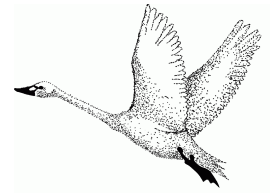


WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society



Volume 34, Issue 6

November/December 2008

Deery Memorial Signage for Lake Sacajawea

By Margaret Green

A dream of creating interpretive signage at Lake Sacajawea may be possible. Most of you are aware that Ruth Deery, one of the

is visited by multitudes of citizens and tourists alike. Signs noting Washington Birding Trail recognition with pictures and



Photo: Ludger Wöhrmann

Lake Sacajawea

founding members of Willapa Hills Audubon Society, passed away in March. Ruth was a tireless worker for conservation and education in our chapter and also highly revered in our community. Several years ago, she was named Longview's first Environmental Citizen of the Year. She was a shining star that continues to sparkle in our memory.

At the time of Ruth's passing, the chapter began receiving memorial donations. For many months the board has been discussing a fitting memorial that would carry on her legacy, her love for education and the natural world. The idea of educational signage at the lake would be a wonderful tribute. The board has decided, though the goal is high, we should strive to attain it.

As a site on The Great Washington Birding Trail, and a City treasure, Lake Sacajawea

labeling of the common birds found at the lake will educate, increase awareness of, and enhance appreciation for this wonderful wildlife habitat. Children and adult citizens alike will gain from this opportunity to learn more about our birds.

We have applied for a State Audubon grant, and also presented a grant proposal to the Longview City Council. Further presentations must be given to the Longview Parks and Historical Preservation Boards for approvals. All grants are highly coveted and there are many worthy projects vying for funds. Receiving enough to cover the full project is uncertain. If you wish to help this dream come true, please send a donation of any size to become part of the Deery Memorial Fund.

(Make checks payable to WHAS and mail to PO Box 399, Longview 98632.)

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*)

In this new column we will print a poem -- if the Copyright allows -- that focuses on any aspect of birds and/or birding. 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.

Interlaken Street

By Judith Irwin

A hummingbird arrives. Magically
She hovers, suspended in air and turns
An eye to me, then satisfied she sips

The sugared water, darting a slender beak
In and out, in and out, then turns
To perch a second time at the red feeder.

She must know I am watching for she stops,
Comes to my window and tap, tap, tap,
She seems to thank me, darts, and is off --

A flash of dark arching the air and slips
Unseen behind a workman. Yet he turns,
Hearing, perhaps, a sweet zipper sound go past.

Judith Irwin is a Seattle, WA, poet who is retired from the English department at Lower Columbia College.

In this issue of the Whistler:

- 2 WHAS Board news
- 3 News from Leadbetter HRA
- 4 Birding Bits & News from Nelson Creek RC
- 5 LNG Update & Presidents Message
- 6 Book Review, Events and Information
- 7 Christmas Bird Counts
- 8 Programs and Field Trips

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

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

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

Thank you for supporting the Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

Clip-----Clip

OFFICERS

President: Charlotte Persons
 360-578-3949 cpersons@yahoo.com
Vice President: Steve Glucoft
 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net
Past Co-President: Betty Mayfield
 503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com
Past Co-President: Steve Puddicombe
 360-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org
Secretary: Ann Musché
 360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org
Treasurer: Pamela Wright
 360-560-3772 audubon@zygops.com
Director at Large: Russ Kastberg
 360-274-7091 rkastberg@cni.net
Director at Large: Gloria MacKenzie
 503-556-8253 ggmack@qwest.net
Director at Large: Russ Koppendrayner
 306-636-3245

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs: Margaret Green
 360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Education: Darrel Whipple
 503-556-9838 dwhipple@opusnet.com
Publishing/Newsletter: Ludger Wöhrmann
 360-423-7004 audubon@rivertimes.net
Field Trip Chair: John Green
 360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
Conservation: Steve Puddicombe
 503-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org
Publicity: Steve Glucoft
 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net
Finance/History: Betty Mayfield
 503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com
Bird Counts: Alan Richards
 360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org
Willapa Bay Issues: Miranda Wecker
 360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org
Wildlife Sightings: Andrew Emlen
 360-795-8009 aceasp@pacifier.com
Membership: Gloria Nichols
 360-636-3793 johngloriaromeo@earthlink.net
WHAS Web Site: Dick Wilson
 360-875-6172 bcfarms@willapabay.org
Nelson Creek Stewardship: Russ & Ann Kastberg
 360-274-7091 rkastberg@cni.net

I prefer you contact me by

- ☐ Phone
☐ Email
☐ Mail

Please:

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

WHAS Board News and Next Meeting

Excerpts from the last meeting on October 4th:

LNG, FERC Appeal

Board reviewed Riverkeepers' reply to the WHAS questions regarding signing on as party to the FERC Appeal.

