



WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society



Volume 33, Issue 2

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

March/April 2007

UPCOMING WHAS PROGRAMS

Saturday, March 17, 2007, 3:00 PM,

**“From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold:
Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska” –**

Taldi Walter

St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 1828 22nd Ave,
Longview (Note: Parking in alley)

Alaska is the largest of our states, encompassing more than 600,000 sq. miles of rugged mountains, grinding glaciers, endless tundra, diverse temperate rainforest, and winding coastlines. From the Spectacled Eider and Yellow-billed Loon found in America's Arctic to the Black Oystercatcher and the Marbled Godwit found on the southern coastline, Alaska's bird life diversity is astounding. Alaska also has an abundance of other iconic wildlife species including grizzlies, caribou, Bald Eagles, humpback whales and wolves, many of which are endangered elsewhere.

Taldi Walter, Alaska Field Coordinator of the National Audubon Society's Washington, DC, Policy Office will present an informative slideshow showcasing some of the important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. The presentation will explore some of Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Note: additional programs will likely be scheduled – watch your local newspaper and the WHAS website for details.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 7:00 PM

**“Sky Time in Gray's River: Living for Keeps
in a Forgotten Place” – Dr. Robert Michael**

Pyle

The Longview Library, 1600 Louisiana, Longview

WHAS will partner with Lower Columbia College and The Longview Library to bring Robert Michael Pyle to Longview as a Northwest Voices author. A professional writer since 1982, Dr. Pyle has published hundreds of papers, essays, stories, and poems, and been the recipient of multitudes of awards. He is also an expert lepidopterist, and a lifelong naturalist and conservationist. Rural Southwest Washington is extraordinary and we will discover its hidden wonders as we hear thoughts and readings from Pyle's newest book, “Sky Time in Gray's River: Living for Keeps in a Forgotten Place.” It is always wonderful to hear this voice from our own Willapa Hills.

**Saturday, June 2, 2007, Time and Venue to be
announced**

WHAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual meeting will include food, fellowship, and fun, as well as the introduction of newly elected officers and a vote on adoption of our revised Constitution and Bylaws. This will be a wonderful time to catch up with old, and make new WHAS friendships.

Please Join Us!

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

Chapter Membership

____ **\$20** for annual membership dues.

____ **\$15** for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

National Audubon Membership

____ **\$20** for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

Combination

____ Yes, you can do both options above, if you like. *Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).*

Willapa Whistler Only

____ **\$5** for six issues (one year). *No membership is included with this option. Make check payable to WHAS.*

For any of the options above, clip this form and mail it with your check to:

Willapa Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

____ Please add me to your Discussion email list

____ New **Y14**

____ Renewal **7XCH**

For more information about WHAS, You may call Wayne Nelson at 503-556-9379 or Betty Mayfield at 503-556-6841.

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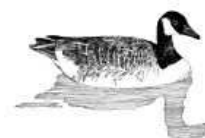
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Nelson Creek Stewardship: Jim and Bea Harrison

Jimharrison2@peoplepc.com



Canada Goose Drawing Courtesy ODFW

Field Trip Schedule

By Pam Wright

Waterfowl and Woodpeckers Saturday March, 24

Join Russ Koppendrayer for a boardwalk bird walk at Silver Lake followed by woodland birding on the roads and trails of Seaquest State Park. Carpools will leave from Maple Street between the Longview library and Lower Columbia College at 8am and will return by noon. No RSVP is necessary. If you have questions, contact Russ at 360-636-3245.

Earth Day Stewardship Saturday, April 21

If you're looking for an outside stewardship activity to commemorate Earth Day, join Friends of Fox Creek for the annual Fox Creek Trail Project in Rainier, Oregon. Volunteer activities will focus on the labor intensive invasive ivy removal and trail maintenance. Meet at the Riverside Community Church lot on C Street near 2nd Street West at 9:30am and stay till noon for light refreshments. Bring gloves, 5 gallon buckets and clippers if you have them. For more info call Darrel Whipple at 503-556-9838.

