

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Red-breasted Sapsucker - Image courtesy of Beth and Royce Craig

Program: The Natural World Puts on a Show

By Larry Brandt

This fall Willapa Hills Audubon will host a program by well-known Washington photographer, naturalist and historian **Alan Bauer**. Alan is a professional photographer specializing in the natural history of the Pacific Northwest and coverage of local history. He is a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest, having grown up on a large family farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley and now calling Washington State his home for the past 29 years.

The title of his program is "***The Natural World Puts On a Show--Celebrating What's Right With the World!***"

Celebrate what's right with the world! Sometimes we just have to slow down or look more closely, but there is always something fascinating to appreciate right around us. Come spend an evening with professional photographer Alan L. Bauer as he shares an image intensive presentation sharing many of his personal celebrations. From hiking to birding to just standing still looking at what's nearby, everywhere is something worth celebrating and making each day a better experience!

His work has been published in Backpacker, Odyssey, Northwest Runner, CityDog, Northwest Outdoors, Northwest Magazine, Oregon Coast, and Northwest Travel magazines to name a few. Alan is perhaps best known in the region for his photography and co-author work with publisher The Mountaineers Books as part of the new "Day Hiking" guidebook series. Waste Management, Columbia Basin Credit Union, University Volkswagen/Audi (Seattle) Seattle Children's Hospital, Bicycle Adventures, the City of Duvall (WA), and the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge represent some of the recent corporate sales of Alan's images.

Alan's program is scheduled on **November 15 from 7:00 pm until 8:00pm at the Lower Columbia College Science Lecture Hall**. Admission is free and coffee and tea will be provided. For last-minute directions/changes due to weather etc check our website.

Charlotte Persons Retires

By Margaret Green

Long-time WHAS Board member Charlotte Persons has recently resigned from the WHAS Board of Directors. This decision comes after many years of tireless work as a Chapter leader. Charlotte served several terms as Secretary and then President. Her work as Conservation Committee co-chair ran concurrent with her work in these other capacities.

Charlotte penned many a comment or proposal on behalf of WHAS to support our work in conserving wildlife habitat, protecting wildlife, and opposing projects that were detrimental to these causes and the WHAS mission.

She continually made herself available for Earth Day and County Fair booths, Christmas Bird Counts, and many other projects for the chapter.

Charlotte's dedication has been admired and greatly appreciated by her fellow board members and all others who were aware of her work. She plans to remain active in conservation and environmental issues but will look for a new venue and role to focus these efforts.

Many, many thanks to Charlotte for stamina and the priceless contribution of time and expertise.

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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.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Y14:7XCH rev. 2007

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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Wildlife Sightings: **vacant**

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Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Mail

Other options:

- ☐ 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*

12th Annual Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 9-11, 2016 in Edmonds Washington

This annual 3-day festival celebrates birds and nature on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound with speakers, guided walks and field trips, Puget Sound boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults.

For more information visit: www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org

Birdfest & Bluegrass Festival Ridgefield

October 1 & 2, 2016 in Ridgefield Washington

This year the Ridgefield NWR Birdfest & Bluegrass Festival will be held during the first weekend of October

The schedule of activities was not available at the time of printing, so check the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge website later for details.

Everyone is invited and there will be plenty of kids' activities as well as walks and talks on birding, archaeology, cultural history, and geology.

ACOW Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 2016 in Wenatchee, Washington

ACOW is a state-wide meeting where members from all Audubon Chapters in Washington gather together for a weekend of information sharing, action opportunities, and fellowship. The theme of this year's meeting is the management of public lands and how the Audubon network can successfully engage in planning and management decisions to build resilient ecosystems that benefit birds and other wildlife. Agenda and Information:

<http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-council-washington>

Fallen Leaf Nature Niche update

THANK YOU, LCC!

Willapa Hills Audubon Society wishes to thank LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE for generously housing the FALLEN LEAF NATURE NICHE in the McLaughlin Community Resource Center in the new Health and Science Building. Since March 1, our Fallen Leaf Nature Niche has been a free nature center offering hands-on, fun, informal and personalized experiences in natural science to the community.

We showed people rocks, shells, bones, cones, insects, sea animals, plants, feathers, and nests. We made

By Ann Cordero

helicopters out of maple keys. We did crystal growing, water experiments, and art projects. The Science Department lent us two microscopes: we saw things closely. We offered a book collection about nature for circulation. We played with animal puppets and watched nature videos.

And we had a lot of fun!

Now that Lower Columbia College has another use for Room HSB 103, we don't want our community to miss out on ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION!

Come Play with Us!

THE GAME

Go outside

Look closely and carefully at your surroundings

Use your library

Ask questions

Do experiments

Watch nature programs

Enjoy natural objects

Attend science events

Observe wildlife, plants, and rocks

Be curious

Care about your world

Reuse, reduce, recycle

Appreciate beauty

Go to school and keep on learning

Talk about nature

Be kind to animals

Travel

Explore

Visit museums and zoos

THE RULES

Be Safe

Be Responsible

Be Respectful

YOU CAN DO IT!

Ask your friends and neighbors, we're here to help!

If you know a space where the Fallen Leaf Nature Niche (see last newsletter for more information) can set up again please contact Ann Cordero at 360-622-8764

Cowlitz County Birdlist

By Russ Koppendrayner

As is fairly typical of the July - August period we added only a few species, primarily regular species that we had missed earlier and some that we find most years, but also sometimes miss.

Coming up is that late fall and early winter season which can be most productive for vagrants that have never

The Cowlitz County bird list as well as bird lists for Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties and Lake Sacajawea are available on our website at <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/wildlife-watching>

been encountered in the county before or only once or twice. Many times these are young birds that get their migration route a little confused.

Let's get out there and enjoy the movement of the birds.