1. Most of the reasons for the appeal were environmental but also included the issue of public safety.
2. Becoming a party to the appeal does not require commitment to future litigation.
3. The timing of the decision is sensitive and they would like the reply immediately following the board meeting.
4. The legal basis for the appeal are: the Clean Air Act, NEPA, and the Coastal Zone Management Act.
5. No funds would be required from WHAS, though donations are appreciated.

Board decided "That WHAS signs on as party to the FERC appeal."

Memorial Interpretive Signs at Lake Sacajawea - Grant Application

Margaret gave a progress report on the grant applications for the two signs. A presentation request was made to the Longview city council for a general funds grant for \$3400 in 2009 and \$2150 in 2010. There has been no word on the results. These funds if granted, and the memorial funds, would cover the majority of the anticipated cost. However, the city is now experiencing budget shortfalls. A chapter grant will be applied for in October, and a Longview Parks and Recreation Grant application will be made after the first of the year. There are also several avenues for seeking private donations.

Shade Coffee - Betty announced the coffee order was ready for disbursement and that we had sold 11 of the 25 pound pledge WHAS had made for 2008. Seattle Audubon has provided information clips to be used for publicity for this program. We will reevaluate our participation in January.

Next board meeting was set for December 7, 2008, time and place to be announced by the president.

Leadbetter Habitat Restoration Area (LHRA)

By Ann Musché

Strenuous walking through sand, extremely early starts requiring alarm clocks to jangle at times like 3 a.m., and many hours of mist, rain and wind were rewarded with occasional alternate hours of glorious sun and views of pelicans, eagles, peregrine



Photo: Ann Musché and Alan Richards

falcons, and a variety of shorebirds. Some of us were lucky enough to see Snowy Plovers, both adults and young fluff balls, north of the restoration area in the federal refuge.

What was it inspired all this activity? Our chapter continues to cooperate with Grays Harbor Audubon and with state agencies to create additional habitat at Leadbetter Point for the Western Snowy Plover and the Streaked Horned Lark. Both of these birds were once more abundant along our coasts. South of the federal Willapa Wildlife Refuge at the tip of the Long Beach peninsula, within Leadbetter State Park, our effort involves creating and monitoring ten smallish plots which follow the land contours. Here the exotic, densely-thatch-forming European grasses (brought in originally by humans for erosion control) are being removed and native plants retained and enhanced (by plantings of natives grown from local seed.)

109th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

More than 50,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC", is citizen science in action.

See page 7 for more information!

During 2007, Jan McMillan of Grays Harbor Audubon coordinated volunteers in several plant-related work parties at the site. This year, I am the coordinator of our efforts. Last year and this, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hired the talented, encouraging and very knowledgeable expert, Kathy Gunther, part of whose duties is to survey the LHRA for animal activity, especially birds. Our volunteer efforts this final grant year have shifted to doing surveys along with Kathy, and recently, on our own.

Our March training, conducted by Scott Pearson and Cyndie Sundstrom of WDFW, was detailed, informative, and included field observations. In May I gave a brief introduction about the project, on the peninsula, for Nina Carter, executive director of Audubon Washington, and Board of Stewards member, John Narver. Since then our volunteer group has conducted or helped with one survey in June, two in July and one in August. During September we held a work day, in cooperation with Dave Hays of WDFW, to



Photo: Ann Musché and Alan Richards

physically cover native plants on the site in preparation for staff to spray herbicide on the exotic beach grasses. This last was a magnificent day, though my knees told me for many hours afterward just how many dozens of times I had sunk down on them and struggled back up!

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who have taken part in our efforts in 2008, often under the adverse conditions described above:

John and Margaret Green, Carolyn Norred, Tom Finn, Alan Richards and myself from WHAS, Susan Clark of Shoalwater Birders, and Jan McMillan, Ann Haarer, Carol Sunde, Jan Strong and Diane Schwickerath of Grays Harbor Audubon.

