shared by chicken breeders Kristen and Kelsey Kozak and by photographer Nate Chappell. The evening starts at 7:00 pm.

After the brief board election, Vashon sisters Kristen and Kelsey Kozak will present the first half of the program: raising, breeding, and showing bantam chickens.

The Kozaks have raised purebred chickens for ten years and successfully shown in youth and open shows in Washington, Oregon, and California. These breeds and varieties include Dutch, Modern Games, Shamos, Leghorns, Japanese, Silkies, Brahmas, Belgian Bearded d'Anvers, and Sebrights.

Kristen applies her expertise in poultry genetics to breeding Modern Game bantams. She currently has 7 generations of Moderns and is developing exciting new colors such as Silver Wheaton.

Currently the Kozaks' chicken house is home to 150 bantams and pigeons.

Presentation topics include raising chickens successfully, breed qualities, appearance, temperament, and the *Standard of Perfection*.

For those who have ever considered chicken husbandry or are already housing a small or large flock, this talk could be for you. The Kozak family started with just seven chicks ten years ago, and were awarded the coveted Best-in-Show prize at the Puyallup Fair more than once.

Nate Chappell on Ecuador and Argentina

The second part of our program will start at 8:00 pm, same date, same place, and will take us farther afield.

Wildlife photographer and Tahoma Audubon member Nate Chappell presents his beautiful bird and wildlife photography from Ecuador and Argentina.

Birding since 12 years old, Nate Chappell's travels now take him all around the world in search of birds and wildlife. He and his wife, Angie, currently guide small groups on trips to Ecuador, Thailand and other exotic locations to birdwatch and to photograph nature. Their tour company is named Trogon Tours, Inc.

Chappell highlights Ecuador with its spectacular bird life, including many gorgeous species of hummingbirds and tanagers. Ecuador has the fourth highest bird species diversity in the world. His images from Argentina focus on birds and wildlife from the Ibera Marshes, one of the most important wetlands in South America.

The website for Chappell's tour company is www.trogon-tours.net, if anyone is interested in investigating more information about Nate's photography and birding tours. He is also the current avian moderator for the on-line web gallery www.naturephotographers.net, one of the top-rated websites for nature photography.

This promises to be a multifaceted evening. Once again, the July program is our official annual meeting. Come learn who serves on the Vashon-Maury Island Chapter of the Audubon board and elect new members.

As usual, coffee, tea and cookies will be offered. Consider bringing your own favorite mug to enjoy a hot or cold drink (yes, disposable cups will still be provided). The program is free and all are welcome.

Submitted by Laura Bienen



Long-tailed Sylph, Ecuador

Photo by Nate Chappell

Annual Election

See ballot on page 2.

Bring to Annual Meeting

Or Clip and Mail to

Vashon Audubon P.O. Box 838

Vashon Island, WA 98070

before Thursday, July 17, 2008

**VASHON-MAURY ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
2008 BOARD ELECTIONS, JULY 17, 2008**

Please circle *Yes* or *No* for each position. The starred candidates are new to the board this year.

OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents

Sue Trevathan/*John Friars
yes no

Secretary

*Mary O'Brien
yes no

Treasurer

Lindsay Hofman
yes no

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Conservation

Michelle Ramsden
yes no

Education (Co-Chairs)

Kathryn True/*Amy Kitchener
yes no

Island Wings (co-Editors)

Anne Spiers/ Barbara Chasan
yes no

Membership (co-Chairs)

*Randy Smith
yes no

Programs

Laura Bienen
yes no

Please bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting on July 17, 7pm, Land Trust Building. See P 1 for details. Or clip and mail ballot to Vashon Audubon, PO Box 838, Vashon WA 98070 before July 17.

Challenge from Audubon's Hospitality Chair: Bring your own Cup!

Dear Audubon Chapter Members:

Ever since we had the "no trash bash" with the people from Sustainable Vashon, I've been feeling badly about taking home nearly a grocery bag of trash from each of our meetings. I've been trying to train myself to bring my own cups to meetings, and I would like to request that anyone who would like to have a beverage at our meetings consider bringing a cup from home to use and take home with them. It won't completely remove all trash, but it will certainly reduce the amount a lot if most of us can remember to do that. I will, of course, continue to provide both hot and cold cups for anyone who can't bring one or who forgets.

THANKS for helping us to reduce the impact of our meetings.

Fran O'Reilly, Hospitality Chair

Join the Annual Count

Hunt Butterflies on a Summer Day

One of the best reasons to participate in the North American Butterfly Association's (NABA) annual species counts is to have a strong excuse to spend an entire sunny day roaming Vashon's woods, meadows, bluffs, and shorelines.

