

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 36 // Issue 3

May / June 2010



Photo: <http://cooperisland.org/2005fieldseason.htm>

Falling Off the Edge: Four Decades of Environmental Change at the Top of the World

George Divoky returns **Friday, May 7 at 7:00 PM** to give a program on climate change at the Lower Columbia College [Rose Center Wollenberg Auditorium](#) in Longview.

Divoky is a world-renowned scientist who has studied the behavior of a small seabird, the Black Guillemot, and the arctic world it inhabits for 34 years. He has witnessed the habitat change dramatically over 3 decades of research. Visit his fascinating web site: <http://cooperisland.org>.

From the web site: "What seems like a long, long time ago, black guillemots on Cooper Island had the best of all possible worlds. The summer snow-free period was increasing annually, providing breeding birds with more time to raise their young, and the Arctic pack ice was close enough offshore that there was a readily accessible supply of Arctic cod to feed the nestlings. The only real dark cloud on the horizon was the realization, slow in coming over the past three decades, that the warming planet that had given the guillemots their "salad days" in the 1970s and 1980s could cause increasing melt of the pack ice, making Arctic cod less accessible and causing problems for parent guillemots provisioning their young in August and early September."

Lower Columbia College Biological Society joins WHAS to bring this world-renowned scientist to share with us reports of his observations and stories of his adventures. George Divoky is a sincere and captivating speaker. His program will be one you won't want to miss.

Primal Warblings

By Carolyn Norred

"...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*)

The Windhover

Caught this morning morning's minion, king-
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn
Falcon, in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air,
and striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a
wimpling wing

In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-
bend: the hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of; the mastery
of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride,
plume, here

Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee
then, a billion
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my
chevalier!

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough
down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.

-- Gerard Manley Hopkins

Reprinted from Poems, 1918

In this issue of the Whistler:

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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.

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email (Add your email address below)

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

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

WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632

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Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone.

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

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



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The Whistler Online

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

Upcoming Events and Dates

May 8

International Migratory Bird Day

May 21

Endangered Species Day

May 28-31

2010 Wenas Campout (more info on page 4)

June 11-14

22nd Washington Ornithological Society Conference in Wenatchee

More info: <http://www.wos.org/>

New Option to Receive the *Whistler* by email

Willapa Hills Audubon Society now offers delivery of the *Willapa Whistler* newsletter by email. The "*eWhistler*" arrives several days before the snail-mail version and offers enhanced viewing with color photos and graphics as well as live links to referenced websites and emails. If you elect to receive your *Whistler* electronically rather than by postal service, an email will arrive announcing the availability of the *Whistler* on the WHAS website with a link to the webpage that will open in your default web browser. You can read the *Whistler* online or save it to your computer for later browsing.

Archived *Whistlers* are available on the WHAS website. Please consider signing up for electronic delivery to reduce paper waste, mail box clutter and expenses associated with printing and mailing of the *Whistler*. If you would like to elect to receive the *Whistler* by email, please send your full name and e-mail address to our Membership Chair, Gloria Nichols at membership@willapahillsaudubon.org.

Honoring Our Faithful Volunteers and Finding New Ones

By Charlotte Persons, President

Volunteering is a good way to cement old friendships, especially if you invite your friends to help you with a project. Even better, volunteering can open the door to making new friends who share your enthusiasms, whether for enjoying birds and other wildlife or for protecting their (and our) local habitat.

WHAS is fortunate to have the help of so many volunteers. Because of their efforts we have an energetic chapter with many activities, some new in the last few years, such as the Nelson Creek habitat restoration project and the Cowlitz County Amphibian Surveys. A quick look at the list of board officers shows the many tasks they do, from maintaining the web site and helping with conservation issues to organizing field trips and keeping our finances straight. Skimming this newsletter or the web site will show you our many activities, all spear-headed by WHAS members.

But WHAS needs more volunteers.