Our total was 279 hours donated to this project in 2008!

Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayner

I've birded the high elevation lakes on the Northwest side of Mt. Adams a number of times, but always in the summer. On October 5th, I made a trip to Takhlakh Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Olallie Lake with a couple friends, Ken Knittle and Tom Mansfield. Our primary target bird was Spruce Grouse, an elusive species of the subalpine forests. This species was first documented from the area a few years ago, with a few reports since then. Previously, Spruce Grouse in the Cascades were known from north of this area and mostly on the opposite (East) side of the Cascade crest. These grouse are known to pick up grit from gravel roads in fall, and our plan was to be there early checking roads in appropriate habitat.

A pre 6 AM meeting in Kelso, followed by drive through Randle and on up forest road 23, found us stopped at a mountain meadow at over 4000 feet elevation. Our first surprise of the day was twelve Greater White-fronted Geese foraging at this elevation. There also were a number of Common Ravens in the area communicating with calls that were unfamiliar to us. Also noted was the song of a Varied Thrush; always a treat to hear, but it seemed late in the year for it.

The next stop was Takhlakh Lake campground. The first treat of this spot was a lone male surf scoter using the lake as a migration refueling stop. It made a strange sight up at a forested mountain lake rather than the saltwater places. I usually see them. Next we

heard a Pine Grosbeak calling and were able to locate the bird high in the tree tops. This finch is also a high elevation specialist from farther north that disperses south in the mountains and to lower elevations in fall and winter. (Including the Leadbetter Christmas Count a few years back.)

On we went through the best Spruce Grouse habitat of the day on our way to Horseshoe Lake. Here we experienced a large, friendly flock of Gray Jays, Mountain Chickadees, and other passerines as well as a variety of ducks on the lake and one aggressive Hairy Woodpecker that flew right into our faces. Turning around, we retraced our route through the grouse area, keeping our eyes peeled for our target. We also stopped in what looked like the best spots but never did find our goal.



After a couple more stops at high elevation and one at Riffe Lake near Glenoma for Common Loons, Western Grebes, shorebirds and American Pipits, we headed home. Long since have I learned that missing a target bird doesn't mean a bad birding trip. This day had spectacular high country scenery, some really interesting birds, as well as great company. Of course I also get to go back some other fall day in search of the elusive Spruce Grouse.

I hope to see you at a Christmas Bird Count.

Nelson Creek Restoration Committee

By Russ & Ann Kastberg

The Nelson Creek committee met at the Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Refuge on September 19, 2008 for our "Planning Extravaganza 2008". The purpose of this meeting was to pull together all the baseline research we have accumulated since the chapter assumed stewardship of the Columbia Land Trust, (CLT) property, back in September 2006. At the same time, plans are being laid to go in a new direction, that is, actual restoration of the property to its historical natural state.

Countless volunteer hours, along with CLT staff, have gone into conducting baseline surveys on the property. Studies include: plant inventory, including invasives; bird surveys – Darrell Whipple has a historical survey at this site and it continues; mammals which includes both trap/release and motion cameras; herps and amphibians – the first spring egg mass surveys are done which supplement past larvae surveys; insects and invertebrates; and hydrology - water channel measurements and flow records have been accumulating which will lead to the decision whether to reintroduce Nelson Creek to its original channel on the property.

We also recognize there is more to do. More data on fish, water quality, and the plant community are needed. A before & after

photo record and permanent plant survey will be established. A plan to salvage/remove or restore the existing buildings is taking shape. In all cases, we decided to continue the studies as it will be important to record and compare the changes we anticipate will occur once restoration work begins.

What's coming up? CLT grant moneys are available to do thinning and under planting, beginning in 2009. Weed control will continue. In the next few weeks we will cover the little red horse barn to protect it from further deterioration. More bird boxes will be put out to add to those already installed by volunteers. A community outreach event will be planned once the hydrological study is complete and restoration options are developed.

It is an exciting time as we begin to see our efforts turn into plans and on-the-ground restoration of this habitat. As field restoration projects begin, there will be more opportunities to help.

PLEASE KEEP US IN MIND as we announce work parties at Nelson Creek.

