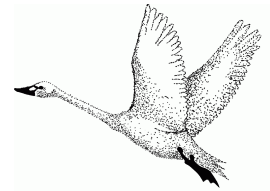


# **WILLAPA WHISTLER**

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*



**Volume 35, Issue 1**

**January/February 2009**

## **Your Part in the Future of WHAS**

**By Charlotte Persons, *President***

Happy New Year! This is traditionally the time to look back over the past year's accomplishments and to make plans for the future. As an all volunteer organization, WHAS is only as strong as its members make it. I appeal to you to include WHAS in your plans for 2009. Please consider how to donate a few hours of your time to help WHAS accomplish its goals.

WHAS has lots to celebrate from last year: excellent programs, presentations, and field trips; successful Christmas Bird Counts; a fascinating newsletter; and hands-on outreach to many children and their parents. On the conservation side, we helped defeat two development proposals—the coal-fired power plant in Kalama that would have created 20% of the CO<sub>2</sub> pollution in Washington State, and the copper mine on the very border of Mount St. Helens National Monument. We also participated in long-term projects that reached important milestones. As stewards for the Columbia Land Trust's Nelson Creek property by the Julia Butler Hanson Refuge, our members and Lower Columbia College's Biology Club helped carry out the baseline biological surveys. With Gray's Harbor



Flicker at Birdfeeder, photo: WDFW

Audubon Society we completed a grant to help track and protect the threatened snowy plover in its nesting sites on the coast.

So what will this next year bring? Our members and the public expect the same level of excellence for our newsletter, programs, presentations, bird counts, and field trips. With grants and member donations, we hope to erect at least half of the Deery Memorial Interpretive Signs for Lake Sacagawea. The conservation front always brings surprises, but we can plan for some projects. For example, the WHAS board voted to become part of a lawsuit against the Bradwood LNG terminal if the current appeals are rejected. We are encouraged that the governors of Oregon and Washington have also filed suit on many of the same grounds, and by the possibility of new appointments to FERC. We will continue to give input to the Mount St. Helens Advisory Committee, which will make recommendations in January on whether the Monument should become a National Park. We are beginning to work with other groups concerned about development of present timberlands on the Monument's borders.

Many hours from dedicated volunteers are what make all of this possible. But in WHAS less than 10% are doing the actual work. We need some NEW folks to become involved, especially in the Conservation, Education, Program and Nelson Creek committees. Whether you can offer only a few hours during one month or a couple hours each week, any of those committee chairs would love to hear from you.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **Primal Warblings**

"...we can penetrate into that region where the air is music, we hear those primal warblings, and attempt to write them down..." (from Ralph Waldo Emerson's *The Poet*)

If you readers have a favorite poem on this topic, we would appreciate your contributions. The poem can be your original work or a poem you like. Don't forget to include your name, phone or e-mail, and a note describing your connection to birds. We will be compiling a file for future reference, so please bear this in mind as you write and enjoy birding. Send contributions or suggestions to *WHAS - Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632* or email [audubon@rivertimes.net](mailto:audubon@rivertimes.net).

## **OR ELSE**

Whatever the sparrow saw in the window  
Probably resembled nothing as hard as glass,  
maybe appeared to be a tunnel to the sky, a house  
wrapped around it the way a bridge frames a river.

The way desire and fear cup the unknown  
sometimes like two hands around a sip of water  
or maybe a whisper, letting it slip through  
just enough to pull a listener with it.

Whatever pulled the sparrow into the window  
did so beak and talon and wing.

Did so feather and bone and no hesitation.  
After that, the last grounded flapping, the letting go.

Seeing this happen, you might take it as a sign  
that what you once thought was the way might not be.

Might be exactly its opposite, reflected.  
Might be the end of forgiveness, in fact,

Like glass from which there is no turning back.  
Or else you still might insist it's nothing at all like  
that.

From: Joseph Green THE END OF FORGIVENESS  
Floating Bridge Press, 2001

*Joe Green is a Longview, WA poet and English instructor  
at Lower Columbia College.*

## **In this issue of the Whistler:**

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**Check out our website at <http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>**

Support our mission, join WHAS today!