Birding Western Wahkiakum County Monday, April 23

Andrew Emlen will lead a birding tour focusing on western Wahkiakum County, with an emphasis on Grays Bay shorebirds in the afternoon. We will meet at the Skamokawa Center parking lot at 8:00am (please have the courtesy to park in the west gravel lot, not in front of the store & post office). After some time birding in the Skamokawa area, we will head west to Grays Bay. First we'll scope the bay and nearby river for waterfowl and loons. Once the tide is low enough we'll walk down the mudflats to the area where the shorebirds congregate. Target species include Whimbrel, Black-bellied Plover, Pacific Golden-plover, Greater Yellowlegs and large mixed flocks of Dunlin, Least Sandpipers and Western Sandpipers. The flocks of shorebirds and waterfowl attract Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. The mudflats are relatively solid and easy to traverse, but participants will need to be able to descend through rough riprap to the flats and walk two miles or more on the mudflats. Participants should bring rubber boots, lunch and raingear; a spotting scope will be helpful. RSVP to Andrew Emlen: aceasp@pacifier.com, 360-795-8009.

Fox Creek Trail Wildflowers Saturday, May 19

Return to the Fox Creek Trail Rainier, Oregon on Saturday, May 19 for a wildflower-oriented walk. We hope to catch the Inside-out Flower in bloom as well as other local beauties, and of course we'll watch for tweekers as well. Details to follow in the next Whistler.

Note

We are now publicizing our programs on the Cowlitz County Community Calendar available at <http://www.cowlitztoday.com/> in addition to on the Willapa Hills website. Select the Willapa Hills Calendar of Cowlitz Today to view upcoming activities. Activities that are intended for members only or where participation is limited will not be placed on the calendar.



Calliope Hummingbird by Darrell Pruett, WDFW

Earth Day

By Pat Reistroffer

Yes, it is fast approaching. Once again will we be hosting a booth at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 21 to bring awareness to Earth Day. In the past we have made bird feeders out of TP rolls, peanut butter, and bird seed. They are extremely popular with the kids and their families. Margaret Green and I have been collecting TP rolls and volunteers at CAP have been cleaning them and putting the string through them for us. We need 2 people at the booth: one to help with the bird feeders and another one to talk with the adults and share information. There will be some handouts and possibly some of our stuffed birds. I will set everything up and be working at the booth most of day but NEED HELP!!! PLEASE consider either donating creamy peanut butter or volunteering to work in the booth for one or two hours on Saturday. Contact Margaret Green at 360-575-9238, email- jgreen2317@yahoo.com, or Pat Reistroffer at 360-636-5125, email-preistrof@aol.com.

President's Message

By Betty Mayfield

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling is expected in the spring on a case seeking to have the Environmental Protection Agency regulate carbon dioxide from new vehicles under the Clean Air Act. This would require more fuel-efficient cars.

Twelve states, three cities and several environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, blame greenhouse gases for global warming. Ten states and some manufacturing associations are backing the U.S. Deputy Solicitor General in his claim that the EPA was right not to act given "the substantial scientific uncertainty surrounding global climate change." If the court rules for the EPA, some fear that weak federal rules could overthrow stronger state regulations.

CO2 emissions can be controlled when there is financial incentive. An article in Science and Technology Review says that Norway imposed a CO2 tax in 1991 of \$55 per ton. When natural gas is taken from the Sleipner Field under the North Sea, the CO2 is stripped out and injected below the seabed. The machinery to do this cost \$80 million, but Statoil, Norway's state oil company, has saved \$55 million per year in taxes since 1996.

British Petroleum, the first oil company to acknowledge global warming, is involved in a similar project in a gas field in Algeria. The Weyburn project in Saskatchewan pipes carbon dioxide 200 miles from a coal-gasification plant in North Dakota and injects it into an oil field. In Richland, Wash., scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will be testing to see if CO2 can be injected deep into the basalt formations in the area.

Arguments were heard before the Supreme Court the last week of November. Seeking to have CO2 regulated are the states of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington, and the cities of New York, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Opposing regulation of CO2 are the states of Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah, plus the National Automobile Dealers Association, Engine Manufacturers Association, Truck Manufacturers Association, CO2 Litigation Group, and Utility Air Regulatory Group.

Nominations Now Being Accepted

The following officers are willing to be nominated for office for the next year.

Co-President: Betty Mayfield

Co-President: Steve Puddicombe

Secretary: Charlotte Persons

Treasurer: John Green

Director at Large: Steve Glucoft

Director at Large:

Director at Large:

PLEASE nominate other members (including yourself, if you would like to serve) for a board position. I know there are many well qualified members who would do a wonderful job in any of these positions. It is a great opportunity to become part of a dedicated and hardworking group of people. I know the board has always been supportive of fresh ideas and new involvement. Call, email or send your nomination to Pat Reistroffer. ALL nominations need to be received by April 1.

