

WILLAPA WHISTLER

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Fall 2014



Brown Thrasher

Image by Suzy Whitley

Rare Sighting of a Brown Thrasher in Pacific County

By Suzy Whitley

This was only the third recorded sighting of a Brown Thrasher in Pacific County, according to the Washington Ornithological Society since records have been kept. It was seen on July 14th in the evening foraging with other native bird for about one hour north of Cranberry Road. The Brown Thrashers normal home range is east of the Rocky Mountains.

Brown Thrashers skulk in shrubby tangles or forage on the ground below dense cover for insects and other arthropods along with some fruits, seeds, and nuts. They're most obvious when they sing their loud songs from shrubs and treetops during nesting season.

Brown Thrashers are accomplished songsters that may sing more than 1,100 different song types and include imitations of other birds, including Chuck-will's-widows, Wood Thrushes, and Northern Flickers

With information from: Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website "[All About Birds](http://allaboutbirds.org)".

Vaux's Swift Watching and Counting in Rainier, Oregon

Join the WHAS swift counting crew on Saturday, Sept. 13th, to get a one-hour encounter with the southbound migration of Vaux's Swifts as they pour into the chimney of the Carpet One building in Rainier around sunset. The birds will roost there for the night before heading for Chapman School in Portland and points south. Meet at the flagpole in front of Rainier City Hall -- 1st Street & Highway 30 -- at 6:45 pm with blanket and chair, binoculars and/or scope, camera, and a snack.

This will be fun for kids and adults too. For more info and to sign up, contact trip leader Darrel Whipple at 503-556-9838 or dwhipple@opusnet.com

The Whistler goes Quarterly

From the Board of Directors

Future Whistler issues will appear once quarterly with the next publish date of December 1.

It was after much debate and some reservation that the Board made this decision. The change will put less stress on our volunteer resources and save financial resources for our work in education and conservation.

The Board has committed to planning events with more advance notice, and we will continue to send out our gmail* reminders. We will issue media announcements for programs, field trips, and volunteer opportunities so you can remain informed whether or not you are connected to the web.

We are renewing our commitment to providing our webmaster with informative and up to date material, so the site remains interesting. Please visit it at www.willapahillsaudubon.org, to see what is happening in the world of Willapa Hills Audubon.

**) If you are not receiving these occasional emails yet and would like to be included, please send an [email](mailto:whasalert@gmail.com) to whasalert@gmail.com with "subscribe" in the subject line and we will add your email address. We will not share your contact information with anyone.*

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Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Check type of Membership:

- ☐ New Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Renewal Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Membership includes 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually.

We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. All dues and donations are tax deductible

For membership in National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.

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Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

*) To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

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- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
(Add your email address below)
- ☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Add me to your announcement email list*

Christmas Birdcount Days 2014

Cowlitz-Columbia: Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 -- **Leadbetter:** Saturday, Dec. 20 -- **Wahkiakum:** Tuesday, Dec. 30

Check the winter *Whistler* in December for all the details on how to sign up and where to meet up.

Oregon denies permit for coal terminal

By Darrel Whipple

The recent denial of a fill permit for a coal terminal on the Columbia River at Boardman, Oregon, was welcome news to those of us who have been fighting the onslaught of coal export projects for nearly three years now.

This was the project sponsored by Ambre Energy that would have railed coal to Boardman, then barged it down the Columbia to Port Westward near Clatskanie, and transloaded it onto ocean-going vessels bound for Asia. The volume of coal Ambre hoped to handle at Port Westward was 8.8 million tons per year, a relatively small amount compared to the 44 million tons planned for a rail-fed Longview storage and shipping terminal sponsored by Millennium, a subsidiary of the same Ambre Energy of Australia. (Millennium's project is undergoing an environmental impact analysis under Washington law. Oregon, however, does not have such a comprehensive approval process.)

Ambre had hoped to land all necessary permits one at a time from Oregon in short order for the barging project, which would have been the first coal export project to get approved in the Northwest, and would have been a "foot in the door" for Ambre ahead of other companies. But the Oregon Department of State Lands, just in dealing with the proposed Coyote Island terminal dock in Oregon waters at the Port of Morrow, insisted that Ambre provide adequate information in response to the agency's questions and the concerns reflected in 20,000 comments (!) from the public and the tribes, and finally – after eight extensions granted to Ambre – denied the critical permit.

