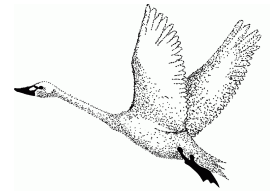


WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society



Volume 35, Issue 4

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July/August 2009



Photo L. LaPierre

The bushwhacker work crew on June 19th 2009:

Back row, from left: Alissa Dunn, Tom Finn, Cecily Thompson, Mary Huels, Melissa Knudson, Mike Marshal, John Green, Larry Turner, Bob Bachman, Linda Jennings, Margaret Green, Front Row(s) from left: Pam Wright, Jenn Dunn, Sophia Knudson, William Knudson, Cloe Knudson and Jordan Mackey (Not Pictured) Dale Bailey, Louis LaPierre, Carolyn Norred, Ron Schauer

The Merry Bushwhackers'

By Margaret Green

WHAS members, LCC Biological Society, and local citizens joined forces twice in the month of June to pull invasive species on the two islands in Lake Sacajawea Park in Longview. With front-page support from The Daily News and further announcements, WHAS was able to expand the pool of volunteers to include members of the community.

The early summer work party was planned specifically to eradicate scotch broom during its blooming/fruiting season, the best time to successfully remove this plant. As that is also nesting season for birds, caution was in order and observed by everyone. For nearly 3 hours each day, the crews discovered and tackled scotch broom, ivy (left from the January ivy pull), holly, and Himalayan black berries. The results of the work are evident now, as one walks around the lake. Cleared spaces reveal native roses, Oregon grape, sword fern, and Indian plum, perfect habitat and foraging plants for birds and other wildlife.

The 4 duck boxes installed by WHAS a few years ago are still intact. The volunteers observed some nesting songbirds, as evidenced by nests with eggs – one scotch broom escaped the hatchet because it harbored a red-winged blackbird nest. The workdays were very satisfying to our volunteers; who received kudos and pizza from the Longview Parks Department. We have also had many positive comments from the regulars around the lake.

Many thanks to the 33 individuals (11 WHAS members, 8 Biological Society members and 14 citizens) who have helped to make room for native species on the islands at the Lake.

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.

Send your contributions or suggestions to

WHAS – Poems, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632
or email newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

Ornithology 101

Now that you have staked their skeletons,
eyed the scope of a throat, prodded
strutted white ribs, pinched
a wishbone for resilience, thumbed
a keeled sternum's edge still trying
to steer scattered feathers, stroked
a hummingbird's mum iridescence, ruffed
the white down of a great egret
slit and stuffed as last year's final project,
sprinted with a severed wing to catch
the physics, given new vision
to a blackbird with two dabs of cotton,
you can leave with an A in class Aves.
Now that you have looked through birds, you see
the diagrammatic movements of geese
across the blue sky, dotted lines
narrowing a million years. You expect
from every American goldfinch thistles
and sadness, and when you walk out
among the world's perches and Latinate streaks
at the edge of sight, the air is feathers
measuring the bones of your face.

--Derek Sheffield

*This poem appears in A Revised Account of the West
(Flyway/Iowa State U. Press, 2008) by Derek Sheffield and
is reprinted here by permission of the author.*

In this issue of the Whistler:

- 2 Member Form and WHAS News
- 3 Update: Lake Sacajawea Sign, Leadbetter Point
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- 5 Reports from Nelson Creek, Earth Day, Wenas C.
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Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Check type of Membership:

- ☐ New Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
☐ Renewal Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
☐ I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____.

Membership includes 6 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* 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 your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

**To allow members to announce and discuss items of general interest.

* To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute schedule changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

Clip- - - - -Clip

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WHAS Board News and Announcements

The next WHAS Board meeting will be held in Cathlamet during late September or early October. Please check the WHAS website calendar for the date, time and location if you would like to attend.

Do you have time to help?

We need **new** folks to support with different WHAS activities.

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 give presentations and offer 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 for some time with someone who can take her place in arranging for programs.

The **Snowy Plover / Horned Lark** project needs a coordinator. See page 3 for more information.

If you would like to help **contact** a committee chair or Charlotte Persons at 360-578-3949 or email president@willapahillsaudubon.org.