Mary Ellen Covert Remembrance

By Kay Beck

A longtime member of WHAS, Mary Ellen Covert, passed away in August, 2016, at the age of 101. Mary Ellen served on the WHAS Board from 1977-2002, taking only one summer off as far as we can tell. Through the years she changed hats—Field Trips, Treasurer, Finance, Secretary (3 or more), Director -at-large, and Publicity (8 or more). Some years she tackled more than one position.

The Presidents could always count on her to step up and do a conscientious job. Shirley Lutz welcomed her and several others to her dining room table to fold, label and stamp the

Whistlers. They shared many laughs. She remained physically active well into her 90's. When Darrel Whipple called to invite her to a "WHAS Old Timers" dinner Mary Ellen (age 94) declined the invitation because it conflicted with her Folk Dancing Class.

Her son shared that her goal was to live to be as old as Hazel Wolf, Audubon Chapter Facilitator extraordinaire. Goal achieved Mary Ellen, and thank you for your dedication and hard work to support the mission of WHAS.

Murder Mystery

By Suzy Whitley



Titled: Blood & Guts

Adult Content

Rated: "V" for Violence

The Mystery – I have no idea who the victim was. The feathers are all gray (like a gray jay, although I have never had one here.) I have run through the list of birds that come to my yard and none of them are the color of the feathers. In the video I took one more clue - the "arm pits" on the bird were white. At least, the Sharp shinned Hawk had a good feast.

Vaux's Swifts are starting to roost in the chimney of Carpet One in Rainier

By Darrel Whipple

Linda Jennings reported that on Saturday, August 13, 259 Vaux's Swifts roosted in the chimney of Carpet One in Rainier, across highway 30 from the City Hall.. And on Monday, August 15, she counted 374 using the chimney. People wishing to check out this phenomenon for themselves will have the best chance from half an hour before sunset until half an hour after sunset.

The southward migration of the swifts from all over the Northwest usually starts in September, affording us more opportunities to view hundreds of them entering the chimney.

You can park along Highway 30 or along A Street, or in parking lots nearby.

Image: Chapman school in Portland by Kat+Sam -
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/39871249@N07/5398763612>



State Fears Extinction of Marbled Murrelets

You can help the Marbled Murrelet! Support listing as endangered in Washington State. This article is published here with the permission of Maria Ruth. It will appear in Black Hills Audubon's Sept./Oct. newsletter. Maria Ruth is a dedicated advocate for this iconic seabird; many of you know her through her book Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet.

By Maria M. Ruth

The past decades have not been kind to the Marbled Murrelet. Across its range, from Alaska south to central California, this imperiled seabird has suffered severe population declines—primarily from the loss and fragmentation of the forests where it nests, but also from predation, oil spills at sea, net fishing, and depletion of the small fish it feeds on.

The situation is so dire in Washington, that the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) has recommended elevating the protective status of marbled murrelets from threatened to endangered. Between 2001 and 2015, Washington's murrelet population numbers dropped 44 percent. Wildlife biologists believe the marbled murrelet could become extirpated in the state within the next several decades if solutions aren't found to address threats to this species.

The WDFW is seeking public comment on their uplisting recommendation. Deadline for comment is October 10. Please see information below on how to submit your comments and participate in this critical conservation action.

The WDFW uplisting recommendations and draft status review are available online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/status_review/. Comments on the reviews and recommendations can be submitted by October 10, via email to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to

Hannah Anderson,
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,
600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

WDFW staff members are tentatively scheduled to discuss the reviews and recommendations with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission at its November 2016 meeting in Olympia. (Meeting dates and times were not

confirmed at the Whistlers press time; please go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/> for this information.

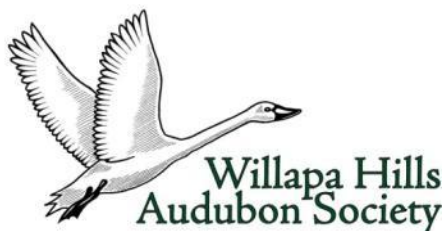
What solutions might be found to help save the marbled murrelet? Habitat conservation is key. Currently, the management of 1.3 million acres of nesting habitat in western Washington is being decided. This acreage is public land—forested state trust lands—managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In October 2015, the DNR and U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved six alternative strategies to manage this land in a way that both protects marbled murrelets (by not logging) and generates revenue (by logging) for trust beneficiaries (schools, hospitals, libraries, and various state services). These six strategies will be analyzed in a Draft



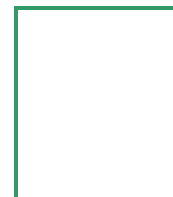
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is expected to be released by the DNR and USFWS by the end of 2016—a mere 19 years after DNR's "interim" Long-Term Conservation Strategy was approved.

The public will have a chance to comment on the DEIS. Information on how to participate in the DEIS—perhaps the most critical stage of the protracted process of developing a conservation strategy—will be available in future issues of the Whistler and on the the WHAS website. Background information is available here: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources>.

Many local chapters statewide and Audubon Washington—have been stalwart advocates of the Marbled Murrelet and have successfully fought for a science-based conservation strategy that will do the most to help protect this imperiled species. Please support their efforts to give the murrelets a fighting chance.



PO Box 399
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.

November 15 from 7:00 pm until 8:00pm at the Lower Columbia College Science Lecture Hall

The Natural World Puts on a Show--Celebrating What's Right With the World!, presented by Alan Bauer.

More info on page one.

Christmas Bird Counts 2016

Leadbetter: December 17, 2016

Wahkiakum: December 27, 2016

Cowlitz Columbia: January 1, 2017

Please check the Winter Whistler in December for the details.

Other fall plans will appear on our website and will be announced through our gmail alert system. More information about the alert system here: <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/member-services>

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