Pat Reistroffer, 146 Scenic View Dr., Longview, WA 98632, 360-636-5125, preistrof@aol.com.

Mt. St. Helens Mine Update

By Ryan Hunter, Gifford Pinchot Task Force

The mine issue has been quiet for a couple of months, but I've recently learned that the federal government is preparing to release a draft environmental assessment for the lease very soon (possibly even next week). Once the draft EA is released, we will have 30 days to demonstrate the landslide of public opposition to the granting of the lease. This will include sending as many letters as possible to the federal agencies opposing the lease, convincing our elected officials to publicly oppose the granting of the lease, and submitting as many letters to the editor as possible into your local paper opposing the granting of the lease.

I wanted to give you all a heads up so that the announcement doesn't come as a surprise. I continue to be very optimistic that if we work together and work hard, we can stop this ill-conceived mine proposal.

Port of Kalama North Property

By Russ Koppendrayner

Reprinted from *Washington Birder*, Vol. 14, No. 4,
Winter 2006

Washington Birder is a quarterly newsletter published
by Ken and Laurie Knittle; they can be contacted at
2604 NE 80th St., Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-574-
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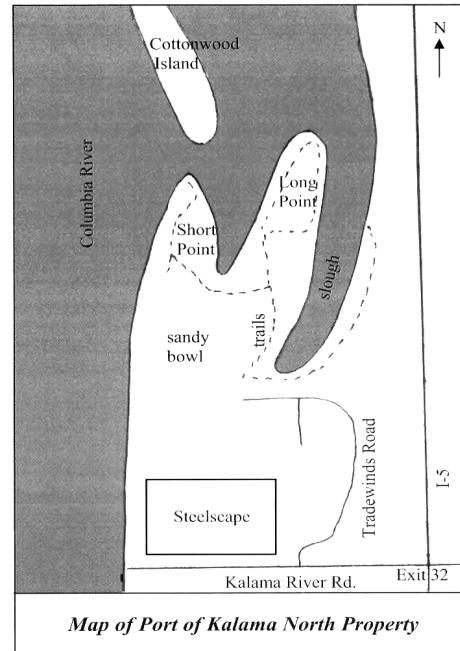
The property is reached by taking exit 32 from I-5 (Kalama River Road) and proceeding west 0.2 miles to Tradewinds Road. Turn right and follow the road around the Steelscape plant. At 0.6 miles, when the pavement goes through a gate to the mill site, continue straight for 0.3 miles on the gravel road. This road is signed "entry by permit only". Permits are free and valid for one year from date of issue. They are available at the Port of Kalama office at the Kalama Marina during regular weekday business hours. To reach the marina opposite downtown Kalama on the Columbia River, take exit 30 and follow the signs to the marina and port offices.

Back at the North Property, park near another gate at the gravel access to Steelscape. In front of you and to the right is a fairly large but shallow sandy bowl with sparse vegetation created by removing soil for fill at other sites. On November 25, 2006 I saw ten Horned Larks in this bowl. This sighting was the third consecutive winter for this species at this site, and they seem to over winter in small numbers. On June 4, 2006 I had a singing Western Meadowlark here, and Bank Swallows digging at the sandy banks. However, I don't believe the swallows were successful in creating cavities as the sand was too loose.

To the north of this bowl along the riverfront is a "short point" that has primarily willows. These willows have been good birding both spring and fall migrations for flycatchers, vireos, warblers, etc. I had a Nashville Warbler here on May 7, 2006. Also scoping the Columbia River from here for loons, grebes, and diving ducks can be productive. Frequently there is a flock of Greater Scaup with others mixed in between here and Cottonwood Island.

For the more adventuresome type birders, the area to the east of this "short point" has some primitive trails through a more heavily wooded area. These trails provide access to "long point" and a shallow slough on its east side. The pilings at the point have had nesting purple martins in season. The slough is good for swans

and dabbling ducks in winter, and occasionally has shorebirds during fall migration. Birds seen at this property by people other than myself include Trumpeter Swan, Northern Goshawk, Barred Owl, and Chipping Sparrow. There also apparently was a Snowy Owl here for three days during the irruption in 2005.