Audubon Magazine Photography Awards Birds in Focus

Parlay your passion for birds into a dream trip to Peru, Australia, or Honduras, or win professional photo gear, in Audubon's first photography awards. Each participant can submit up to 10 bird images, so you have 10 chances to win. Your winning entry will appear in the January-February issue of Audubon and in Nature's Best Photography. Here's your chance to see your images soar to the top. Enter by: July 15, 2009

Categories: Professional, Amateur, Youth (ages 13-17)

Details: www.audubonmagazinephotoawards.org

Updates

Lake Sacajawea Interpretive Signs

By Margaret Green

Work on the Avian Interpretive Signs for Lake Sacajawea Park continues to progress. Our two local artists, Lorena Birk and Debby Neely are busy researching and/or preparing the actual artwork.

Once the art is ready, we move to complete the graphic preparation, and then send it to the company which will create these weather resistant pieces in a technical full-color process. The signs are guaranteed to last 10 years but are more likely to

be beautiful for 15 or 20. The project is moving along as expected and we are hoping to install the first sign in September and the second in October.

Both the Longview Historic Commission and the Longview Parks Board are supporting agencies and involved in the project details. We are all looking forward to a future Whistler announcement that the signs are ready for your visit!

Leadbetter State Park Restoration

By Ann Musché

The joint project of Grays Harbor Audubon and our chapter to support habitat restoration for coastal western snowy plovers and streaked horned larks at Leadbetter State Park has received funding for one additional year. Part of our funds will allow us to hire briefly the Audubon biologist, Don McIvor, to give input to this project.

At the end of May a group of volunteers, Alan Richards, Tom Finn and Randy Robinson, joined WDFW biologist Kathy Gunther to survey the 10 plots in the dunes which constitute this Habitat Restoration Area, and then to ride with her onto the

beach of the Willapa Refuge to see a total of 10 adult snowy plovers and 3 chicks.

We will join Kathy for one more survey, and then do a few more on our own. Also in late July we will join WDFW biologist Dave Hays to do some vegetation monitoring.

If you are interested in joining us for any of this, or know someone who might be, please give me a call...(360-484-7119.)

More about the *Whistler*

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> and look for the *Whistler*.

WHAS Education Activities

By Darrel Whipple

At Forestry Days for Longview fifth graders at Wake Robin Learning Center, May 21 and 22, WHAS volunteers helped about 450 students become more aware of local wildlife by showing 20 mounts from the Lower Columbia River Wildlife Collection. Students visited the display on their way to or from their lunch site and were able to feel the feathers and fur and use magnifiers to examine some of the features that help the animals survive, such as the sound-buffering fringe on the leading edge of an owl's wing.

Wetland animals were grouped on one picnic table and forest animals on another. In addition, Jennings Taxidermy lent us a



Photo: Darrel Whipple

mounted wood duck and a ruffed grouse to complement the exhibit. Thursday volunteers were Robert Sudar, Linda Jennings, Bruce Fischer, Darrel Whipple. Friday volunteers were Gloria Nichols, David Jennings, Linda Jennings and Darrel Whipple.

Camp Learned-a-lot for second graders at Rainier's Hudson Park Elementary, June 5th, involved four volunteers from WHAS and Friends of Fox Creek. The four presenters displayed mounts of five of our local owl species from the Wildlife Collection and told about the features and life history of each while the

students were dissecting barn owl pellets under the guidance of their teachers. The volunteers for this event were Claudia Eagle, Randy Jennings, Linda Jennings and Darrel Whipple.

Spring ACOW 2009 Report

By Charlotte Persons, *President*

The spring Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) took place between May 1 and May 3 2009 in Leavenworth WA.

WA Audubon Interim Executive Director Charlie Kahle did not describe the series of events that left Audubon WA with little funding and half the staff. Instead, he focused on the many accomplishments enumerated in Audubon WA's annual report, which you can read at their website. Lynn Tennefoss, our regional representative for the Pacific, said that within the next year, with input from Washington chapters, there would be decisions about staffing and priorities for the next five years.