**Check type of Membership**

- ☐ 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 6 issues of the WHISTLER newsletter annually.

If you are also interested in the membership in the National Audubon Society, please visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to: WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to

**WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632**

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- ☐ Phone  
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Please:

- ☐ contact me about volunteer opportunities  
☐ add me to your general discussion email list

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**Thank you for supporting the Willapa Hills Audubon Society!**

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**WHAS Board News**

Ann Musché and Alan Richards hosted the WHAS Board meeting on December 7, 2008 at their house, and we enjoyed a delicious holiday potluck meal afterwards. Here are some highlights you might like to get involved with:

**No to LNG** – Rally on January 13, Salem — Organized by Columbia Riverkeeper; This event is to keep the issue before voters and legislators. Call Gloria McKenzie at 503.556.8353 if you would like to join WHAS members who will attend.

**Harold and Ruth Deery Memorial** — Margaret Green has been investigating potential artists for the Interpretive Signs. WHAS has applied for Audubon Washington and Longview City grants. Subsequent to the board meeting, we received \$500 from Audubon WA and \$500 from the Longview Tourism board. Including the \$1500 in member donations, the total dollars will now cover half of one of the two signs planned, with \$800 reserved for the second sign (2010). We plan to apply for a Longview Parks matching funds grant so the first sign can be erected this year. We will continue to apply for grants and accept donations to carry this project to completion. Call Margaret Green at 360.575.9238, if you wish to serve on this task force.

**Proposed Development on Mount St. Helens** — Charlotte Persons sent a letter of support to the Cowlitz County Commissioners for a moratorium on development on current forest lands outside fire district protection. If passed, the moratorium will start the clock ticking for zoning. This was sparked by a Weyerhaeuser land sale in the Five Lakes area just southwest of the borders of the Monument. This area was originally proposed in 1984 to be included in the Monument, but was excluded so timbering could be finished. If you would like to be part of a coalition of environmental, fishing, and hunting groups working to save this area from development as well as a long-term legislative solution to a growing state-wide problem, contact Charlotte Persons at 360.578.3949.

**Annual Meeting** — March 7, 2008, Venue to be announced. The program will be presented by our own Andrew Emlen, who will give a presentation on appreciating and attracting bats.

**Next WHAS Board Meeting** – All members are invited to the next meeting, which will be in the Cathlamet area on March 1. Contact Charlotte Persons at 360.578.3949 for time, place and carpooling information.

## Not Just for Kissing: Mistletoe and Birds

Found at <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/special/mistletoe/>

Perhaps some of you have already experienced a sweet holiday smooch or two under the Christmas mistletoe, enjoying this fairly old kissing ritual for people. But mistletoe is important in other vital ways: it provides essential food, cover, and nesting sites for an amazing number of critters in the United States and elsewhere. In fact, says Rob Bennetts, a USGS research scientist, some animals couldn't even survive without mistletoe, including some birds, butterflies, and insects. But first, a little bit about the plant. The white-berried Christmas mistletoe we hang so hopefully in places where our sweethearts will find us lingering, is just one of more than 1,300 species of mistletoe worldwide. Globally, more than 20 mistletoe species are endangered. Two kinds of mistletoes are native to the United States: the American mistletoe (the one commonly associated with our kissing customs) and the dwarf mistletoe. American mistletoe is found from New Jersey to Florida and west through Texas. The dwarf mistletoe, much smaller than its *kissing* cousin, is found from central Canada and southeastern Alaska to Honduras and Hispaniola, but most species are found in western United States and Mexico. Mistletoe is no newcomer to this country: excavations of packrat middens reveal that dwarf mistletoes have been part of our forests for more than 20,000 years. Some fossil pollen grains even indicate that the plant has been here for millions of years. Says Bennetts: "Mistletoes should be viewed as a natural component of healthy forest ecosystems, of which they have been a part for thousands, if not millions of years."