The 2008 "4th of July Butterfly Count" takes place on July 6th, Sunday, starting at 9am at the Park 'n' Ride lot beside the Country Store. It will continue until dark, though most participants will probably quit earlier (there's no penalty!).

Only 12 species of butterflies have been seen on Vashon's butterfly counts, and typically in a given year we see seven or eight species. Some species go through cycles, being abundant for a year or two, and then very scarce for a period of time.

Painted ladies sometimes have boom years in California and migrate north to Washington in huge numbers, as in 2005 when we saw 69 during our count. Most years we've seen none or one.

The Western Tiger Swallowtail was exceptionally abundant last year, and this year the Pale Tiger Swallowtail is flying in greater numbers than usual. See previous count results on our website, cited below.

There are two levels of participation in the butterfly count, the roving team and the garden watchers.

We usually have only one roving team, though others are encouraged to form (and should include someone who is familiar with the local species). Official team participants pay a \$3 fee to enable NABA to pay their administrative costs for running the count.

Team members start at 9am, and they typically drive to multiple places and walk for most of the time. They need to dress in layers for weather changes and bring binoculars, water, snacks, lunch, and a net or collecting jar if available. Team members also see dragonflies, birds, native plants and amphibians.

The garden watchers, on the other hand, count in a more leisurely way, in their own yards or neighborhoods. They stroll once through their garden during a sunny hour, or make multiple counts at intervals. If they count several times, their final tally should include the maximum number of each species seen during one count trip. For instance, if they see one Spring Azure at noon, four Spring Azures at 1pm, and two at 3pm, the total they report should be four, not seven.

Garden watchers pay no fee. We need as many garden watchers as we can get, because they help us build up a more accurate picture of which species are more abundant and which are barely present this year.

To help prepare, watchers can look at the list of known Vashon butterflies (see vashonaudubon.org under "Wildlife" for lists of Vashon species).

Good field guides to study the markings and colors are Robert Pyle's *Butterflies of Cascadia*, Jeffrey Glassberg's *Butterflies through Binoculars, the West*, and William Neill's *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest*.

If the weather is cool and rainy, the count will be postponed. For information call Rayna Holtz, 463-3153.

Submitted by Rayna Holtz

Audubon's Ebb Tide Program: Who Lives Under the Dock?

Divers Bring Up Creatures From the Depths

Volunteer divers, led by Islander Karlista Rickerson, share their underwater discoveries with us landlubbers at a special high tide event at Vashon Parks' Tramp Harbor dock on Saturday, July 26, from noon to 3pm.



Divers share deep-water creatures with Islanders

Photo by Jay Holtz

The divers will send up marine animals in pails of water from the murky sea bottom for people to view in pools and aquariums under a shady canopy at the end of the dock.

Each bucket will have surprises inside: will there be a rose sea star? Maybe a grunt sculpin, so curiously stout with a pointy snout? Or an octopus in an old bottle? Assistants will gently remove the creatures and set them in aquariums and wading pools for people to observe. Because these animals need very cold water, the containers will be chilled with bottles of frozen water, and the creatures' time topside will be limited.

Assistants will share their knowledge of each specimen and provide field guides. For the last part of the program the divers will join the group on the dock and tell us more stories about the animals' habits and activities in their marine home.

During last year's event, we found five species of sea stars, at least four species of crab, a sea lemon, numerous beautiful anemones, some giant gaudy red sea cucumbers, a woody chiton, two octopuses, starry flounder, brown rockfish, the delightful stripey grunt sculpin, and much more.

Parking at the Tramp Harbor Dock is very limited. Planners expect to run a shuttle bus from the Vashon High School parking lot down to the dock, with auxiliary pickups at Ellisport and the Quartermaster side of Portage. Watch for further details on posters, *Loop, Beachcomber*, and vashonaudubon.org.

Sponsors include Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society, Vashon Park District, and People For Puget Sound. This program is free, and families are welcome. For further information, contact Rayna Holtz at 463-3153 or Michelle Ramsden at 406-3723.

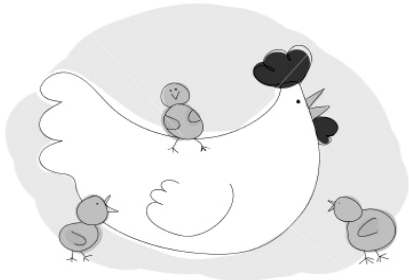
Submitted by Rayna Holtz

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 838
Vashon Island, WA 98070

NONPROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
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ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION
Plus
VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM

***Raising, Breeding, Showing
Bantam Chickens***
Presenters Kristen & Kelsey Kozak



Thursday, July 17, 7pm,
Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road
See Page 1 for Details

July/August 2008

Sunday, July 6, 9am to dark -- Park 'n' Ride next to Country Store
OFFICIAL ANNUAL "4th OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT" -- Rayna Holtz 463-3153.