Here are some of the other issues we talked about:

- In the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC) meeting, each chapter represent made a report. A highlight for me was Spokane chapter's news that Reardon Lake -- about five years ago WHAS contributed funds to helping buy -- is moving ahead with trail development, parking, toilets, and viewing blinds to make the property accessible to the public for wildlife viewing. The section that is Palouse Prairie habitat is being restored through the state Lands Restoration and Enhancement program.
- Craig Lee from the National Audubon office gave a report on an exciting new program to pair U.S. chapters with Central and South American bird refuges and non-profits on the songbird and raptor migratory routes. Major stopping places, mostly IBA's, have been identified as "stepping stones." The idea is to have exchanges of information and assistance to improve both northern and southern preservation programs. The Pacific flyway program is just beginning and two areas will be identified to develop a pilot program in Washington. They need volunteers, binocs, scopes, etc. to send to southern partners.
- Christi Norman has obtained grants to finish the remaining birding trails in WA state. Now she wants input on the next stage—how to integrate the trails into other Audubon and government activities. One goal is to identify top priority amenities for each site, such as parking or toilets. Another is to market the maps through hooking up with already existing activities such as festivals, cruises, community college's sustainable business programs, sister city birding trail sites, etc.
- Shawn Cantrell of Seattle Audubon gave a presentation on Seattle's efforts to document trees and encourages their preservation in neighborhoods in a program called Canopy Connections.
- Lindell Haggin of Audubon Spokane talked about a program to train volunteers to help in bird banding with the Western Bird Banding Association.
- Adam Sedgley of Seattle Audubon described citizen science programs in that city. He is also the creator of Birding Notes on Seattle Public Radio. There are monthly birding surveys in 8 city parks, coordinated with the Puget Sound Seabird Survey. There is a website to collate and share the data.
- Tahoma Audubon described bioblitzing, rapid bio inventories that include nature mapping in a 24-hour period.
- Don McIvor, who is working part-time for Audubon WA, discussed the impact on birds and biodiversity due to global warming. These are summarized in the 2009 State of the Birds Report for WA, a subset of the data in the National Audubon report. This report is also on-line at the Audubon WA website.

Bat Houses for Sale

By Louis LaPierre

Inspired by Andrew Emlen's spring program on bats, the Lower Columbia College Biological Society is selling a limited number of single-chamber bat houses as a fundraiser. These houses have been assembled by students using outdoor-grade plywood and furring strips following the specifications described by Bat Conservation International (BCI; batcon.org) for the Pacific Northwest climate (i.e., they have been painted black and do not have a ventilation gap). Each house measures approximately 27.5" H X 24" W X 1.75" D (70 cm H X 61 cm W X 4 cm D), with the roost chamber being .75" (18 mm) deep. Smaller bat houses may be purchased on BCI's website for \$99.95, but you can get a larger bat house, hand-made by LCC college student volunteers, for an astoundingly low price of \$35.00. Instructions on how to increase your chances of having bats use your new bat house will be included.

The LCC Biological Society is a student-run club. While students are the primary members, anyone can join in club activities. The LCC Biological Society and WHAS have coordinated efforts to bring many well-attended presenters to Longview and to work on various environmental stewardship events. Proceeds from the sale of the bat houses will be used to support programs, stewardship and outings. For questions about the LCC Biological Society and to be added to the email list to stay informed of club activities, please contact the faculty advisor, Dr. Louis LaPierre, at llapierre@lowercolumbia.edu.



Photo: L. LaPierre
J. Mackey holding one of the finished bat houses.

Recent Activities

Earth Day Booth -- Fox Creek Trail Work -- Vegetation Surveys at Nelson Creek

By Pam Wright

The **Vegetation Surveys at Nelson Creek** on May 30 and June 13 were a success thanks to Columbia Land Trust planning and supporting WHAS and LCC Biological Society volunteers. We tromped, waded and floated to preselected random sites around the property and marked each site with a (hopefully) permanent stake to assist in sampling the same location in future surveys. At each location we noted the plant species present and collected information on the percentage of the ground or sky that was covered by herbaceous, shrubby and tree composition within a 3, 9 and 30 foot radius, respectively. We then measured tree diameters within 30 feet of the each site, which at some locations required no effort while at others it required climbing trunks on the creek edge or measuring dozens of alder and cottonwood. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped collect the baseline data that future surveys will be compared against after restoration efforts begin. This was, and future surveys will be, a great opportunity to learn about plant surveying techniques. Watch the WHAS Whistler, alert emails and website for future opportunities to participate in citizen science activities at Nelson Creek.