### Thief of the Tree

The thing that all mistletoes have in common is this: all grow as parasites on the branches of trees and shrubs. In fact, the American mistletoe's scientific name, *Phoradendron*, means "thief of the tree" in Greek. The plant is aptly named: it begins its life as a handily sticky seed that often hitchhikes to a new host tree on a bird beak or feather or on mammal fur. In addition to hitchhiking, the dwarf mistletoe also has another dandy way of traveling to a new host tree: the seeds of this mistletoe will, like tiny holiday poppers, explode from ripe berries, shooting a distance as far as 50 feet. One researcher said that if you put ripe berries in a paper bag and shake it, it sounds just like popping popcorn. For the most part, the mistletoe is pretty darn cavalier about what host tree it finds — dwarf mistletoes like most kinds of conifers; American mistletoes are found on an incredible variety of trees. Once on a host tree, the mistletoe sends out roots that penetrate the tree and eventually starts pirating some of the host tree's nutrients and minerals. In actuality, though, mistletoes are not true parasites;

instead they are what scientists call "hemi-parasites" because most of them have the green leaves necessary for photosynthesis. Still, it seems like a pretty lazy life for most mistletoes: a little photosynthesis here and there and a lot of food and water stolen from their unsuspecting benefactor trees. Eventually, mistletoes grow into thick masses of branching, misshapen stems, giving rise to a popular name of witches' brooms, or the apt Navajo name of "basket on high."



### Birds and the Mistletoe Trees

The plant's common name — mistletoe — is derived from early observations that mistletoe would often appear in places where birds had left their droppings. "Mistel" in the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung," and "tan" is the word for "Twig." Thus, mistletoe means "dung-on-a-twig." Yet even though bird droppings cannot spontaneously generate mistletoe plants, birds are an important part of mistletoe life history — and vice versa. A surprising variety of birds use or rely on mistletoe. In Bennetts' and other studies, a high abundance of dwarf mistletoe in a forest means that more kinds and numbers of birds inhabit that forest.

Also, since the lifespan of mistletoe-laden trees is considerably shorter than trees where the plant is absent, a higher number of tree snags occupy mistletoe-laden woods. Not surprisingly, this means that more — one study documented at least three times as many -- cavity-nesting birds live in forests with abundant mistletoes. The phainopeplas, a silky flycatcher, are beautiful birds that live in the desert areas of the Southwest and West and are especially dependent on mistletoe. Diane Larson, a USGS researcher, studied mistletoes and birds in Arizona. "I found that phainopeplas, which rely on mistletoe almost exclusively for food during the winter, were also the species most likely to disperse the mistletoe seeds to sites suitable for germination and establishment."



Both the bird and the plant benefited from this relationship," says Larson. But the phainopepla is just one of many birds that eat mistletoe berries; others include grouse, mourning doves, bluebirds, evening grosbeaks, robins, and pigeons. Naturalist and writer John Muir noted American robins eating mistletoe in the mountains of California in the late 1890's. Wrote Muir: "I found most of the robins cowering on the lee side of the

larger branches of the trees, where the snow could not fall on them, while two or three of the more venturesome were making desperate efforts to get at the mistletoe berries by clinging to the underside of the snow-covered masses, back downward,

something like woodpeckers." Birds also find mistletoe a great place for nesting, especially the dense witches' brooms. In fact, northern and Mexican spotted owls and other raptors show a marked preference for witches' brooms as nesting sites. In one study, 43 percent of spotted owl nests were associated with witches' brooms. Similarly, a USGS researcher found that 64 percent of all Cooper's hawk nests in northeastern Oregon were in mistletoe. Other raptors that use witches' brooms as nesting sites include great gray owls, long-eared owls, goshawks, and sharp-shinned hawks. Likewise, some migratory birds also nest in witches' broom — gray jay, northern beardless-tyrannulet, red crossbills, house wrens, mourning doves, pygmy nuthatches, chickadees, Western tanagers, chipping sparrows, hermit thrushes, Cassin's finches, and pine siskins. "A well-disguised nest provides protection against predators such as the great horned owls," Bennetts said.