Saturday, July 12, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride
ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- Monthly 2nd Saturday. Bring binoculars/scope if available! Alan Huggins 567-5166.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 11, 12, 13 -- All Day in Town
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL -- Volunteer at the Audubon booth, or stop by; great items for sale. Susan Commeree 567-5707.

Thursday, July 17, 7pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road
VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM, ANNUAL MEETING, & ELECTION -- ***Raising, Breeding, Showing Bantam Chickens:***
Presenters Kristen & Kelsey Kozak -and- ***Bird & Wildlife Photography from Ecuador & Argentina:*** Presenter Nate Chappell. A short business meeting/board election (see enclosed ballot) precedes the program. Laura Bienen 567-4613.

Saturday, July 26, noon-3pm -- Tramp Harbor Dock
WHO LIVES UNDER THE DOCK? Watch Divers Bring Creatures Up From the Depths -- Karlista Rickerson and Friends.
Michelle Ramsden 406-3723.

Monday-Friday, July 28-August 1, 9am-1pm -- ages 7-11, \$160
"KIDS' ECO CHALLENGE" SUMMER DAY CAMP -- Each day participants join outdoor educator Barbara Gustafson in exploring a different Vashon park, beach or preserve. Beth at beth@vashonlandtrust.org or 463-2644.

Saturday, August 9, 8-10am -- Ober Park'n'Ride
ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- Monthly 2nd Saturday. Bring binoculars/scope if available! Alan Huggins 567-5166.

Saturday, August 16, 8:30am-12:30pm
VMIAS BOARD RETREAT -- Phone Sue Trevathan for confirmation, 463-1484.

Saturday, August 16, 10am-noon
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE - Butterflies -- Roam an island preserve in search of winged beauties with Moria Robinson. Register through the Park District at www.vashonparkdistrict.org or 463-9602.

SWAN'S NOTABLE SIGHTINGS

The following Island bird sightings were reported by bird guide and author Ed Swan. See his *Birds of Vashon Island* for further seasonal notes and places to bird on the Island.

What was seen:

April 25: I noticed about a dozen **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Mukai Pond; all were Myrtles.

April 26: **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** are becoming widespread and **Purple Martins** were overhead today. (June 21: Purple Martins appear to have taken a hit from the poor weather. Some Vashon birds have at least temporarily given up nesting. Elsewhere the same has occurred and at the Edmonds colony 10 adults were found dead of starvation.)

April 27: Sue Trevathan saw parent **Hutton's Vireos** feeding young. Our 3 **junco** eggs hatched. They're listed at taking 12-13 days to hatch, which seems about right for when we noticed them building the nest. It seems like they must have started to lay before they finished building. A lot of migrant fallout has been reported around the region with Nashville Warblers reported at a number of locations around Puget Sound. We should watch for them here as well as other rarer species. Today I had four species of **warblers** in my yard. Sharon Helmick saw a **W. Kingbird** and a **W. Tanager** at Pt. Robinson. A flock of **Pacific Loons**, many in breeding plumage, was seen by John and Ellie Friars off their place by KVI. (May 11: Alan Huggins saw a Pacific Loon off Piner Pt. at the south end of Maury Island. They continue to trickle by. I saw some off KVI on the 7th.)

April 28: I saw 2 **W. Sandpipers** at KVI Beach.

April 29: I heard some definite **Swainson's Thrush** at Mukai Pond as well as **Song Sparrows** at Meadowlake that had the Swainson's Thrush whistle embedded in their song.

April 30: This morning as I walked back up the road from my boys' bus stop, I saw a couple of **Hermit Thrush** feeding in the mud. I also heard their call notes. Altogether, I think there were likely at least 3-4, and up on my driveway I heard a couple more. Also, along the road a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was singing, as was the first **Warbling Vireo** I've heard this year and the first **Cassin's Vireo** up along my driveway. **Wilson's, BTG Warbler**, and **PS Flycatchers** were out in force. Alan Huggins reports a **Black-headed Grosbeak**. (May 5: Many others reported these grosbeaks for the first time.)