Photo: Andrea Berkley

The **Earth Day booth** at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds requires a lot of organization and coordination by Pat Reistroffer, to whom WHAS is very thankful. We are particularly fortunate that Pat and Bob Reistroffer are able multi-taskers as they were simultaneously organizing a second booth of recycling projects created by their students. WHAS and LCC Biological Society volunteers assisted the public in the creation of hundreds of bird feeders (cardboard rolls spread with peanut butter and rolled in seed) to help nurture an appreciation for birds. Volunteers also fielded questions from the public about our organization and birds. The Earth Day booth is a great opportunity to have our organization "out there" and is energizing and fun.

A number of WHAS members joined with partner organization Friends of Fox Creek to help with the annual **Earth Day Fox Creek trail maintenance** and invasive plant removal. It's been very satisfying to see the change in the quality of the habitat over just the three or four years that I've been helping on the annual workday. The improvement is a testament to how much a group of volunteers can accomplish with a 3 hour annual work day. Stop by to enjoy the serenity nestled in downtown Rainier.

Wenas Campout

By Carolyn Norred

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, a group of Willapa Hills Audubon members gathered at the annual campout at The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary. John and Margaret Green, Art and Carolyn Norred, Dale Bailey, and Ludger Wöhrmann, enjoyed the excellent weather on the dry side of the mountains to learn more about the birds and the wild plants of the Wenas valley, just outside of Naches, WA. Along with the fun of camping together the annual event provided us with workshops, lectures, plant sample board, and guided bird tours. Many of the folks on the bird and plant walks had long years of experience with the subjects and assisted the guides to identify the birds and plants as we came upon them.

Each evening campers gathered to hear various speakers explain the physical and political realities of the year's activities. According to John's count, during the weekend we spotted 68 different birds listed on the WA ST Bird List, a variety that ran

from the yellow-breasted Chat, to the Calliope Hummingbird. Margaret took the plant notes which included some common



Photo: Art Norred

beauties such as Mt. Bluebell, Lupine, and Larkspur and a "lovely meadow filled with iris and the song of Yellow Breasted Chats." Personally, I was thrilled to discover on one walk the high meadow of Bitterroot and giant Trifolium clover.

The only "development" in this campsite was a row of port-a-potties. The energy and education provided by the group was a real pleasure.

I encourage you to consider it next year if you enjoy camping, but do be aware that it is a site shared by off-roaders. I was tickled to overhear two young

ones (maybe 9 or 10 years old) gear down as they came up to the area shared by the birders. The first rider called to the other, "Slow down here; we're gonna' be passing the peepers!" It's true, two more different groups could not have come together in one place, but all the same, I'm looking forward to the next gathering.

Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayer

June 13, 2009 was a date for me to reach a bird-listing milestone. Needing four species in King County, Washington, to reach one hundred, influenced my decision to chase reports of an Indigo Bunting and a Least Flycatcher being seen in the Three Forks Natural Area near the town of Snoqualmie. I'd set the multi-year goal of seeing one hundred species in each of Washington's 39 counties, as a way to learn more of the distribution and seasonal occurrence of bird species in the state. With 38 counties down and 4 species left in the final one, I knew much more about birds in the state, had enjoyed the company of many birding companions and seen many of the spectacular nooks and crannies of our fair state.

Sleeping in until after 5:00 AM, I was showered and in the car, a little before 6:00. After breakfast in Chehalis, I was back on the road to arrive at the described parking lot around 9:15. The earlier arrivals were beginning to return to the parking lot and having seen both birds, pointed me in the correct direction with good wishes. This section of the natural area was a series of grassy meadows surrounded by the riparian areas associated with the various forks of the Snoqualmie River, as well as other smaller streams, and just a few miles upstream of the famous falls by the same name. Hiking across these meadows, I saw and heard much bird life, including the ubiquitous calls of Western Wood Pewees. Since this species had eluded me before, it was tick number 1! Soon I came to the appointed corner where both the bunting and the flycatcher had been seen and ran into Kathy Andrich, who I'd birded with before. She'd only been there a short while, had heard, but not seen the Indigo Bunting, before it went silent. After a couple minutes, it began singing but from inside a dense thicket of blackberries. But it moved frequently and suddenly popped up on a bare twig in front of a dark green tangle of leaves. The sun at our backs, revealed a stunning look at this beautiful blue bird, which normally nests east of the Rockies, an individual or two gracing our state with their presence once every couple of years or so.