### A Blessing or a Bane?

Not everyone likes mistletoe. Many commercial foresters consider the dwarf mistletoe as a disease that reduces the growth rates of commercially important conifer species, such as the ponderosa pine. Ecologists, though, point out that mistletoes are not a disease; instead, they are a native group of plants that have been around thousands, or even millions, of years. Blessing or bane, it is certain that mistletoe is not spreading like wildfire -- in fact, mistletoe spreads only about 2 feet per year. One study

indicated that a 1.5-acre patch of mistletoe took about 60 to 70 years to form. Likewise, the death of an individual tree from dwarf mistletoe may take several decades, and widespread infestation of a forest stand may take centuries. Bennetts believes that the conflict with forest management and the perspective of mistletoes being a forest disease really only comes into play when the management objectives are to maximize timber harvest. Otherwise, he says, mistletoes have many positive attributes, including tremendous benefits for native wildlife.

### Whistler Update

The next *Whistler* will be published a week earlier. If you have any information you would like to see in the March issue of the *Whistler* please note the **deadline** for inclusion will be **February 8, 2009**.

Thus, he says, when not in conflict with commercial timber management objectives, mistletoes should be viewed as a natural component of healthy forest ecosystems. Says Bennetts: "I had the privilege of working with a biologist who had spent more than 50 years working on mistletoes. He began his work with the intent of finding a way to control this 'forest pest,' but in his later years, he even introduced dwarf mistletoe to some of the trees in his yard because he had grown to love this plant for what it is . . . a fascinating and natural part of forest ecosystem."

## Bird Feeder Basics -- Maintenance & Hygiene (Part 2)

From the National Audubon Society Website ([audubon.org](http://audubon.org))

Cleaning birdfeeders and birdbaths is a crucial practice in preventing the spread of disease between birds. Recently, scientists noted that the spread of Trichomonad protozoan parasites, which cause a disease termed Trichomoniasis, was on the rise especially among mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon populations in the West.

You can tell if you have a disease problem at your feeders because diseased birds are less alert and less active, they feed



less and may cower on a feeder, they may be reluctant to fly, and their feathers do not appear to be in good shape. Birds afflicted with Trichomoniasis typically develop sores in their mouths and throats. Unable

to swallow, they drop food or water contaminated with Trichomonads that other birds then consume, thus spreading the

disease.

With the concern over this and other diseases, including Salmonellosis, Aspergillosis, and Avian Pox, which are easily transmitted at birdfeeders and birdbaths, Audubon recommends paying diligent attention to cleanliness in pursuit of responsible and rewarding bird feeding practices. Birds with disease are more likely to die from starvation, dehydration, predation, and severe weather, so protect them by following these tips.

- **Disinfect your feeder and birdbath:** To keep pathogens at bay, immerse your seed feeder or birdbath in a nine to one water-bleach solution, rinsing it thoroughly, one to two times per month (for tips on cleaning hummingbird feeders, [click here](#)). In the presence of outbreaks, disinfect twice as often.
- **Empty water from your birdbath every day:** Brush or wipe it clean and rinse, then refill the birdbath with fresh water.
- **Discard old seed and hulls:** When you clean your feeder, get rid of the old seed. Rake or sweep up any uneaten hulls on the ground. The disease-causing Trichomonad protozoan, for example, can live for up to five days in food and several hours in water.
- **Avoid overcrowding:** If possible, provide more than one feeder and spread them out. Crowding only expedites the spread of disease, so give the birds variety and plenty of room.

### Whistler Update

Did you know that you can read the *Whistler* online at our website? To see the pictures in color or in case you missed a previous issue just go to <http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org/whistlercontent.html>

(to be continued with bird food)

## Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayner

In my travels around the state of Washington for birding, I seem to have a penchant for doing multiple trips to an area before branching off to a new favorite. Mid-November was my third trip to the San Juan Islands in a year and a half, and the first trip in fall. So four of us left after work on Friday November 18 (2008) for a night in Mt. Vernon in order to catch the pre-dawn ferry to Lopez Island on Saturday morning. Birding Lopez most of Saturday with a late afternoon ferry to Friday Harbor on San Juan Island to overnight, then some Sunday morning birding before the return drive home completed the itinerary.