Map of Port of Kalama North Property

This property is not a destination type birding spot, but can be added as a stop with other Kress Lake spots, as detailed by Ruth and Patrick Sullivan in the Summer 2005 issue of *Washington Birder*. These Kalama River Road spots are all near the freeway and close together and can be checked en route to other birding locales. With more coverage, Port of Kalama North Property seems a likely spot for more interesting finds for Cowlitz County.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

The 12th Annual Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival will be held April 27-29 at Hoquiam High School in Hoquiam, Washington. Our Keynote Speaker on Friday evening will be award winning bird and wildlife photographer, Paul Bannick (www.paulbannick.com). His topic will be "Intimate Images of Birds of the Pacific Coastal Region". The festival also features field trips, lectures, vendors and exhibitors and a Saturday Evening Banquet and Auction. To get on the Shorebird Festival brochure mailing list or for registration or general information questions contact Dianna Moore at dlmoor2@coastaccess.com or call her at 1-800-303-8498.

Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayner

It's early March and the first nesting migrants are beginning to arrive in the WHAS area. There are avid birders who claim spring is here after they've seen a rufous hummingbird, a turkey vulture, and any swallow. You may have already encountered some of these in February. Also, this March to April span is when many of our wintering species depart, most notably the waterfowl and sparrows.

For those of you interested in sparrows, I've been seeing more Lincoln's sparrows than usual this winter, both in the Longview Industrial Area and the Woodland Bottoms. They have a preference for grassy habitats with brushy edges or scattered bushes. This close relative of our resident song sparrow is smaller and shyer, with dark streaking on a buffy breast. Hopefully they'll still be findable for a few more weeks.

Enjoy the early spring birding.

Bird Fests and Whale Watching

Sent By Pam Wright

Spring Whale Watch Week 2007, Mar. 24-Mar. 31

Trained volunteers are available at 28 sites along the coast, including at Ecola State Park and at Lewis and Clark Center in Ilwaco, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

http://www.whalespoken.org/OPRD/PARKS/WhaleWatchingCenter/watch_weeks.shtml

Olympic Peninsula BirdFest

Sequim, WA

March 30-April 1

360-681-4076

www.olympicbirdfest.org

"Wings Over Water" Birding Festival

Blaine, WA

March 31

1-800-624-3555

www.washingtonbrant.org

John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival

April 13 - 15, 2007

Burns, Oregon

(541) 573-2636

<http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/index.htm>

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds

May 18th – 19th, 2007

The third annual Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds has something for every birder! This year's event includes the "On Wing" Juried Art Show throughout the month of May at the Edmonds Conference Center (201 - 4th Ave N), culminating with an artists' reception, on Friday evening, May 18th. Following the reception Paul Bannick, Seattle nature photographer, will give a presentation entitled "Wild Wings, A Photographic Celebration of Northwest Birds".

On Saturday, May 19th, guided walks and field trips take advantage of birding opportunities in local parks, wildlife reserves, along the Puget Sound shoreline and at the Edmonds Marsh. Indoor activities take place at the Frances Anderson Center (700 Main St), including speakers on topics ranging from Birdwatching Basics and Identification of Common Backyard Birds, to Bird-Friendly Gardening, Bird Photography, Raptor Education, and Birds of Puget Sound. Many of the activities will appeal to children, including "The Migration Game" at the marsh.

The Edmonds Plaza Room (650 Main St) will be the sight of our Exhibit Space and Marketplace for Vendors all day Saturday. Festival attendees will be able to view exhibits, shop for bird and nature-related items, and bid on a silent auction of artistically decorated bird houses. Saturday evening's keynote speaker in the Plaza Room will be Dr. Jeff Price, on "A Bird's-Eye View of Global Warming".

Puget Sound Bird Fest is a celebration of birds and nature and International Migratory Bird Day. This event is organized by The City of Edmonds Parks & Recreation and Economic Development Departments. Edmonds is stop #1 on the Cascade Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail. While you're in town, drop in our historic Main Street shops and restaurants, and conveniently stay the night in one of our local hotels or bed and breakfast inns. For more information, and a complete schedule of activities, visit our website at: www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.



Common Murre Drawing By Darrell Pruett, WDFW

Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count

By Alan Richards

I would like to thank 31 people who paid close attention to the creatures around them on a recent cold and sometimes very windy day. Four counted birds at their feeders and 27 braved the weather to spot birds in trees and bushes, on the bay and on the ocean, on the ground and in the sky.

The Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS) celebrated its 32nd anniversary of sponsoring the Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count (CBC), held on the Long Beach peninsula and surrounding areas of Willapa Bay, December 16, 2006. This CBC was begun in 1974, by Irving Burr, a retired professor from Purdue University and former resident of Ocean Park. The ongoing success of this event is due to the continued support of our chapter and the steadfast participation of many people not only from our chapter, but from other areas as well.

This year, those who took part included: 20 members of WHAS, 3 members of Portland Audubon, 2 from Seattle Audubon, 3 from the Shoalwater Bird Club, and for the first time, 3 from the newly-formed Discovery Coast Audubon chapter. There were also 3 people who have no club affiliation; we welcome all participants, whether Audubon members or not. Working together, we counted more than thirty-four thousand (34,604) birds, of 99 species, testifying to the rich abundance of our local area, the ability of many individual birds to survive the adversity of living outside every day, rain or shine, and to the perseverance of the human participants who seek out the wildlife around us.

Other high counts / notable species: New for our CBC, one species, Pine Grosbeak (9), observed by three people initially, good photos taken by John and Margaret Green and George Exum, and forwarded to Mike Patterson, our Regional CBC Editor; confirmed the following day by Alan Richards and Ann Musche'. Also notable: Anna's Hummingbird (21, including 9 at feeders not checked in previous years); Bald Eagle (24 total); White-tailed Kite (1); Merlin (4); Peregrine Falcon (6); Dunlin (25,045); Bonaparte's Gull (8); Wilson's Snipe (20); Thayer's Gull (1) the third-ever record for our CBC.

Frank Cramer organized the first Christmas Bird Count in 1900, as an alternative to a sport of the day, the 'side hunt.' Gunners, in those days, used to choose up sides

and, in not-so-sporting fashion, compete to see how many birds they could shoot in one day, the winners those who shot the largest quantity. Cramer and his fellow birdwatchers were hoping that by merely counting the birds, instead of shooting them, that they would have a less destructive impact on the creatures around them. This was not a protest against traditional hunting, but rather against wanton slaughter unrelated to food gathering.

Unless we integrate our recreational pursuits with a concerted conservation effort, we may as well be supporting a side hunt, killing the birds directly. Habitat change and destruction, among many effects of human expansion, on a local, national and worldwide scale, have pushed many species of birds out of their preferred areas, and have consequently reduced many populations substantially or, in some cases, completely. Forever. The Christmas Bird Count is just one of many ways in which this generally downward trend of formerly more plentiful and varied life has been documented. One of the goals of the Audubon Society is to foster an awareness of how we humans are interfering with lives of thousands of plants and animals as we pursue our own human goals, selfish or not.

By increasing this awareness, Audubon provides a voice for those who would otherwise have no voice.

Thanks again for a good count, and hope to see you next year!

Olympic BirdFest 2007 **Sequim, WA, March 30 - April 1, 2007**

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The Birdfest with the most spectacular setting!

Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360-681-4076; email info@olympicbirdfest.org, www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Spring ACOW in Pasco

We invite all chapters to join us in the Tri-Cities April 13-15, 2007 for the next Audubon Council of Washington Conference. We have an interesting agenda planned, along with enjoyable tours. Our theme is REACH OUT – REACH WITHIN – HANFORD REACH.

HEADQUARTERS – The TRAC/AmeriSuites in Pasco. Rates: \$74 (King) & \$79(2 Queens) per night, which includes a bountiful breakfast. The TRAC RV Park is \$25 per night.

TOURS

- Columbia River boat tour of the Hanford Reach – This is a 80-mile tour of the last free flowing stretch of the Columbia River. (extra charge for this tour)
- Birding walks on Bateman Island, or Johnson Park, or the Chamna Reserve – maybe some burrowing owl in residence.
- Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (possible – not assured at this point).
- Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) for those who want a different type of tour. (no charge) Go to www.ligo-wa.caltech.edu/ for information.

SPEAKERS

- Jack Nisbet, author of *Sources of the River*, the story of explorer David Thompson, will present “Birding Between the Mountains, 1800-1860.”
- Mike Denny, recipient of Audubon Washington’s Science Award, will give a presentation on Owls.
- A special talk/presentation on the Hanford Reach National Monument

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society looks forward to welcoming you to the Spring 2007 ACOW Conference. Registration details will follow soon.

www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org

Northern Mockingbird on Puget Island

Carol Carver and George Exum reported a mockingbird apparently wintering on Puget Island. It was recorded on the Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Imagine the Future with \$100 million for Wildlife, Birds and People!