Kathy and I now moved over to the riparian area, along the small stream, adjacent to the meadow we were in, to look for the Least Flycatcher. Frequently a nester in the aspen groves of northeast Washington and points north and east, this bird is not as far out of range as the bunting, but will be fun to find none-the-less. The smallest of the empidonax flycatchers, this tiny yellow and olive bird will be impossible to find unless we hear its classic "CHEbek" call, which it can make continuously, but now we hear no such thing. After some time, we're both distracted and wander off looking and listening. I find a Lazuli Bunting, special and beautiful, but amazingly, I've already encountered this species in King County a couple years earlier. Then a Peregrine Falcon comes over the trees and soars high overhead. Only

one more species to go! Is that a Red-eyed Vireo singing? I pish, and a bird drops down to take a look at me. Red-eyed Vireo – yes, number 100! Still no "CHEbek" calls at the flycatcher spot, so I follow an elk trail into the woods with wonderful old maples mixed with other trees. After a while, I hear a loud PEEK and turn to find a Hairy Woodpecker. Number 101!

Aimlessly birding my way back to the spot for the Least Flycatcher, I'm trying to triangulate on a singing Black-headed Grosbeak when the back of my brain says "CHEbek". I pay closer attention and, yes, it's a continuous "CHEbek, CHEbek" from the spot the Least Flycatcher was being seen. I move over for a look and soon spot movement and get a look at this bird. I start around the corner to call to Kathy, who I'd last seen in the far corner of the meadow, but there she was looking into the same trees from a different angle. Number 102!

What a great way to end this quest in a great birding spot I hadn't heard of until a couple days earlier, in a county I avoid because of traffic (no problems this day) with a couple of great birds included. Reaching my car around noon, I cruised the town looking for hummingbird feeders; an active one rewarded me with another new county species (Rufous Hummingbird) before lunch, and then the drive home with a couple quick birding stops along the way.

Fall shorebird migration starts now; time to visit the Mint Farm ponds.

Happy birding.

Annual WHAS Picnic on Sunday, July 26

This year Linda and David Jennings, who live at 74905 Fern Hill Rd. in Rainier, have graciously volunteered to host our summer picnic at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. Their property includes a wooded area with lots of birds that you can enjoy. Just as in years past, you can bring as many guests as you like.

Please bring a dish that could serve 8 or 10, and plates, cups, and flatware for all the members of your group. Tap water will be provided, but you are free to bring any other beverage. Call Charlotte Persons at 360-578-3949 or email her at president@willapahillsaudubon.org with any questions. It would also be kind to RSVP to Charlotte with news of the number of guests and dish you plan to bring.

Directions: From Highway 30 (West B Street) in Rainier, turn south onto W. 6th Street (away from the Columbia River). It becomes, at the right sharp turn, West C Street. Go one block to W. 7th Street. Turn left on W. 7th Street, which becomes Fern Hill Road. Go about .8 mile to the Jennings' house.

Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

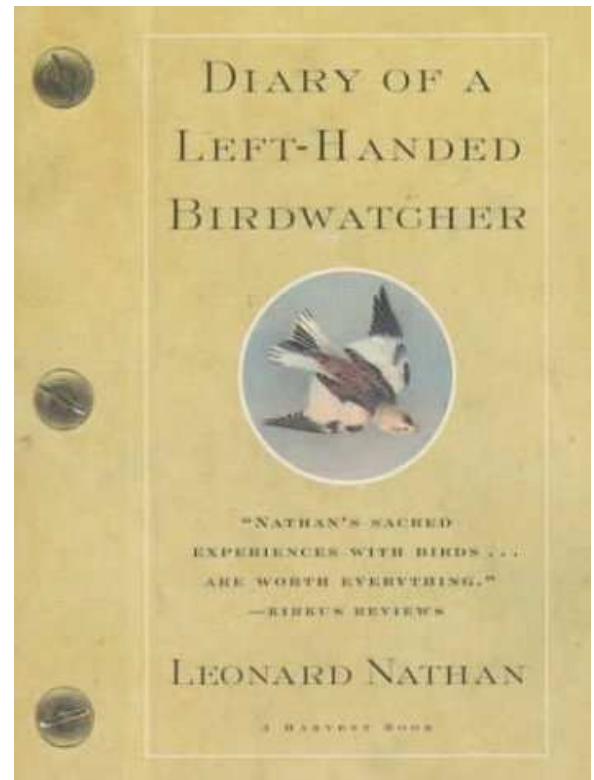
The last book reviewed for this newsletter (The Big Year) was the story of three men spending one year to sight as many different bird species as possible in that time; this review, examines the experience of one man committing as much time as it takes to sight a single bird, the Snow Bunting. Two frames to the same obsession: birding.