This decision could mean the demise of the project, or, at the very least, represent a major setback. At this point we don't know if Ambre will appeal the decision.

Proposed Killing of 25% of Western Population of Double-Crested Cormorant

By Charlotte Persons and Steve Puddicombe

The U.S. Corps of Engineers proposed in a draft Environmental Impact Statement to kill 16,000 Double-crested Cormorants who nest on East Sand Island in the Columbia River. This island is composed of dredge spoils deposited by the Corps. The Corps claims that the proposed “take” of cormorants, by shooting them and oiling eggs and nests, is the best solution to the birds’ predation of juvenile salmonids, including endangered species of salmonids and hatchery salmonids. The last date to comment on the proposal was August. 19. Steve Puddicombe, Conservation Co-Chair, composed the comments below on behalf of WHAS. We hope that our comments and those of many other Audubon chapters, scientists, and citizens will persuade the Corps to take no action on this proposal.

WHAS Comments on the Proposal:

Our Chapter of the Audubon family, Willapa Hills, encompasses the region along the Columbia River, from Longview to Long Beach, Washington, and that part of Columbia County, including Rainier, OR. Our membership includes sportsmen and fishermen and we have frequently advocated on behalf of wild salmon recovery. So, we are uniquely qualified to comment on the proposal to control the burgeoning population of Double-crested Cormorants (DCCO) on East Sand Island in the lower estuary.

We understand and appreciate that predation can be a factor in the survival of wild salmon. In protecting endangered species we have supported some use of lethal means in reducing predation in a targeted manner (for example, Snowy Plover predated by Corvids and Spotted Owl predated by Barred Owl). Additionally, we recognize that a regimen of hazing and harassment alone may only disperse nesting and do little to eliminate predation overall, and also disrupt other nesting species of no concern.

However, our main focus must be the DCCO. After reviewing the draft EIS and available information regarding DCCO and from other interest groups and agencies, we are not convinced that your preferred alternative “C” is appropriate to the situation or that the killing of up to 16,000 DCCO is consistent with an appreciation for the situation in the lower Columbia estuary (LCE). We believe the proposed killing of DCCO is reflexive and excludes other factors in salmonid decline; and that the proposal fails to honor the historic presence of the DCCO in the ecobiology of the LCE. The use of lethal

means to control predation on such a scale deserves a more thorough review if the facts.

Therefore, we support Alternative “A”—no action—at this time, and until such time as a more comprehensive plan of action is adopted. We urge the Corps to proceed in researching, promoting and adopting a plan that uses the best science to address the issue of dredge spoil dumping, the effects of the dams on predation success, and the loss of habitat on salmonid decline. In the meantime we can support a continued effort to stem the growth of the DCCO colony by limiting their access to preferred habitat.

Our Reasoning:

First, the use of lethal means in the preservation of an endangered species must mean that all other options have been exhausted, and that survival of the species is most immediately connected to predation, as in the case of the Snowy Plover along the Washington coast. This is not the case with DCCO predation of salmonids. It is also the case that, generally, DCCO numbers are well below historical records, and declining. The view of science is that reducing predation alone is no solution: DCCO and bird predation in general is a minor factor when compared with habitat loss, pollution, and dam operation, among other factors. Also, according to your own statistics, the predation rates are highly variable, as are the survival rates of the salmonids in total.

WHAS also questions whether enough attention has been paid to the method and practice of dredge spoil disposal in the LCE, and in the operation of the dams. Dredge spoil dispersal in the estuary and adjoining lands is still in question, outside of a few beneficial instances such as beach replenishment. Credible anecdotal evidence exists of spoils being layered atop existing streaked horned lark nests, for instance. The idea of dumping of spoils well offshore should be reconsidered, with emphasis on replenishment of the beaches north and south of the river’s mouth. There is also some scientific and anecdotal evidence to suggest that the loss of the Spring freshets on the Columbia, that helped flush and hide smolts from predators, has resulted in much greater mortality.

WHAS believes these are authentic concerns that have not been addressed by the Corps and that there remain options to the killing of the East Sand Island DCCO.

WHAS Summer Picnic Impressions



Images by Larry Brandt



Birding and Leisure in Southern Arizona – part two

By Margaret Green

The first phase of the Green's spring trip to Arizona found us wending our way from the New Mexican border, slowly westward from one birding hot spot to another. Every encounter with enthusiastic birders provided additional tips on great spots to visit.

