

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Winter 2014



Sandhill Cranes and Blue Heron at Woodland bottoms

Image by Keith Ikerd

Annual Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk and Social

This has been an annual event for almost 10 years. We will meet on Saturday, December 6th 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.

Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys

By Carlos Abbruzzese

With all the fall and winter rains, local ponds and wetlands are filling up again and it's time to pull on your waders and prepare for the upcoming amphibian egg mass count season. We will continue surveying several sites in Cowlitz County and there are opportunities to help with surveys in Clark County as well.

If you haven't been involved in the amphibian egg mass counts before, they are loads of fun and a great way to get kids out in nature. This citizen science effort is important in gathering information on local amphibian population trends by identifying and counting egg masses in local wetlands. Often you'll see adult amphibians (and birds, and other wildlife) as well during surveys. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to adopt a site and take the lead in conducting three surveys.

If you have never taken part or would like a refresher on how to identify egg masses and adult amphibians the Clark County based, Southwest Washington Amphibian Monitoring Project will hold a training on Saturday February 7th. More information can be found at <http://www.swampproject.org/>.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information please contact Carlo Abbruzzese at carlo.abbruzzese@dnr.wa.gov or 360-584-2802.

Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by WHAS

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is citizen-science at its best. You can help with this effort, whether you have ever gone bird watching or not. You will have the opportunity to meet new people with interests in birds, or spend time with friends from previous years.

Observant eyes are needed for that day: the more the better. You can point out where you see birds and experts in your group can do the identifying; if you do know some of the birds in your area, so much the better.

This is your chance to help collect the information which will direct decisions in the future, decisions which will affect how much natural beauty, including birds, remains for future generations.

Bring your binoculars if you have some, boots, warm clothes and a lunch, and join us for a day outside, looking closely at some of Nature's most interesting creatures, sharing the day with people who have similar interests.

WHAS sponsors the following CBC's:

- Leadbetter Point
- Wahkiakum
- Cowlitz

If you happen to live within the Count circle you can count birds at your feeder that day.

...see page 3 for details

In this issue of the Whistler:

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- 6 Field trips and programs

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 _____

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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.

-----Clip

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*

OFFICERS

President: **George Exum**
360-431-1174 president@willapahillsaudubon.org
Vice-President: **Steve Puddicombe**
503-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org
Secretary: **Carol Carver**
360-849-4324 secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org
Treasurer: **Linda Jennings**
dljennings@opusnet.com
Director at Large: **Stephen Glucoft**
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net
Director at Large: **John Gross**

Director at Large: **Larry Brandt**
360-200-4580 lbrandt@cni.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: **Charlotte Persons**
360-431-1174 cpeople2u@gmail.com
Hospitality: **Gloria Nichols**
360-636-3793 jgnt@comcast.net
Program: **vacant**

Field Trip: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Membership: **Margaret Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Education: **Darrel Whipple**
503-556-9838 education@willapahillsaudubon.org
Finance: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Newsletter: **Ludger Wöhrmann**
360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org
Publicity: **Stephen Glucoft**
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net

OTHER

Indian Jack Slough Stdshp: **Russ & Ann Kastberg**
360-430-5541 rkastberg@cni.net
Wildlife Sightings: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Website: **Ludger Wöhrmann**
360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

In Memory of Bill Lammi

By Darrel Whipple

A memorial service for Bill Lammi was held at 1 pm Monday, November 17, at the Sons of Norway Hall in Longview. Bill, 70, was killed in an accident on November 7th. He was the son of Joe and Eleanor Lammi, longtime WHAS members who created the Wake Robin Learning Center on Coal Creek through their wills to benefit the students of the Longview School District for as long as the district wished to sponsor outdoor learning programs there. Bill served as the contact person for the Lammi family during the years covered by the lease of the land to the district.

WHAS volunteers remember pleasant conversations with Bill during Forestry Days each year as he stopped by the WHAS wildlife station. Bill clearly loved tramping around the site with the many fifth grade groups as they visited their various learning stations.