May 2: This morning there were 20+ **Steller's Jays** around the radar tower at Pt. Robinson. This has been noted a number of other times in the first week of May in this location with groups of 30 and 40+ birds. I also saw a **Nashville Warbler** in the trees along the bluff between the lighthouse and the upper parking lot. This is the third record for Vashon. All have been in the first week of May. It's probably more common than the number of reports indicates but still would be a rare bird for Vashon, possibly uncommon for a week or two at locations like Pt. Robinson or Mukai Pond.

May 5: I heard an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at KVI Beach and later, picking up Cub Scouts at Pt. Robinson, I saw a single **Marbled Murrelet**. Carole Elder saw a male **Bullock's Oriole** at the usual spot at the corner of 91st and Van Olinda. We recently had quite a burst of **Golden-crowned Sparrows** through the area with many reports; they seem to have left now.

May 10: Today's field trip had a **Wilson's Snipe**, I think probably the latest record ever for the Island. They also had some **Evening Grosbeaks** (there have been a few other reports of these). On the Tahoma Audubon Birdathon trip we saw from Pt. Defiance a flock of **Red-necked Phalarope** fly close to Vashon. These are rare to very rare in spring in Puget Sound; this is the first Vashon spring record in recent memory.

May 11: Carole Elder saw a single **Wilson's Phalarope** feeding

with some gulls at Tahlequah. This is a rare migrant in the Puget Sound area and breeds in Eastern Washington. A disjunct breeding pair or two or three nested in the 1930s on the Tacoma tideflats before they were destroyed. This is Vashon's first record.

May 13: There was a **Yellow Warbler** under the communications tower by the Centurytel building on 204th in the afternoon. They've probably been around for a week or so. Gary Shugart is still finding **Brandt's Cormorant** at Tahlequah and there were 5 **Rhinoceros Auklet** on today's crossing.

May 14: John Arum saw a **Brown Pelican** this evening at Pt. Defiance. (May 15: The Chasans and Gary Shugart saw the pelican. May 25: One was sitting on the pilings just around the curve into Commencement Bay this morning. June 20: Kathryn True's daughter saw 4 pelicans off the Vashon-Fauntleroy run.) Alan Huggins had 2 **kestrels** overhead at his place.

May 16: Robert Teagardin had a **Lazuli Bunting** in his yard at Chautaugua. Richard Rogers has nesting **House Wrens**, a rare nester for King County and Vashon. About one pair per year on Vashon now.

May 17: Joy Nelsen had a **Western Wood Peewee** today, the first definite for the season. Mike Feinstein still has at least 2 **Harlequin Ducks** on Luana Drive near Pt. Robinson. Sue Trevathan heard **Willow's Flycatcher** in the new Land Trust property along Judd Creek just north of 212th Place.

May 22: This week the **Barred Owls** by Sue and my houses have been moving their fledged young about; Sue thinks she's heard 2 young birds. I've heard a large variety of calls in the night. Also, **Barn Owls** are using the nest hole in the snag behind Chautaugua Elementary again. Emma saw one a few weeks back sitting on a fence post after flying over a field along the Westside Highway just north of where it runs into 220th. I wonder if Barn Owls are one of those birds that are becoming more common or if we are just seeing the effect of an increased number of observers and greater sharing of information.

June 5: I heard a **MacGillivray's Warbler** just north of the north end ferry park and ride. (June 8: John Arum says of a sighting: "I heard, then saw, a MacGillivray's Warbler at Island Center forest this morning. From the Cemetary Rd. entrance, it is on the first main trail going north, about 200 yards from the junction with the dirt road that heads to the west. It was singing almost continuously from the top of a snag. I came back about an hour and a half later and it was still there.)

June 8: Kip Schwarzmler reports a **meadowlark** at the south end of the Wax Orchard airstrip.

June 10: I saw a **Common Loon** in Tramp Harbor and a **Horned Grebe** in breeding plumage in Quartermaster Harbor at Portage. There was a Horned Grebe there at the same place quite early last summer as well.

June 18: Gary heard a **Common Nighthawk** over Fisher's Pond. (June 20: Tonight I first heard and then saw a single C. Nighthawk overhead at my house along Paradise Ridge just north of the horse park.) They are rare for Vashon and urban Puget Sound.

Learn to ID this Vashon-
Maury Butterfly

Butterfly Count

July 6

Walk on the Wild Side

Aug 16

See Calendar for details.



Enjoyment of Birds Takes Flight Again

PLAN AHEAD FOR FALL AND SPRING

Here's the tentative class schedule for the bird identification and birding by ear offered through Vashon Audubon. Producer, instructor, Master Birder Alan Huggins reports the following plans:

The next *Enjoyment of Birds* class series opens with Session #1 on Sept. 10 as an entry course for beginners. The Sessions #2 to #6 will be "elevated" to "advanced beginner" status and offered as a continuing series, including Session #1 if desired.