Pre-dawn arrival found us (Ken Knittle, Ann Kahle, Jeff Jendro and myself) making a couple stops in likely spots to listen for owls, but this was not fruitful. With it becoming light, we headed for the Lopez Village Fisherman Bay area. Bayshore Road follows a narrow natural causeway between Fisherman Bay and the more open, deeper waters surrounding the island. We found this an interesting varied habitat area worth stops at different tidal conditions during our day.

Numerous species of ducks and geese were on the bay with Great Blue Herons, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, and Dunlins found at the water's edge along the road.

I found the deeper water the most interesting, however, since here were the loons, grebes, and especially alcids, that I don't get nearly as many opportunities to see. These alcids included Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, and Rhinoceros Auklet. Ancient Murrelets were of special interest to me as I'd only seen one before, out on the open ocean, seven years ago. From Bayshore Road there was a small flock far out and barely identifiable.



A second highlight on Lopez Island was Shark Reef Park, which is basically, a trail head at the road, with a half mile walk to the water through a forest of mixed species. The walk was not very birdy, but the views at the end are excellent. We were on a bluff looking toward Cattle Point on San Juan Island with sea rocks near to our shore and a strong rip current farther out. The birds here were outstanding also, with stellar looks at Harlequin Ducks and scope studies of Black Oystercatcher on offshore rocks. The tidal rips had a number of flocks of Ancient Murrelets with better looks than the previous location. Also entertaining us here were two male sea lions roaring and posturing for, apparently, the best spot to haul out for a rest.

On the late afternoon ferry ride to Friday Harbor, we had even better looks at Ancient Murrelets. After disembarking, we headed straight for American Camp, hoping to see Short-eared Owl over the grasslands there at dusk. Our effort was rewarded with not only a foraging owl, but also a Northern Shrike perched in a nearby tree.

At dawn the next morning, we set out for Roche Harbor Village to start our day. In the gardens at this resort we found an Anna's Hummingbird. Even though they're getting more common in Washington, I still marvel at winter hummers. Other highlights of the morning included two separate Merlins, large numbers of Common Mergansers feeding in a kelp bed (don't they belong in fresh water?) and a wonderful flock of Black Turnstones. In flight, the pattern on these shorebirds proves you don't need gaudy colors for beauty, as the black and white is captivating. The ferry trip back to Anacortes provided hundreds more Ancient Murrelets, sometimes at close range for a very satisfying end to a fine birding weekend.

Good Birding.

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## Your Part in the Future of WHAS

*Continued from page 1*

For example, the **Conservation Committee** needs members to attend state and local meetings, work on conservation legislation, or write letters to the editor. The **Education Committee** can use people to do presentations and classes or just to act as an extra pair of hands at an outreach booth. Margaret Green will be retiring as **Program Committee Chair** and would love to work side-by-side until spring with someone who can take her place in arranging for programs. The **Nelson Creek Committee** has many needs—people to assist in planning future alterations to the property for building usage, trails, and habitat; Cathlamet residents to help involve the local community; and hands-on volunteers for planting, weeding, and biological tracking.

Your immediate reward for volunteering in WHAS is the chance to work with people who share your love for birds and for the environment we share with them. As the list of accomplishments in this article demonstrates, you will also see long-term results that will affect our part of the world for generations.

Like all of our members, I am sure you have many talents and abilities and at least a few hours to dedicate. I hope that you will devote some time to consider how you can help WHAS in 2009—and then call or email a committee chair!

## Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

### **Birds In Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly**

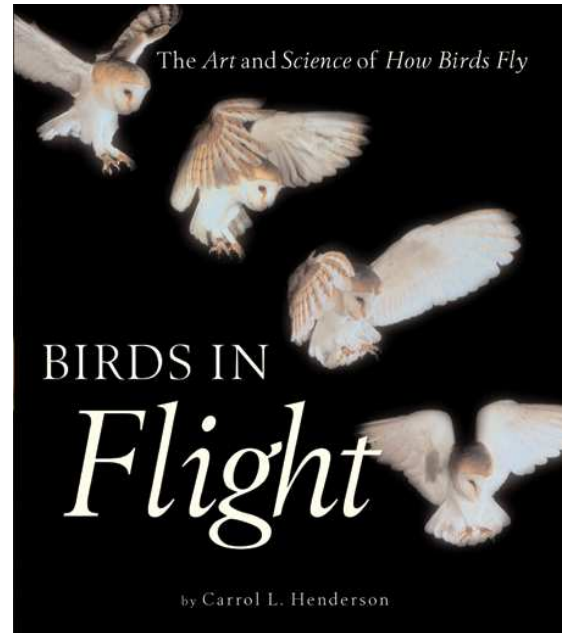
**Carrol L. Henderson; Voyageur Press, 2008. 160 pgs.**

Carrol L. Henderson is a man of many talents: 20-year birder, wildlife biologist, nature photographer, officer in the USAF, nature writer and birding travel guide. In this book, he uses all of these talents to examine the art and the science of birds in flight. He uses 150 of his bird photographs and 15 diagrams to illustrate his text.

The photos, many of them full-page, include birds from Russia to the Galapagos Islands and are beautiful enough to comprise any coffee table collection. However, Henderson combines these incredible photographs with diagrams to demonstrate specific wing structures required of particular habitats and habits of flight. He charts for us and explains the feathers and bones required for soaring, flapping, hovering, diving, gliding, lifting, and stalling. He discusses the aerodynamic principles of each wing type and then uses his photographs to show us the beauty of it all.

Although this book has a very specific focus in avian study, it is well-organized and beautiful in its construction and would be a lovely gift for any birder who is ready to move a bit beyond his or her field guide.

*Carolyn Norred is a retired English teacher who lives in Longview, WA, and enjoys both birds and books.*



**Environmental Priorities Coalition and People For Puget Sound Present**

## **Environmental Lobby Day 2009**

Join the state's leading conservation groups and hundreds of citizen lobbyists as they engage their elected legislators with their powers of persuasion to push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's legislative package:

- Cap & Invest to reduce global warming emissions
- Efficiency First to promote energy efficiency and conservation
- Transit-oriented Communities for better transportation choices
- Invest in Clean Water to restore Puget Sound and other water bodies

"Environmental concerns such as Clean Air/Clean Fuels, Saving Puget Sound, Eliminating Toxic Flame Retardants and Wildlife and Recreation programs were why I had gone to Lobby Day (2008) and visit Representative Goodman. My passion is for the environment. But when I left from that meeting, I knew that if I ever had any concerns about the direction the Washington State Legislature was taking on any topic, I would be able to knock on Roger's door, and make those concerns known. Representative Goodman embodies the concept of government for the people and by the people." — Kat Crowley-York, 45th Legislative District

During Environmental Lobby Day, attendees will hear from legislators who are championing the Environmental Priorities Coalition's legislation, receive a training on how to lobby from top environmental lobbyists, and have a chance to meet face-to-face with your elected officials. And don't forget the party in the evening at the Governor's Mansion! Pre-registration is required.

- **WHEN:** Thursday, February 19th, 2009, from 8:45 AM to 5:30 PM
- **WHERE:** United Churches, 110 East 11th Avenue, Olympia
- **COST:** Registration fee is \$15.

### **During Lobby Day**

- Continental breakfast
- Capitol city welcome from champion legislators
- Lobby training from top non-profit lobbyists
- Face-to-face meetings with your elected officials
- Evening Reception at the Governor's Mansion. Registration is required. Cost is \$10.

### **Can't attend Environmental Lobby Day?**

To increase the effectiveness and impact of Lobby Day, we have launched a Photo Postcard Campaign. Let us put your face on a postcard supporting Clean Water legislation AND we'll deliver it to the desk of your local Senators and Representatives on Environmental Lobby Day 2009. It is simple and fun.