By: Nina Carter, Executive Director Audubon Washington and Washington Wildlife Recreation Coalition Member

Remember when the local Audubon members and their land conservancy partners saved the small wetlands near Spokane --Reardon Ponds -- from development? You and your chapter met the challenge and raised part of the money to buy the property. Audubon Washington contributed its lobbying expertise to get more money into the state budget for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to complete the Reardon Pond transaction. We all celebrated the day when the property became permanent birding site near Spokane! It is a great tourism draw and the local governments love the added tax revenue.

Imagine what we can accomplish with \$100 million for habitat for birds and wildlife! Every month I get calls from Audubon members asking how they can save a small wetland or a forest or a farm in their neighborhood. Those places are home to their favorite Ruby-crowned Kinglet or Cedar Waxwing flocks. I'd like to tell them that \$100 million is available from the WWRP so they can save those special places.

Now, you have a chance to save birds and their habitat by asking for more funding in the WWRP. Governor Gregoire's budget allocated \$70 million for the WWRP. But, there are over \$100 million in projects waiting to be funded. We think the state Legislature should approve \$100 million for WWRP to save farms, forests, wetland, and special places, like Reardon Ponds. Call your legislators today and ask for \$100 million in WWRP. For more information and to see what projects are funded in your area, go to www.wildliferecreation.org.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Would you like to make a major contribution to WHAS, while working from the comfort of your own home? Here is your opportunity. WHAS will need a new newsletter editor for 2008. Al and Diane Clark, current editors, will help you get started. Contact them for information at 360-795-3915, alan_c_clark@hotmail.com.

3CBC Christmas Bird Count

By Bob Reistroffer

On January 1, 2007 the 23rd 3CBC was held as part of Audubon's 107th Christmas Bird Count. 15 field observers and 3 feeder watchers spent the misty/overcast day searching for some hard to find birds. There were alternating light showers. This was our 22nd official 3CBC. The temperature ranged from 34° to 42° with winds out of the southwest at 5-10 mph. We had several all-time high counts- they are marked by **H**. **Plan now for the 24th Annual 3CBC on January 1, 2008.**

Loon, Common 1
 Grebe, Pied-billed 16
 Grebe, Red-necked 1
 Western Grebe 15
 Cormorant, Double-crested 120
 Heron, Great Blue 59 **H**
 Heron, Green-backed 1
 Egret, Great 3 **H**
 Swan, Tundra 225
 Goose, Canada 1260
 Goose, Canada (Small Forms) 286
 Goose, Canada (Large Forms) 2205
 Duck, Wood 4
 Teal, Green-winged (Am) 2
 Mallard 316
 Pintail, Northern 21
 Shoveler, Northern 152
 Gadwall 108 **H**
 Widgeon, Eurasian 1
 American 220
 Duck sp. 165
 Duck, Ring-necked 47
 Scaup, Greater 272 **H**
 Lesser 29
 Scaup sp. 100
 Goldeneye, Common 6
 Bufflehead 94 **H**
 Merganser, Hooded 46 **H**
 Common 37
 Ruddy Duck in count week
 White-tailed Kite 3
 Eagle, Bald
 adult 11 **H**
 immature 1
 Harrier, Northern 2
 Hawk, Cooper's 1

Accipiter sp. 1
 Hawk, Red-tailed 20
 Hawk sp. 4
 Kestrel, American 15
 Falcon sp. 1
 Coot, American 383
 Killdeer 30
 Dunlin 13
 Wilson's Snipe 1
 Gull, California 1
 Ring-billed 2
 Herring 1
 Western 5
 W./Glaucous-winged 15
 Glaucous-winged 13
 Gull sp. 111
 Rock Pigeon 168
 Dove, Mourning 32 **H**
 Great Horned Owl
 in count week
 Hummingbird, Anna's 1
 Kingfisher, Belted 14
 Sapsucker, Red-breasted 1
 Woodpecker, Downy 4
 Hairy 1
 Flicker, Northern 39
 Pileated Woodpecker 1
 Jay, Steller's 33
 Scrub 64
 Crow, American 625
 Common Raven 10 **H**
 Chickadee, Black-capped 61
 Chestnut-backed 10
 Bushtit 25
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted 3
 Creeper, Brown 2