What's Next for the Proposed LNG Terminal at Bradwood, OR

By Gloria G. MacKenzie

As anticipated, FERC approved the LNG terminal at Bradwood. Of the 5 commissioners, there was one dissenting voice, Jon Wellinghoff. His very well reasoned 14-page statement included many of the concerns we have all raised.

Legally, many irons are beginning to heat in the fire. The permits that must be issued by Oregon state agencies are being delayed, both by the legal process and also by the applicant, NorthernStar.

The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality water and air quality permits, and the 401 water certification permit, must be consistent with local land use plans and statewide land use goals. Since Clatsop County's land use decisions have been appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), this will delay the process until a decision is made. Riverkeepers and Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission will have their responses submitted in mid-October.

The Referendum to not allow pipeline through public land and parks, was soundly passed in Clatsop County in September. This will also have a bearing on DEQ's decision. The Department of Land Conservation and Development has stayed (delayed) any decisions until January 5, 2009, at the request of NorthernStar.

In addition to these actions, Governor Kulongoski and Governor Gregoire will be pursuing legal avenues against FERC's decision. Governor Gregoire's stance was reiterated October 6, at the Rally in Olympia, by Washington Department of Ecology, director Jay Manning. Approximately 100 people from Oregon and Washington were present, ranging from students, affected landowners and interested citizens. NOTE: Another, even bigger rally is scheduled for January!

Much has changed with regards to the natural gas market and LNG these last few months.

Discoveries of new technology may enable the US to tap some of its non-conventional gas and diminish the need for LNG. T. Boone Pickens has also thrown his dollars and support into becoming less dependent on foreign oil.

On a positive note, as of October 4th, The Economist wrote: "Gas production in America grew by 4.3% last year, and 9% in the first quarter of this year. This unexpected spurt will DELAY LNG imports by a decade!!"

I'd like to share from "The Riverkeepers" by John Cronin and Robert F. Kenney, Jr. an interesting observation about one of the men who was instrumental in changing the environmental movement. Robert H. Boyle, an avid fisherman, an ex-marine and, a writer for Sports Illustrated. After a long 15-year struggle

against a Con Edison project called Storm King on the Hudson River, he won!

During this time Boyle discovered that instead of protecting the public interest, the federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers, the FPC (the former FERC-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) were often the authors of the worst injuries to the Hudson. They were indentured servants to the industries they were charged with regulating. Moreover, both industry and government were involved in SUBORNING SCIENCE to DECIEVE the PUBLIC and COURTS into accepting unworthy projects. Sound Familiar?

In conclusion, we all have a responsibility to ensure that our resources are used with discernment and respect.... not only for our immediate benefit, but also as a legacy worthy to hand down to the next generation.

The Fate of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

By Charlotte Persons, *President*

Will Mount St. Helens become a National Park? Will a camping ground be built there? Will a road be constructed across it? Will trout fishermen take trophies out of Spirit Lake? Will hunters still cull the elk herd?



Photo: David Cordero

These questions and others have drawn large crowds to attend the public meetings of the Mount St. Helens Advisory Committee formed last year by Rep. Brian Baird. The committee includes county commissioners from Lewis, Cowlitz and Skamania counties, people in the tourism industry, and a scientist.

Every interest group has been represented at the public meetings: fishermen, elk hunters, biologists, geologists, hikers, national park enthusiasts, overland terrain vehicle riders, and environmentalists. Two of the most interesting recent presentations were from Peter Franzen, who emphasized the fame of Mt. St. Helen's scientific

studies—and Susan Saul, a former WHAS president and a member of the advisory panel for the Monument's charter, who outlined the history of preservation efforts since 1961.

Originally the WHAS board leaned toward a change to National Park status. A still pending law then appeared to prevent development only on the outskirts of National Parks, but actually would apply to both Parks and Monuments.

