

Kress Lake *(Continued from Page 6)*

This location in general is very limited, due in part to the area being off limits to the public. It is possible that on occasions Solitary Sandpipers may visit the limited shorelines of Kress Lake in migration, if one checked it enough.

For additional birding areas away from Kress Lake

(1) You may explore more areas such as along the eastern portion of Kalama River Rd., which dead ends at about 20 miles east of I-5, and offers more forested birding with the good potential for Hermit Warblers and other forest denizens. This area borders the Kalama River nearly the entire way along the road with heavily forested areas passing both the Lower Kalama River Hatchery and the Kalama Falls Hatchery.

(2) The area west of I-5 along Kalama River Rd. which is primarily an industrial area for the Port of Kalama, but at least one area for potential birding is accessible to the public along the shores of the Columbia River. To gain access to this area follow Kalama River Rd. west of I-5 and continuing west to the 2nd road on your left, which will be called Sportsman Club Rd. Continue along this road for a about 1/2 miles to a large parking area at the end of the road, which in turn offers viewing for various waterbird species in season. The Kalama Sportsman Club owns land south of the road, but you may check from the parking area and points north of that location. Thick vegetation lines the north side of Sportsman Club Rd. and away from regular occurring woodland species the added potential for Red-eyed Vireo may be possible during late spring into the summer months.

(3) Away from Kalama River Rd. even more birding may be sought at points beyond such as a visit to the Woodland area and the Ridgefield NWR, which may be visited for more involved birding. There are also a few areas along the Columbia River in Kalama (west of I-5) that may offer viewing for various waterbird species such as loons, grebes, waterfowl and gulls.

(4) And, if driving north along I-5, at MP31 north of the town of Kalama, small numbers of Tundra Swans can be readily viewed during late fall through early spring in a wetland area just east of I-5.

The areas mentioned in this article may offer great birding when visited during the right time and season and offer a good feel for Cowlitz County.

Book Reviews**Sky Time in Gray's River**

Written by Robert Michael Pyle

Mini-review by Charlotte Persons

Let's celebrate a new book from long-time WHAS member Robert Michael Pyle, who has given several programs for WHAS over the years and has written eleven previous books of nature writing. This new volume describes a small village familiar to most of us who have traveled along Highway 4 to the coast, but Pyle shows amazing ability to lyrically describe what for many of us has unfortunately become mundane. I hope you will allow Pyle to let you see our dripping world with renewed appreciation and wonder. Here is the book description from Amazon.com:

“Much the way Donald Hall's *Seasons at Eagle Pond* captured New England, *Sky Time in Gray's River* captures the essence of the Pacific Northwest by telling the story of Robert Pyle's life in rural Washington. One of the earliest communities established near the mouth of the Columbia River, the village of Gray's River is only tenuously connected to the world of the twenty-first century. Although Pyle is a lepidopterist and the Gray's River region is notable for its lack of butterflies, something about the place spoke to him three decades ago, and he has lived there, in the same house, ever since. This book brings Gray's River to life by compressing those thirty years into twelve chapters, following the lives of humans, animals, and plants month by month through the seasons. By demonstrating how the village has changed his life, Pyle illustrates how a special place can change anyone lucky enough to find it—and he highlights how much is being lost in a world of accelerating sameness, speed, and mobility. Above all, *Sky Time* shows that you don't have to travel far to see something new everyday—if you know how to look.”

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change

Written by Elizabeth Kolbert

Review By Pam Wright

There is no longer any meaningful debate among scientists as to the whether or not humans are contributing to climate change. If you remain in doubt or struggle to eloquently respond to your uncle's rant that "it's all a hoax," find a copy of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* by Elizabeth Kolbert. *(Continued on Page 8)*