Educate at the Earth Day Booth

One example of an activity which needs a few volunteers **to give one or two hours each year** is the WHAS booth at the annual Earth Day Celebration in Longview. This has been our primary community outreach for

thirty years, and Pat and Bob Reistroffer have organized it for at least seven years. On April 17, 2010, over 4,000 people came to the Cowlitz Expo Center. Of those, about 400 children and their parents came by the WHAS tables to make birdfeeders, compare the length of their arm spans against bird wingspans, handle dissected yellow jacket nests, and gently “pet” our Great Horned Owl mount. It was also an opportunity to tell people about WHAS’s activities and invite them to come to our programs and field trips.

As usual, the kids and parents’ enthusiasm was wonderful, but this year we had only five volunteers. In previous years volunteers have only had a one- or two-hour stint—this time some were on their feet for over six hours. Without more volunteers to help the Reistroffers, it is doubtful that WHAS can continue to have a booth at Earth Day.

Expand Backyard Birding

Volunteering can present the opportunity **to create something new**. Larry Turner, one of our new board members, is translating his life-long interest in ornithology into creating and leading WHAS’s new Backyard Bird committee. The WHAS board chose to focus on backyard birding as one of our goals in 2010 because so many members of our community have feeders.

Connecting with this interest is the perfect way for WHAS to educate people about what birds need to thrive. Larry is inviting WHAS members to join him in creating the scope of this committee’s activities, which could include tips for feeders and nest boxes, backyard habitat improvement, or backyard bird lists and counts.

Present Programs

Another important reason to volunteer is **to prepare for future responsibility**. Most people start working in a committee

just as a “pair of hands.”

They slowly learn the tasks of that committee. Then, when a committee chair must step down because of illness, family needs or community obligations, WHAS has a “fund” of people who can step up to take more responsibility. For example, you may have noticed that WHAS is presenting fewer evening programs—this is because Margaret Green is ready to step down and focus her energy on other projects after a number of years as Program Chair. For over a year she has continued to organize a few programs while waiting for a volunteer to come forward to “shadow” her and learn how to do this task.

Program Chair is an essential job for WHAS.

Programs serve to reach out to and educate the public; just as important, programs are our membership meetings. WHAS has a program committee of several members who already have full-plates, but who will continue to help develop program ideas and contacts. WHAS also has strong partnerships with the LCC Biological Society, Northwest Voices and the Longview library, which spreads the burden of program organization, especially because these partners are able to offer program venue space and share the expense of covering speaker fees. The Program Chair coordinates with speakers, partners and venues and provides publicity information to Steve Glucoft, who manages WHAS advertising. We just need a someone able to give a few hours every two months or so to spearhead our programs.

Volunteer for WHAS

Please re-think your priorities and plan to give some time to WHAS. If you would like information about how you can help, please contact me (president@willapahillsaudubon.org or by phone 360-578-3949) or a committee chair (see page 2). If you can only dedicate a few hours each year, your help will be appreciated, but consider dedicating a few hours each month to contributing to creating new activities.



Columbia River Clean Energy Coalition Prevails in LUBA Appeal

By Carol Carver

Represented by Brett Vandenheuvel of Columbia Riverkeeper and Jan Wilson of the Western Environmental Law Center, a coalition of noLNG activist and conservation groups prevailed FOR A SECOND TIME before the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

In 2008 Clatsop County had deemed Northern Star's application for a permit to build an LNG terminal at Bradwood as meeting their comprehensive plan requirements. This decision was appealed to the LUBA, which agreed that the project was not "small to medium" as the zoning requirements for Bradwood dictated, nor did the project protect endangered salmon or the fishery in the Clifton Channel area.

When Clatsop County decided a second time in favor of Northern Star, this decision was again appealed to LUBA and April 12th they again rejected Clatsop County's decision.



Northern Star needs a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) from Clatsop County in order to proceed with obtaining other necessary state permits. LUBA's April 12th decision means the Clatsop's approval does not meet Oregon state guidelines, therefore a LUCS cannot be issued and application for other state permits cannot proceed.

You can read the full LUBA opinion here:

www.columbiariverkeeper.org/index.php/headlines/view/58 and here: <http://www.naturaloregon.org/2010/04/13/video-lng-opponents-celebrate-victory-over-bradwood-landing/>

Upcoming events

May 27th - A huge rally outside the NW Natural Shareholders Annual Meeting.