He will be missed by all who knew him as a generous, caring and humble man.

Birding with Children – Resources

- [Kid's Birding](http://kidsbirding.org), a birding blog for children (kidsbirding.org)
- [American Birding Association Young Birder Blog](http://youngbirders.aba.org/) (youngbirders.aba.org/)

12th Annual Olympic Birdfest

April 10-12, 2015 in Sequim, WA

A bird watching vacation for beginners to experts, from leisurely strolls to active hikes. Bird for a few hours, or all day; from the dawn chorus to the evening owl prow. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, silent auction, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: Lynsy Smithson Stanley, "Climate Change as a 'Bird Issue'." BirdFest program information and registration can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Christmas Bird Counts 2014



Leadbetter CBC

This is the 115th annual Christmas Bird Count. The Leadbetter Count Circle includes the Pacific Ocean beaches on the Long Beach Peninsula, Willapa Bay's east shore mid-point on the peninsula to the tip of Leadbetter point on the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and the west side of the bay from the Naselle River north to Bay Center, WA. (See map)

People with any level of birding experience can participate. It is a great opportunity to see shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. Novice birders will be accompanied by more experienced birders so that all data collected is accurate.

Citizen scientist's volunteers, who annually brave the wind and rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use the data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

For the **Wahkiakum CBC**, the area includes portions of the Skamokawa, Puget Island, Cathlamet, and Brownsmead areas.

For the **Cowlitz-Columbia CBC**, count circle areas include East Oregon, West Oregon, South Washington, East Washington, West Washington, and North Washington. We will be out for an 8 hour period covering an area 15 mile diameter circle looking for any birds that will let us see them.

Please plan to join us this year. It is a great way to start out the New Year.



House Finches

Image courtesy of WDFW

Ongoing Citizen Science at home "Project Feeder Watch"

Here is a fun opportunity to participate in bird related research, from the comfort of your home.

The **Project Feeder Watch with Cornell Bird Laboratory** will go from November until April, but one can sign up until the end of February. It runs for 21 weeks and involves counting birds at one's feeders or just in a bird-friendly habitat that one has provided. This is usually done in backyards. Birds are counted for two days every week or two (at least 5 days between a pair of counting days), and the results are submitted to the Laboratory for research and analysis. There is a \$15 participation fee which provides you with a "research kit" which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and a tally sheet—everything you need to start counting your birds. U.S. participants receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, BirdScope. You do not have to spend a lot of time watching; some people do it before and after work, or 5 minutes each hour, or whatever structure works for you.

For more information and to sign up, visit

<http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

See the box below for details about all Willapa Hills Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Counts.

CBC Where and When?

Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count:

Saturday, December 20, 2014

To participate in the Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count contact Suzy Whittey in Long Beach, WA at suzy@reachone.com.

Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

Tuesday, December 30th 2014

For more information and/or to sign up contact Andrew Emlen by phone 360-795-8009 or email: aemlen@centurytel.net

Cowlitz – Columbia Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, January 1st 2015

To sign up, call Bob Reistroffer 360-636-5125 or breistrof@aol.com. He'll form teams or you can put together your own team for the area of your choice. He will get information to all participants by mid-December when teams are figured out.

Sign up soon – Bob will be out of town Christmas week.

Bob has reserved the back room at the Masthead Restaurant, 1210 Ocean Beach Hwy for the compilation meeting. He told them counters would arrive between 4:30 and 5pm. A map and driving directions will be provided to all participants.

HOPE TO SEE YOU 1-1-15 !

Crowd Attends Rail and Marine Oil Transportation Hearing

Submitted by Margaret Green, from Diane Dick, President Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community (LCSC)



Over twenty-five Cowlitz County residents attended the October 30 Oil Transportation hearing in Olympia. Comments were being taken on the Oil Transportation Safety report prepared at the request of Governor Inslee. The hours-long hearing drew over 700 participants, including elected officials and organizations from across the state and tribal nations. There was also opportunity for all to make written comments. LCSC and other citizens spoke out articulately and with passion

regarding the dangers to communities and citizens from fossil fuel transport. There was a general call to action to the Governor for safer and healthier communities.