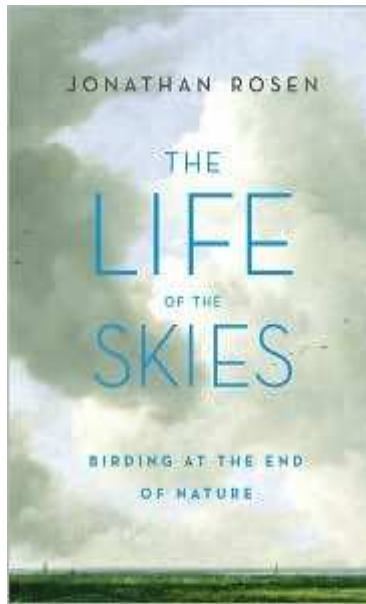
(Continued on page 6)

Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

Jonathan Rosen, in his new book, *The Life Of The Skies: Birding At The End Of Nature*, tells us that in developing this work, he has taken the advice of Edward O. Wilson, Pulitzer-Prize-winning socio-biologist, "Interpretation will be the more powerful when braided together from history, biography, personal confession—and science." And, indeed, Rosen takes his subject, birding in America, and looks at it through a variety of lenses: art, science, history, politics, and personal experience.

Rosen takes the position that bird watching has become the new national pastime, and in a thoughtful, engaging, and sometimes humorous style, almost convinces me. He supports his point with the idea that, "...there are two kinds of birdwatchers those who know what they are and those who have not yet realized it" (p3), and further divides us into two categories, "birders" and "birdwatchers." The birders are, according



to Rosen, those of us who get organized in our actions and keep life lists. The rest of us are birdwatchers. For all of us, "Birds shuttle between what is urban in us and what is wild. They knit these things together in our soul." (p14).

Whether Rosen is "knitting" or "braiding" his topic into this wide variety of perspectives, the variation is one of the main delights of the book. At the same time, there were moments when it began to feel to this reader as though I were trying to follow a migrating warbler who had maybe flown a bit off his course. If you choose to take up this work, and this feeling comes to you, stick with him; he finds his way through and leaves his reader with some fascinating questions about the experience of bird watching in America.

(A paperback will be released in December 2008.)

Upcomming Event

"Ocian in View"

November 7, 8 & 9, 2008

Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco, WA and the Pacific County Friends of Lewis & Clark will present a speaker series, tours and opportunities to experience the great outdoors along the shores of the mighty Columbia River and Pacific Ocean.

For more information visit
<http://columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org/>
 or call the museum 360-642-3446

I care a lot about my backyard birds and I like my coffee. So why should I care about shade-grown coffee?

Roughly one-third of the birds breeding in North America spend the winter in the coffee-growing countries of Latin America. As migrating birds travel down through Mexico and the narrow waist of the Central American isthmus, they are compressed into a smaller land mass. Seven of the ten countries in the world with the highest deforestation rates are in Latin America so the available habitat for these migrating birds is critically small. Shade coffee farms offer our backyard birds the cover and food they need to return from their migration and reproduce. Coffee (and other crops) grown as monocultures reduce essential habitat.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.groundsforchange.com/partners/WHAS/>

The Fate of Mount St. Helens N.V. Monument

(Continued from page 5)

We now have much fainter hopes that Park status would bring more money to publicize Mt. St. Helens' attractions, re-do its outdated scientific study plan, and repair roads and trails. Finally, many Auduboners are sympathetic to the probable loss of elk hunting under National Park Service rules.

Because of these complications, WHAS has not favored either Monument or Park status. Instead we have consistently emphasized maintaining the balance between conservation, science, and recreation set out in the Monument's original 1984 charter. Our comments stress continued protection of certain areas for scientific research, limited public access in fragile blast recovery areas, and the continued conservation of the excellent wildlife habitat.

In 2005 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a bird guide to the Monument which lists 136 birds. When cross-referenced with Audubon Washington's 2006 State of Bird report, 17

species at Mt. St. Helens fall in the report's category of "Early Warning Birds." Four species—prairie falcon, band-tailed pigeon, short-eared owl, and golden eagle—are "Birds of High Concern" because of habitat or population loss. One species, the olive-sided flycatcher, is a "Bird of Immediate Concern." It is in the most threatened category.

Since birds are bell-weather species for any ecological niche, we can conclude that preserving habitats for these birds will help conserve a number of other plant and animal species. Besides general emphasis on the need for conservation, our comments have asked that the advisory committee's recommendations specifically include asking for funding for interpretive displays and guides to explain conservation to the public, purchase of adjoining land in sensitive areas on the borders of the current monument, Wilderness protection for current Roadless areas, and Wild and Scenic River designation for the Green, Toutle, and Muddy Rivers and Smith and Pine Creeks.