Wren, Bewick's 1
 Winter 6
 Marsh in count week
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned 35
 Ruby-crowned 30
 Hermit Thrush 1
 Robin, American 230
 Thrush, Varied 67
 Starling, European 1211
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
 Towhee, Spotted 30
 Sparrow, Fox 28
 Song 85
 Lincoln's 2
 Golden-crowned 84
 White-crowned 7
 Sparrow sp. 3
 Junco, Dark-eyed 378
 Blackbird, Red-winged 369
 Western Meadowlark
 in count week
 Blackbird, Brewer's 3
 Blackbird sp. 12
 Finch, Purple 14
 House 44
 Carpodacus sp. 4
 Pine Siskin 30
 American Goldfinch 4
 Evening Grosbeak 50
 House Sparrow 42

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 10,140
TOTAL SPECIES 82 plus 4
others in count week

Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

By Andrew Emlen

Our unofficial final total was 37,730 individuals of 113 species, plus 2 count week species. Our average (not including this year) is 106 species. Our record, set last year, is 115 species. We had a record number of volunteers: 21 field counters and 4 feeder watchers.

White-fronted Goose	1	American Kestrel	17	Marsh Wren	25
Cackling Goose	4140	Prairie Falcon	1	American Dipper	1
Canada Goose	2295	Peregrine Falcon	5	Wrentit	4
Canada Goose complex	1233	Virginia Rail	18	Golden-crowned Kinglet	105
Brant	1	American Coot	890	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	126
Tundra Swan	35	Black-bellied Plover	20	Northern Mockingbird	1
Trumpeter Swan	0	Killdeer	31	European Starling	2196
Wood Duck	0	Greater Yellowlegs	0	American Pipit	0
Gadwall	121	Spotted Sandpiper	3	Hermit Thrush	5
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Western Sandpiper	0	American Robin	273
American Wigeon	429	Least Sandpiper	0	Varied Thrush	136
Mallard	633	Dunlin	40	Cedar Waxwing	3
Northern Shoveler	148	Long-billed Dowitcher	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	1
Northern Pintail	0	Wilson's Snipe	9	Yellow-rumped Warbler	0
Northern Pintail	697	Mew Gull	16	Townsend's Warbler	1
Am. Green-winged Teal	173	Ring-billed Gull	16	Common Yellowthroat	0
Canvasback	1	California Gull	3	Spotted Towhee	57
Ring-necked Duck	136	Thayer's Gull	0	Savannah Sparrow	2
Greater Scaup	9146	Western Gull	27	Fox Sparrow	255
		Glaucous-winged Gull	24	Song Sparrow	331
Lesser Scaup	545	Rock Pigeon	21	Lincoln's Sparrow	9
White-winged Scoter	5	Mourning Dove	7	Swamp Sparrow	0
Surf Scoter	3	Band-tailed Pigeon	0	White-throated Sparrow	3
Bufflehead	621	Barn Owl	19	White-crowned Sparrow	62
Common Goldeneye	14	Western Screech Owl	0	Golden-crowned	
Hooded Merganser	35	Great Horned Owl	0	Sparrow	321
Common Merganser	60	Belted Kingfisher	18	Dark-eyed Junco	376
Red-breasted Merganser	7	Lewis' Woodpecker	1	Red-winged Blackbird	107
Ruddy Duck	12	Red-breasted Sapsucker	2		
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	Downy Woodpecker	8	Western Meadowlark	12
Ruffed Grouse	1	Hairy Woodpecker	2	Brewer's Blackbird	3
Red-throated Loon	3	Northern Flicker, (form?)	64	Brown-headed Cowbird	0
Pacific Loon	0	N. Flicker, red-shafted	0	Purple Finch	12
Common Loon	0	N. Flicker, yellow-shafted	0	House Finch	24
Pied-billed Grebe	35	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Red Crossbill	25
Horned Grebe	12	Black Phoebe	0	Pine Siskin	80
Red-necked Grebe	1	Northern Shrike	1	American Goldfinch	0
Western Grebe	172	Hutton's Vireo	2	American Goldfinch	81
Clark's Grebe	0	Steller's Jay	97	House Sparrow	118
Brandt's Cormorant	0	Gray Jay	0	loon sp.	0
Double-crest. Cormorant	55	Western Scrub Jay	64	scaup sp.	9061
Pelagic Cormorant	1	American Crow	1092	accipiter sp.	0
Great Blue Heron	41	Common Raven	84	falcon sp.	1
Great Egret	0	Horned Lark	4	western X glaucous-wing	18
Green Heron	1	Barn Swallow	0	gull sp.	67
White-tailed Kite	11	Black-capped Chickadee	118	buteo sp.	2
Bald Eagle, adult	35	Chestnut-backed			
Bald Eagle, immature	7	Chickadee	60	Total #'s	37730
Bald Eagle, age?	6	Bushtit	23	Total Count Day	
Northern Harrier	28	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Species	113
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	Brown Creeper	3	Add'l Count Week	
Cooper's Hawk	1	Bewick's Wren	7	Species	2
Red-tailed Hawk	50	Winter Wren	47		
American Kestrel	0				