Take your photo with a "I Stand For Clean Water" sign and send it back to us. We will create a photo post card of you and deliver it to your legislators on Environmental Lobby Day. Imagine the impact of hundreds of postcards showing Washingtonians around the State taking a stand for clean water. For more info, contact Rein Attemann at 206.382.7007

Call John Green at 360-575-9238 if you would like to join the WHAS group.

## 2008 Christmas Bird Counts

### Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

By Andrew Emlen

On Tuesday December 30, 20 counters participated in the eleventh Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count. The Wahkiakum Count straddles the Lower Columbia River, including the Julia B. Hansen and Lewis & Clark National Wildlife Refuges and the towns of Brownsmead, Knappa & Westport in Oregon and Cathlamet, Puget Island & Skamokawa on the Washington side. Weather was overcast with a high temperature of 43 degrees, a low of 33 degrees, and a light east wind. Heavy snow cover made some areas difficult to access, and still waters were partially frozen.

The preliminary species count is 106, one below average for this circle. Four species found were new to the Wahkiakum CBC. The most unusual was two Harris's Sparrows among the Golden-crowned Sparrows at Skamokawa Vista Park. A Glaucous Gull was in Brownsmead. With the increasing numbers of wintering Brown Pelicans (over 500 on the Columbia Estuary CBC this year), it was inevitable that a few would stray up river, and both Washington and Oregon counters were able to see one. Likewise it was inevitable that Barred Owl would make a CBC appearance, as they have become increasingly common here. At least 129 Snow Geese (not all data are in yet) were counted, shattering our previous high count of 4. Likewise a count of 62 Canvasback was significantly higher than the previous high count of 8. This was the first year that we missed American Dipper.

Many thanks to all the people who helped count this year, and thanks to Willapa Hills Audubon for sponsoring the count!

### Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count

By Alan Richards

As you may know, I was obliged to cancel the Leadbetter Point CBC because of continuing and predicted bad weather. This is the first cancellation since 1995 (also due to weather as well as other factors, I believe; I was not here for that one), and the second in the history of this Count (started in 1974).

### Cowlitz Christmas Bird Count

By Bob Reistroffer.

On January 1, 2009 sandwiched between snow storms the 25th 3CBC was held as part of Audubon's 109th Christmas Bird Count. 13 field observers and 7 feeder watchers joined the party and spent the mostly rainy day searching for some 9,895 party loving birds. The temperature ranged from 38° to 48° with winds out of the southwest at 0-5 mph. We had several all-time high counts like the Great Blue Heron (74), Tundra Swan (267), Gadwall (213) and Hooded Merganser (50). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet (14) was our all time low count.

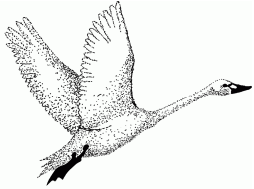
The total species count was 92. Thank you to all the participants for helping again this year.

### Recent Programs

## October 2008 Spider Workshop

The Spider workshop in October was a great success. The lab at LCC in Longview was filled with people of all ages. All photos provided by Ann Musché.





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The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each even-numbered month.

Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

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

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### Upcoming WHAS Programs

Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, March 7, 2009 Exact Time and Venue to be announced: Annual WHAS meeting and "Bats"**

Please save the date for an early evening social, followed by WHAS member and naturalist, Andrew Emlin, who will be presenting a slide lecture on the fascinating lives of bats. The program will take advantage of some fantastic photos by Merlin Tuttle from around the world, but will also include local photos while emphasizing the life histories of the nine species of bat that are native to southwest Washington.

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009 6:30 PM, Venue to be announced: "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness"**

Bob Brister, Outreach Coordinator for Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will show a multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to protect Utah's spectacular canyon country.

### Upcoming WHAS Field Trips

Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, January 17, 2009: "Kalama and Woodland Bottoms".**

Come join us for another "local" field trip, exploring the birding possibilities of Kalama and Woodland Bottoms, as well as Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. We will plan on leaving Longview at 8:00 and continue until mid-afternoon. We should have wonderful views of winter waterfowl and raptors. Plan to pack your lunch and dress for the weather. To sign up, call or email John Green at 360-575-9238 or jgreen2317@aol.com.

*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 <http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>