The fee for Session #1 is \$20 for Audubon members (\$35 non members). The complete series, Sessions #2 to #6, is \$70 for members and \$85 for non-members (the extra \$15 "buys" them a membership).

The *Enjoyment of Bird Song* class is scheduled on April 8, 2009 followed by 2 to 4 field trips, April to June.

All classroom sessions will be at the Land Trust.

****Enjoyment of Birds Class Series:

Following are the session numbers, dates, and topics with corresponding field trips (monthly 2nd Saturday).

1. Sept. 10 on "Common Backyard Birds," Field Trip on Sept. 13.
2. Oct. 8 on "Winter Water Birds I," with Dr. Gary Shugart, Field Trip on 1 Oct. 11.
3. Nov. 12 on "Winter Water Birds II," with Dr. Gary Shugart, Field Trips on Nov. 8, Dec. 13, 2008; Jan 10, 2009

DECEMBER Break in classes

4. Jan. 14, 2009 on "Owls & Raptors," Field Trip TBA.
5. Feb. 11 on "Common Winter Perching Birds," Field Trip on Feb. 14.
6. Mar. 11 on "Migratory Songbirds," Field Trips on Mar. 14, April 11, May 9, June 13.

****Enjoyment of Bird Song Series:

One class session on April 8 with 2-4 field trips in April - June.

For registering or for more information, email Alan at alanhugs@comcast.net or go to www.vashonaudubon.org.

Visit our website:

www.vashonaudubon.org

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon

Board Officers:

Co-President	Sue Trevathan	206 463-1484
(2008 Board Candidate)	John Friars	463-9881
Secretary		
(2008 Board Candidate)	Mary O'Brien	463-6209
Treasurer	Lindsay Hofman	463-5356

Chairs:

Conservation (Board)	Michelle Ramsden	406-3723
Co-Education (Board)	Kathryn True	567-5389
(2008 Board Candidate)	Amy Kitchener	463-2921
Island Wings Co-Editor (Board)		
	Barbara Chasan	463-2571
	Ann Spiers	463-9858

Membership (Board)

(2008 Board Candidate)	Randy Smith	567-5333
Programs (Board)	Laura Bienen	567-4613
Publicity	Jean Aspinall	463-3178
Welcome	Fran O'Reilly	463-4255
Merchandiser	Susan Commeree	567-5707

Jill Andrews Ends her Year of Service as President

Thank you for the Smart, Organized, Efficient, Fun Year as President of Vashon Maury Island Audubon Chapter

As a way of thanking past board members, the local Audubon chapter invites them to write an editorial. Jill chose to deliver a State-of-the-Chapter article.

Past President Jill Andrews writes:

Education has provided a continuing theme for the Vashon Audubon chapter this past year. Even the state chapter recognized our important educational achievements by granting our chapter the Award for Education at their annual fall dinner.

Some members might be unaware of the many opportunities Vashon residents have to learn about local birds. Not only is there a continuing bird education program for elementary school students, but classes in bird identification and habitat information are also offered regularly for adults.

Other Audubon sponsored events included the Low Tide Festival, occasional beach walks, weekend bird watching field trips, and bimonthly programs presented by experts. Even the Christmas bird count provides an opportunity to learn of the variety of species passing through our island.

These programs and events are staffed by Audubon volunteers who work tirelessly to provide a quality experience.

Another honor received by the local chapter this year was the awarding of a grant to design and mount an interpretive sign that highlights birds most often seen from the Vashon ferries. These signs will be mounted at each end of the island so visitors and residents alike may enjoy looking for these birds while crossing on the ferry.

These are a few of the highlights of the last year for Vashon's Audubon chapter. Your board members take their commitments seriously, and are quick to offer help on all these projects. This has been a productive year.

<VOLUNTEER TODAY>

Strawberry Festival--Audubon Booth Staff

Saturday & Sunday, July 12 & 13
10-6 Saturday; 10-4 Sunday at Ober Park
Volunteer for a 2-hour shift at Vashon Audubon's booth.
Encourage membership and make money for our chapter's projects.
Susan Commeree 567-5707

Newsletter Mailing

A job that could become a party!
Pick up newsletters from the printer; fold, attach pre-printed labels (the party part); fill out post office form and deliver to the post office. Duty date is the end of every other month.
Excellent on-the-job training.
Ann Spiers: 463-9858
Barbara Chasan: 463-2571

Volunteer Coordinator

The chapter needs someone to contact our volunteers, and then link them to appropriate projects.
Are you the one?
Sue Trevathan: 463-1484