During our 3-day stay in Patagonia, we took one afternoon to head west to one of those recommendations, Pena Blanca Lake, a lovely and quite large lake nestled in dry scrublands near rugged cliffs and canyons. The lake has a



Pena Blanca Lake

wonderful walking trail along its perimeter, as well as picnic tables and camping sites, but is sparsely populated, as it is 10 miles from I-19 and any development. During our exploration of the lakeside trail we sighted Neotropical and Double-crested Cormorants, Mallard Duck and Pied-billed Grebe. The songbirds were more interesting, with a mix of riparian and upland species, including Black Phoebe near the water, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Greater Road Runner, and Black-throated Sparrows in the dry scrub. The lush willows at water's edge held Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, and a Green Heron. We tried to morph an American Kestrel into an Aplomado Falcon (a rarity) with no luck. The highlight of that side adventure was terrific views of a Zone-tailed Hawk, a really rare treat. Its habit of joining a group of Turkey or Black Vultures and imitating their flight pattern, allows it to easily sneak up on prey before diving for the kill. Upon recommendations from a local fisherman we wandered away from the lake into the canyons and encountered the border patrol dealing with some cross-country travelers. These encounters are a bit unsettling and have caused us to shy away from dry camping in isolated areas. The canyons did yield some very social Rock Wrens and the lovely descending song of a far off Canyon Wren echoing from canyon walls.

The corridor along I-19 between Nogales at the Mexican border and SW Tucson is a plethora of historic and natural gems. Running parallel to I-19 is the Santa Cruz River. This is not a large river; we would call it a creek, but water in dry country is where one migrates to find wildlife. There are points where you can access the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historical Trail (known locally as the "Anza trail" which often travels along the river. We stopped at the Mission at Tumacacori National Historic Park. For \$3 or free with a Golden Eagle Pass you can explore the large grounds with native plant life as well as gardens and an orchard, which attract the many songbirds. Here we also saw Cooper's Hawks and three swallow species N.

Rough-winged, Cliff, and Barn, all swooping around the mission. From the mission we traveled 5 miles north on the frontage road along I-19 to the quaint town of Tubac where merchants sell hand made wares; this would have been a fun diversion if we hadn't been so focused on covering as much birding territory as possible. We accessed the Anza Trail from near the city park. The sycamores and willows along the river were full of Gila Woodpeckers, Bell's vireos, and warblers, with Abert's Towhee found along the path and Gray Hawks soaring overhead.

With a deadline to meet, we moved north on I-19 (saving the Chili Factory near Tubac for another trip) toward one of our most favorite places and the promise of Elegant Trogon. Madera Canyon is deep in the Santa Rita Mountains and just 50 miles south of Tucson. We had failed to get a room anywhere in the canyon due to it being "high season", though there are probably less than 25 rooms in the canyon and no eateries. Our favorite layover has always been the Bog Springs Campground, a \$10 first come-first serve Forest Service campground on the hillside, a beautiful spot, where one can look into the canopy to observe, warblers, chickadees and titmice while relaxing in your lawn chairs. The canyon has fabulous hiking trails from leisurely to strenuous. It is a must see for birders who visit SE Arizona.

We had heard the Elegant Trogon had been spotted from the road's-end rest area, which has many very privately-spaced picnic tables and the trailheads venturing into the mountains. Though one had been seen at 6:30 AM that morning, we didn't



Elegant Trogon by Dominic Sherony

arrive until about 10:00 AM. The hunt began. From the parking lot we found the only Townsend Solitaire of the trip, a high elevation thrush-like bird and many woodpecker species. John accosted a hiker exiting a trailhead, and asked about trogon; the man was not a birder, but suggested wayyyyyy up the Carrie Nation Trail. So . . . since the Tucson Audubon website had said a Black-Throated Green Warbler had been seen on that trail, 1 ¼ mile up, that's where we headed. We were not disappointed. It was a wonderful, though strenuous hike, but we found Warbling,

Hutton's, Plumbeous, and Cassin's Vireos, Bridled Titmouse, and watched nesting Northern Flickers, and House Wrens feeding young.