2008 Christmas Bird Counts

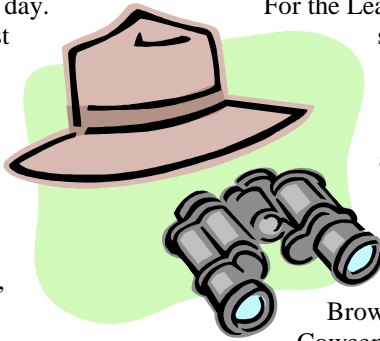
By: Alan Richards

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. More eyes are needed for that day. 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 future, decisions which will affect how much natural beauty, including birds, remains for future generations.

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

CBC, on the east peninsula, for includes the about 180th as Nemah areas along Wahkiakum includes the Skamokawa, Cathlamet, and For the Cowlitz-

CBC, that includes portions of Kelso-Longview and the surrounding area. Contact the Count leader for more exact boundary descriptions, and to advise them that you wish to take part.



For the Leadbetter Point side of the example, that area north of Street, as well and Palix River the bay. For the CBC, that portions of Puget Island, Brownsmead areas. Coweeman-Columbia

Leadbetter Christmas bird count

Sponsored by Willapa Hills and Discovery Coast Audubon chapters

Saturday, December 20th, 2008 Dawn to Dusk

To be placed in a group for the day, or to volunteer to count at your feeder, contact: Alan Richards, 360-484-7119.

Willapa Hills Audubon Society chapter supports two additional Christmas Bird Counts, run in approximately the same way:

Wahkiakum CBC on December 30, contact Andrew Emlen (360-795-8009);

Cowlitz-Columbia CBC on January 1, contact Bob Reistroffer (360-636-5125).

In the field you have chances to socialize with your fellow counters, and when the counting is through, all counters (feeder watchers included) are invited to the Count-In Supper, a no-host dinner and compilation of everyone's results. This joyous event begins at 5 p.m. at the Hunters' Inn, Highway 4 at the east end of Naselle, on the evening of the Count.

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.

Recent Fieldtrips

Coal Creek Slough Birding Expedition

By Margaret Green

Gray skies and intermittent rain greeted us Sunday morning, October 5. Though less than ideal conditions, the group was game for exploration and bird watching. John and Margaret Green were joined by Willapa Hills Audubon members, Pam Wright and Louis LaPierre, in their canoe, and Deborah and Ludger Woehrmann in their new sea kayaks. Bird watching from rocking boats is a bit of a challenge, but we were granted sightings of several raptors including bald eagle, red tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, as well as a great horned owl. Great blue heron and green heron were flushed from water-side hideouts and many songbirds serenaded the party including a flock of about 30 American robins.

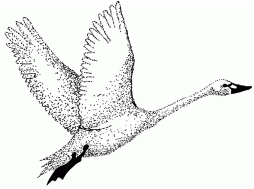
Louis and Pam were lagging far behind due to trolling with a "plankton tow" attached to their stern. This device is for sampling microscopic organisms from fresh water and marine habitats. We were definitely on a scientific expedition!

We explored deep into the interesting and meandering Fisher Slough, enjoying the solitude. (Screeches of howler monkeys and calls of tropical birds would not have been too much of a reach for the



Photo Margaret Green

imaginations.) When one of our group, who will remain anonymous, dumped into the drink, we decided it was time to head for the house. But it remained a tranquil and satisfying trip for all.



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.8
Longview WA 98632

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th 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.

Upcoming WHAS Programs

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, December 5, 6:30 PM: “All Things Flow to the Sea” Cowlitz PUD Auditorium, 961 12th Ave., Longview
Find out what is happening to our seas. Julie Tennis, WHAS member and Interpretive Specialist with Washington State Parks, became interested in marine debris when she was a park ranger patrolling the beaches. She saw massive amounts of garbage washed ashore each day. Julie talks, and shows slides, about the impacts of this problem, and spreads the word on how individuals can make a difference.

Coming in March, 2009 Exact Time and Venue to be announced: “Bats”

WHAS member and Naturalist extraordinaire, Andrew Emlen, 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, November 22: “Third annual Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk”. This walk begins at 8:30 AM at the Green’s house on 25th Avenue, heads to the lake for an hour or two of birding, and returns to the Green’s for beverages and snacks, and some back yard birding. The focus will be winter waterfowl and other winter birds. Call Margaret or John Green at 360-575-9238 or email 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>