More info about dangerous oil trains and oil export terminals is found on the website of the Washington Department of Ecology, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/oilmovement>

Bird Resources

The Washington State Audubon website has some great resources on birds.

- [BirdWeb](http://birdweb.org) by Seattle Audubon Society (birdweb.org)
- [Backyard Birds](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/) by Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/)
- Birds of Washington by [Washington Ornithological Society](http://wos.org/checklists.html) (wos.org/checklists.html)
- [eBird](http://ebird.org), a real-time, online checklist program, providing global tools for birders and critical data for science (ebird.org)
- Stories about birds, the environment, and more at [BirdNote](http://birdnote.org) (birdnote.org)

Go to <http://wa.audubon.org/bird-resources> for more details.

Winter is a **WONDERFUL** time
to bird in the Klamath Basin

WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

February 12-15, 2015
Featuring: **RICHARD CROSSLEY**
and **JENNIFER WU**

**NEW BIRDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
FIELD TRIPS, WORKS SHOPS,
AND MINI SESSIONS**
Many old favorites, too

Registration begins in early December
at WinterWingsFest.org

"To Do" list from your backyard wildlife family

Your family may be making those fall outdoor chore lists, as daylight hours shrink, temperatures drop, and the urge grows to "batten down the hatches" in the yard and garden.

Here's another "to do" list from your local wildlife "family" that you may find easier to check off:

- Leave some "dead heads" on your flowering plants to provide seeds for some of us birds and other animals
- If you must rake leaves off grass lawns, just pile them under some shrubs, bushes or other nooks and crannies to provide homes for those insects that we birds love to eat; leaves make great mulch to help your plants, anyway!
- Keep that dead or dying tree right where it is (unless, of course, it's truly a hazard to you), so we can feast on the insects in the rotting wood or make winter roosts or dens in its cavities

The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can see the Willapa Whistler in color online on our website? All the links are easy to follow. Go to <http://whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org> for this and past issues.

- Give yourself and your mower a rest for at least a portion of your lawn so we've got a patch of taller grass to hide and forage in
- Save just a little of that dead bramble thicket for us - it makes great winter cover and we don't need much! Fall is a good time to plant shrubs, so replace invasive, exotic Himalayan and cutleaf blackberries with native plants of higher wildlife value like blackcap (native black raspberry) or red raspberry; native currants or gooseberries found in your area; or native roses such as Nootka or baldhip.
 - Pile up any brush or rocks you clear around your place to give us another option for nests and dens
 - Take it easy on yourself and let go of the "perfect" garden image; we wild animals like less tidy, "fuzzy" places because there's usually more food and shelter there
- Get yourself a comfortable chair, sit back, and congratulate yourself on having made a home for wildlife and a haven of relaxation for yourself!

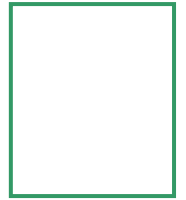
Thank's to Larry Turner for making this article possible

Impressions from the 10year no-LNG Anniversary





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

The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.



Please recycle your *Whistler* or pass it on to a friend.

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, 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 page three for all the details on how to sign up and where to meet up.

Saturday, January 10, 2015 - Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge

We will visit this special refuge in Wahkiakum County in search of waterfowl and any other seasonal species. Across the highway, is the Indian Jack Slough property, which is being restored by Columbia Land Trust, with WHAS in partnership. The natural Sitka spruce swamp being restored to its historic wonders, is a great habitat area worth exploring as well.

Saturday, February 14, 2015 - Vancouver Lake

Just outside Vancouver, this large lake should offer cranes and waterfowl for mid-winter viewing. Recently a visiting cattle egret, from points south, was seen in the area and excited area birders.

In **early March** we plan our yearly trip to Woodland Bottoms to search for nesting owls, eagles, and heron rookeries.

To sign up for the trips and for further details, please email jgreen2317@aol.com or call 360-575-9238, John Green.

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