At one point, there was so much activity, we stopped to sit on a huge boulder beside the small creek, and behold in a flock of Townsend's Warbler, we spotted the Black-throated Green Warbler with its green back distinguishing it from the Townsend's, only our second time to see this bird ever! It was a very nice respite, but we were on a mission to find trogon, so we continued to climb, and to climb and climb. Then, at about 3 miles and over our pounding hearts and heavy breathing, the sound came – rather like a turkey, but more like a hoarse barking dog – the trogon. They are a large but very timid bird and silent travelers, so we very slowly and carefully began moving forward on the trail, which skirted the rim of a deep, forested canyon. We could hear the bird far below. We quietly moved and then crouched to our knees listening. Then at the very furthest depth of the canyon probably 100 yards away, in a tree near the creek, we spotted him, still calling. We watched for 30 minutes seeing him fly silently from tree to tree, waiting for Miss Right to respond to his calls, I am sure. We left him in peace, our heart soaring with triumph and the thrill of seeing such a special creature. Mission accomplished and time to head on.

As we drove out of the canyon, we couldn't help ourselves and took a detour to Florida Canyon, one canyon north to search for the Rufous-capped Warbler, which has been found there the last couple years. It is a Mexican species that shows up almost yearly in some SE Arizona locations, but considered a special find. We saw one 3 years ago in this canyon, but even after 2 ½ hours of difficult rock scrambling and bushwhacking along the creek, we did not find the bird. We do not partake in electronic calling of birds for ethical reasons, so decided to leave the bird to its solitary activities for another day. As we exited the canyon we were delighted to see Phainopepla rather abundant in the shrub along the roadside.

Little did we know, we saved the very best destination for the last stop back south and west off I-19. Several years ago we camped near the border at Buenas Aires National Wildlife



Brown Canyon

Refuge (and that's another story). We learned of a protected area of restricted use that is managed by the Refuge. Brown Canyon is accessible only to those joining the twice-monthly guided hikes or to those paying to stay in the canyon at the Casita. Since our first visit to the refuge, we were intrigued by the thought of visiting Brown Canyon, so we scheduled to join 10 other hikers

for the guided hike and a two-day stay in the Casita. An amateur botanist, historian and naturalist volunteer lead a fabulous hike 2 ½ miles into and up the canyon. Once the hike concluded, we were the only humans in the canyon for our two-day stay. It was a true delight of solitude with only wild creatures for neighbors. An early morning walk up a wash introduced Western and Summer Tanagers, Bullock's Oriole, Canyon Towhee, a Lucifer's Hummingbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Our morning breakfasts were eaten on the front porch of the Casita, though we managed little eating with all the bird activity in the trees above. The warblers flitted through, many whose voices were not familiar, but we had certain sightings of Hermit, Virginia's & Tennessee Warbler, two life bird's for both of us. In the guest log for the Casita, I read that during the week prior to our stay, a visitor's early morning walk found them with a large male cougar blocking their return route to the casita, but patience cleared the path as the big cat ambled up the hill. The rare and



The Casita

endangered Jaguar is also known to visit the canyon and we heard coyote and something unnamed calling eerily in the night. The mystery and the Casita beckon us for future stays.

We reluctantly left this place and SE Arizona to head northward toward home. For our trip through California, we took 395 east of the Sierra's by way of the lovely Owen's Valley. East of Yosemite lies Mono Lake, which lies close to the highway and worthy of a visit. We spent early morning hours finding Avocet, White Pelican, Western Sandpipers, Black-billed Magpie, Clark's Nutcracker, and hundreds of Eared Grebes, which congregate in the thousands during nesting season later in the spring. As we headed northward, we stopped at Manzanar, a

Birdfest & Bluegrass 2014 in Ridgefield

Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge staff on October 4th and 5th to celebrate the coming of fall and the wildlife that make the Refuge their home. More at <http://ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfest/>

World War II Internment Camp of great historical importance and a place for reflection. Its very austere and desolate landscape held so many for so long. A Red-eyed vireo appeared to tell us this could be a better place when it is suited to the inhabitants.

We logged 3600 miles and observed 158 species, and many special places. We will return for the richness it offers and hope many of you will be inspired to do so also.

Birdwatching in Australia

By Larry Brandt

Earlier this year my wife and I were fortunate enough to spend 3+ weeks motoring the southeast coast of Australia. The primary purpose of our outing was to visit my university roommate in Brisbane and see relatives in Melbourne. But, as you know, there is always time for a bit of bird watching!

Our first stay was in Brisbane which is the largest metropolitan area in Queensland. Below our hotel, visible from our room, was a small park frequented by the lunch crowd, kids and street vendors. Instead of scavengers like crows, blackbirds, rock doves and sparrows, we were pleased to see dozens of white ibis eating food scraps (grrrr) and insects. We soon joined them for a McDonalds ice cream.