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

The brochure has been mailed and the website will be updated within a few days for Othello's 10th annual Sandhill Crane Festival. This year we will have three optional Saturdays (March 17, March 31, April 7), in addition to the main event weekend of March 23-25, to view Sandhill Cranes and Burrowing Owls in a small-group setting. Visit the website at www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org and watch for updates as we fill in final details.

After last year's late approval, we can again present teachers the opportunity to earn clock hours for attending the lecture series that covers diverse topics of natural and cultural history. We offer 32 different talks during 6 hours plus Friday evening and at the banquet. Pre-registration is required to receive credit. Contact Amelia Boksenbaum at the Columbia NWR office for details at 509-488-2668 ext. 17, or by e-mail: Amelia_Boksenbaum@fws.gov

Also back by popular demand, the Sandhill Winery Wine Tasting at The Old Hotel Saturday afternoon from 2-6 pm. And a new penguin movie at the Showhouse. Lots to do, lots of fun for the whole family.

Invasive Species Council

From the Audubon Newswire, February 2007

OLYMPIA – The second meeting of the the Invasive Species Council was held January 29th in Olympia and included a celebration of the environmental community's work to establish the Council. The Council was established by the state legislature in 2006 and is charged with writing a strategic plan to control, manage, and eradicate existing populations of invasive species in Washington State and prevent new infestations. Audubon WA is a founding member, and on the steering committee, of the Invasive Species Coalition, a group of conservation organizations that lobbied hard for the creation of The Council. Bríd Nowlan has been hired by Audubon WA to represent the environmental community on this issue. At its first meeting, The Council appointed Nowlan an ex officio member of the Council, with Nina Carter as her alternate. To subscribe to the Coalition's listserv, to receive regular updates, email Bríd at bnowlan@seanet.com. For additional information, go to <http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org/> and http://www.iac.wa.gov/invasive_species/default.htm.

Rat on Your Cat

From the Audubon Newswire, February 2007

Washington, D.C. - NPR reports that the American Bird Conservatory is asking pet owners to help count any small animals their household pets kill. Experts say outdoor cats may kill hundreds of millions of wild birds each year -- but they aren't exactly sure how many. When pet owners see a household pet kill a bird, squirrel, or anything else, they can go to the ABC's "Project Predator Watch" Web site and fill in the details.

Nelson Creek Stewardship Committee Holds First Meeting

By Al Clark

WHAS' Stewardship Committee held its inaugural meeting on February 10 at the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge. Fourteen members were in attendance, along with Ian Sinks of the Columbia Land Trust and two students from Lower Columbia College.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize the committee to get started on helping the Columbia Land Trust restore the degraded habitat on the 180-acre Nelson Creek property near Cathlamet.

Jim and Bea Harrison were elected co-chairs. Ian Sinks and Al Clark provided brief histories of the property and the restoration project.

The feasibility and cost of restoring Nelson Creek to its original bed through the property and the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge is currently being studied by the Corps of Engineers. That study will be completed very soon, and then a comprehensive restoration plan can be prepared.

Basic "before" surveys are needed to gather baseline data. These can begin soon. Surveys discussed included plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, fish, insects, and invasive species. There will also be a need for grant writing and public communication.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 3 at the Refuge. Groups will be formed to work on various aspects of the restoration. There will also be a tour of the property. All WHAS members are welcome to join us.



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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 black-and-white 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.

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.

Programs

See Page 1 for Details

March 17 - Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska, by Taldi Walter

May 15 - Sky Time in Grays River, by Bob Pyle

June 2 - WHAS Annual Membership Meeting

Field Trips

See Page 3 for Details

March 24 - Waterfowl and Woodpeckers

April 21 - Earth Day Stewardship

April 23 - Birding Western Wahkiakum County

May 19 - Fox Creek Wildflowers