When I spotted *Diary of a Left-Handed Birdwatcher*, by Leonard Nathan, on the library shelf, there was no help for it, I had to take it home with me - being a left-handed birdwatcher, myself.

Nathan is retired from 30 years at UC, Berkeley and has received numerous awards for his poetry and translations. Published in 1996 by Graywolf Press this Diary includes Nathan's expert ornithologist friend who keeps him honest when he wanders into poetic subjectivity; his wife who provides some pithy commentary on the whole project; the folks of his birding group who share and expand his field adventures; and a collection of poetry and poets, past and present, who address the subject of birds.

A pleasant narrative style, and keen observational details woven with a gentle humor make this book a sweet read, but don't pick it up looking to improve your field skills. Its pocket size makes it a good book to take along if you are looking to spend some time (maybe with a leisurely lunch break) on the trail of our feathered friends. This is my version of a left-handed complement. I found reading *Diary of a Left-Handed Birdwatcher* a pleasant way to spend a few free-time hours.

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



Volunteer Activities

Deconstruction Day Nelson Creek

Dear WHAS Volunteers,

On behalf of the staff of Columbia Land Trust, I would like to offer our sincere "Thanks!" to those who came to our Deconstruction Day at Nelson Creek on May 16. You withstood the heat, the tough work, and the considerable challenges involved in deconstructing those old buildings, all while being safe and a joy to work with. Thank you for taking time out of your busy Spring to lend a hand - we could not have done it without you! An extra "Thanks" to those who brought tools and equipment do let me know if you are missing anything.

We're looking forward to working with you on other adventures at this site in 2009, making great progress on this project! We now have WDFW LIP funds in place to help implement the weed control, planting, and thinning portions of the work (which I hope we can partially implement in 2009), as well as some ditch plugging and channel excavation work. The Deconstruction Day was the first of the LIP activities completed. The huge amount of volunteer hours and miles donated by all of you, and by those who came from Miller Hull Architectural Firm, for this event count as valuable match for this grant. We tallied a total of 487 volunteer hours in one day!

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Sincerely, --

Andrea Berkley -- Conservation Coordinator Columbia Land Trust

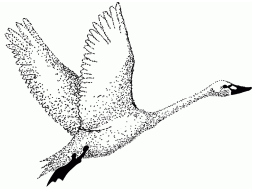
Washington Ornithological Society

21st Annual Conference
September 18 - 21, 2009

by Margaret Green

This year's annual Washington Ornithological Society (WOS) conference is being held in southwest Washington, with headquarters established at the Red Lion Inn in Kelso. Our area was selected for the conference because of its close proximity to wonderful birding areas and diversity of habitat. This event is known for its great evening programs (Dr. Robert Pyle is a featured speaker.) and for fabulous all-day field trips, lead by some of Washington's most knowledgeable birders.

This is a great way to immerse oneself into this wonderful hobby/avocation/passion/neurosis – (take your pick.) The conference is only open to WOS members, but membership dues can be taken at the time of registration. To read more, go to www.wos.org.



**Willapa Hills Audubon Society
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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 15th of each even-numbered month. Send your contributions to WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632 or to newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org.

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.

WHAS Program and Field Trips

Summer is a quiet time for organized WHAS activities. We expect our members to disperse and pursue their own fantasies within the natural world. This is a time when the powers of observation are rewarded with the beauty of the season. We hope you encounter nesting birds, blooming wildflowers, and lovely flutter-bys (the delicate damsels, powerful dragons, and wispy butterflies tickle the imagination). It is also a time for wonderful wandering, solo or with like-minded friends. Enjoy.

Field Trips will resume in the early fall.

Watch for the future announcement of a Wasp ID lab and program, to be presented by WHAS members and Lower Columbia College instructors, Louis LaPierre and Carl Rousch, sometime in early October.

Annual WHAS Picnic

Sunday July 26th 2pm For more see page 6.

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

Check out our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org