On our second day in Brisbane we visited friends living on the edge of a reserve. Over tea we watched a number of rainbow lorikeets at their backyard feeder. Rainbow lorikeets are a colorful, mid-sized parrot found on the entire East Coast. Australia has 54 species of parrots, lorikeets, parakeets and cockatoos. Unfortunate for us, some are only found in Tasmania and Western Australia. We photographed nine species during our stay.

Our third day in Brisbane included a cruise on the Brisbane river and a visit to a koala sanctuary. We saw sulfur-crested cockatoo, red-tailed cockatoo, rainbow lorikeet, eclectus parrot, laughing kookaburra (their national bird), tawny frogmouth (a nocturnal bird), bush stone-curlew, bush turkey, emu (how exciting!), Australian wood duck, powerful owl, noisy miner, and brahminy kite. Back in Brisbane at Roma street park we saw torresian crow, purple swamp hen, northern mallard duck and more white ibis.



Laughing Kookaburra

Our next opportunity to bird watch was in the Blue Mountains about 150-km north of Sydney. We saw rainbow lorikeets, a wedge-tailed eagle and red-browed finches. We were also fortunate enough to photograph a goanna--a six foot long monitor lizard wandering through our picnic lunch. Driving south, we stopped for snacks in Coolangatta where we enjoyed a willie wagtail, Australian magpie, grey butcherbird, flock of Australia wood ducks and silver gull.

Staying in Port Macquarie we watched the dolphins in the bay from our hotel window. The little estuary adjacent to our hotel provided photos of rainbow lorikeets, house sparrow, Australian pelican, little black cormorant, black-backed butcherbird, chestnut-breasted mannikin, cattle egret, bush stone-curlew and nankeen night heron.

We dared the rustic at a wilderness resort north and west of the Hunter Valley (known for its quality vineyards). I

photographed a blue-winged kookaburra, magpie-lark, little grey gull, scaly-breasted lorikeet, Australian crow, welcome swallow, noisy friarbird, noisy miner, eastern yellow robin (there are 16 species of robin in Australia) and more red-browed finches. Our cabin seemed like the community center for nine eastern red kangaroos and several wallabies. We had constant company! In Melbourne we saw black swans, dusky robin and galah (a



Emu

gorgeous pink and gray parrot).

We drove west of Melbourne about 45 minutes to a reserve to see koalas in the wild. It was quite hot so all our sightings were of koalas sleeping in gum trees--but we saw many. Bird photos included an 18-inch tall sulfur-crested cockatoo eating berries in a tree above our picnic table, a little eagle, cape barren goose, scarlet-chested parrot, emu, black currawong (also called forest raven), black-necked stork, wandering whistling duck, chestnut teal, white-headed stilt and black-footed dotterel.

From Melbourne back to Sydney we spread our drive along the coast over two days. My photos include a pied cormorant and a little pied cormorant, white ibis, Australian raven, osprey and more each of rainbow lorikeet, bush stone-curlew, magpie-lark, galah.

There are 25 species of doves (pigeons) in Australia. Do you think I could find any other than rock doves? On the last hours of our last day down under, I got a poor picture of a crested pigeon sitting on a utility wire in a pouring rain storm. The day was saved!

There are 842 species of resident and migratory birds in Australia. The majority of these can be found on the east coast of the country from Brisbane to Melbourne. Most of this area, except for the towns, is low-altitude dry and rough eucalyptus forest. However, there seems little point in hiking deep into underbrush since the



Royal Spoonbill

underbrush comes right up to the roads. Most of the roads, except for freeways, are one or two lane dirt or asphalt with wide shoulders for cars to get out of the way of barreling semis. The shoulders are excellent for bird watching.

I opted to take a camera instead of binoculars so that I could more easily document sightings. I think it was a good idea! I bought a 200 to 400-mm zoom lens from Amazon just before we departed. I photographed 78 species that I could identify. Another 12 out-of-focus bird pictures will remain forever as unknown.

Loving Hummingbirds to Death

By Kimberly Mason (Excerpt from <http://www.almostdailynews.com/2012/06/08/hummingbirds-dont-love-them-to-death/>
Part two -- Reprinted with permission

If you missed the first part about the care of Hummingbirds check the July/August 2014 issue of the Whistler on our website at <http://whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org>

Western Washington Hummingbirds

The most common visitor in western Washington gardens is the **Rufous Hummingbird**. The Rufous Hummingbird male is known as the most aggressive of all the hummingbirds. He does not tolerate the presence of other males at "their" feeders and will chase anyone who dares to enter their territory.

The male has a rufous head and back (sometimes sprinkled with a little green), a white breast and an orangey red gorget. The females have a green back, light rufous sides and a creamy white breast. **Anna's Hummingbirds** have been known to hang around all winter in western Washington backyards. According to Cornell's Birds of North America, the Anna's Hummingbird has moved northward, increasing their range, taking advantage of the feeding opportunities in gardens filled with exotic, ornamental plants and the hummingbird lovers



Male Rufous Hummingbird

© 2012 Kimberly Mason almostdailynews.com

catering to their nectar needs throughout the winter.

The Anna's Hummingbird female is less conspicuously garbed than the male, wearing a quiet combination of grey and iridescent green. The male Anna's carries an impressive rose red "bib" that covers his entire head and neck. Both males and females have iridescent emerald green backs and grayish underparts.

The **Calliope Hummingbird** has been seen in western Washington recently (the sighting of a Calliope on the westside always causes the Tweeters to get a little



Female Anna's Hummingbird

© 2012 Kimberly Mason / almostdailynews.com

twitterpated), but it is a rare visitor here and prefers the east side and the mountains. The Calliope is smaller than the resident Rufous Hummingbirds. The males' gorget feathers are long pinkish red streaks of color extending from under the bill and down their throat.

Hummingbirds are the sparkling jewels of summer. If you decide to commit the time and energy to care for them, they will reward you with the gift of their beauty, their easy buzzy-charms, remarkable aerial displays, and quirky antics. If you don't have the time or energy to commit to their scrupulous care, consider planting a hummingbird garden instead.

Visit the

<http://www.almostdailynews.com/galleries/hummingbirds/> to see more close-up shots.



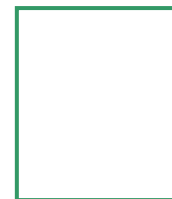
Female Rufous Hummingbird

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Thank's to Larry Turner for making this article possible.



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Longview, WA 98632



The *Willapa Whistler* is the quarterly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Complimentary copies are available for free on our website.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Send in your stories & photos

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of February, May, August and November. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

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WHAS Programs and Field Trips

WHAS events are free and open to the public (Unless otherwise noted). Check the website calendar for the latest information and updates.

Saturday, September 13, Vaux Swifts

Join the WHAS swift counting crew on Saturday, Sept. 13th, to get a one-hour encounter with the southbound migration of Vaux's Swifts as they pour into the chimney of the Carpet One building in Rainier around sunset. The birds will roost there for the night before heading for Chapman School in Portland and points south. Meet at the flagpole in front of Rainier City Hall -- 1st Street & Highway 30 -- at 6:45 pm with blanket and chair, binoculars and/or scope, camera, and a snack. This will be fun for kids and adults too. For more info and to sign up, contact trip leader Darrel Whipple at 503-556-9838 or dwhipple@opusnet.com.

Saturday, October 25, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

We will be visiting Ridgefield NWR, leaving Longview from the Green's house (which is now green in color too.) for carpooling, at 8:00 AM, returning to Longview between 12:00 and 1:00 PM. Dress for the weather, but we will spend most of the time on the auto route, with a couple short walks. Bring a snack and water or beverage. We are expecting migrant waterfowl, cranes, eagles, and hawks as well as the resident birds. To sign up and get details, call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email jgreen2317@aol.com.

Saturday, December 6, Annual Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk and Social

This has been an annual event for almost 10 years. We will meet at 8:30 AM at Hemlock Square and Kessler at Lake Sacajawea in Longview, to spend a couple hours checking out the bird life before retiring to the Green's. We will have tea, coffee, or chocolate and some snacks available in the dry and warmth while viewing backyard birds. The conversation is always fun and lively. To sign up, call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email jgreen2317@aol.com.

Christmas Bird Count dates for 2014:

Cowlitz-Columbia: Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015

Leadbetter: Saturday, Dec. 20

Wahkiakum: Tuesday, Dec. 30

Check the winter *Whistler* in December for all the details on how to sign up and where to meet up.

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

Check out our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org