For noLNG action alert details, email

wahkiakumfriendsoftheriver@gmail.com and request to be on their action alert list.

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Inconvenient Questions are Urgent LNG Game is Like Financial Mistakes that Became the Great Recession

There has been a certain turn in the long road of government deliberation over whether a liquefied natural gas terminal will be sited on the Columbia River at Bradwood. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has said it will not approve the plant without more definitive information. The National Marine Fisheries Service has said it must do more testing before giving its approval. And Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have reintroduced legislation that would end the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's sole power to license LNG plants. All of this happened last week.

The Wyden-Merkley legislation targets the absurdity and the inadequacy of the federal process by which LNG terminals are sited. But in the near chaos of this election year, their progress is unlikely. The other gaping hole in the Bradwood LNG proposal is the lower Columbia River as prime habitat for salmon and a host of other creatures. On that score, the actions by Oregon DEQ and the federal NMFS are immediately significant.

Pentagon planners these days talk about asymmetrical warfare. There is a similar phenomenon in the LNG siting process. NorthernStar LLC, Bradwood's promoter and owner, talks about jobs, investment and the supply of natural gas. That is alluring campaign talk. But construction jobs are transitory, and the river lives on. At this late date in the Pacific Northwest's manipulation of the Columbia River, our fisheries and environmental agencies cannot ignore the reality that the river off Bradwood is a highly important corridor for

endangered salmon runs in which the nation has invested billions trying to restore.

There has never been a compelling case to establish the need for an LNG terminal at Bradwood. NorthernStar's proposal is all about the profits that come from flipping the terminal, once it is built. The FERC licensing process is all about who gets to federal regulators first with a completed and defensible application. The FERC process is not about establishing the basis of national need and strategic siting for a terminal. That is the role the federal government should play in this process.

All in all, the FERC process thus far shares many similarities with the financial mistakes that blew up into the Great Recession – a careless rush that is all about easy answers and quick profits. What we need, both as a region and a nation, is to slow down and ask the right questions. How many LNG terminals does America need? Where can new terminals and related pipelines be located to do the most good with the least harm to the environment? Who has the best long-term track

record for safe, community-friendly operations? Can all adverse impacts to the Columbia and its species be reversed when this terminal has outlived its usefulness?

These inconvenient questions and many others have gotten short shrift. The process assumes that anything good for LNG is good for the USA. It is good to see Oregon's DEQ, federal fisheries scientists and our U.S. senators demanding answers and searching for better ways to arrive at these decisions.

WENAS Campout

You are invited to the **2010 Wenas Campout, May 28-31.**

For decades Audubon families have been camping over Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Campground. Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an "Important Bird Area" and has been assured of protective status. More info at: <http://www.wenasaudubon.org>

What's Going On at Nelson Creek? – Spring Update

By Russ Kastberg

Spring restoration activities are ramping up at Nelson Creek. While we will continue to carry out “routine” monitoring of the site, actual on-the-ground restoration is beginning.

As we speak, site preparation and planting is underway. The Columbia Land Trust, CLT, Americorp crew mowed reed canary grass in preparation for the first planting event on April 17th. Our people helped lay out the planting areas, and volunteers from WHAS and Miller Hull planted native species.

You may remember last year Miller Hull brought about 50 volunteers here to deconstruct buildings. They are a fun group to work with.

We have one other event scheduled this spring. On May 15th, we will be offering GPS training and then follow with mapping blackberry patches, which will be eradicated later on in the year. These areas will then be planted to native species next winter. This event will take place at the Nelson Creek buildings at 9am. Bring field clothes, your own GPS if you have one, and a

lunch.

One other goal this year is to create a public outreach program. This will be an opportunity to better introduce WHAS and our programs, including Nelson Creek, to the local community. We plan to include a booth at the Skamokawa Fair this summer. We see Nelson Creek as a great outdoor education opportunity and encourage local participation.

And last of all. We are sorry to hear we are losing our leader, Andrea Berkeley.

Andrea has been the on-site steward for CLT through out our time working on Nelson Creek. She has shown great patience working with our diverse group and sorting out all our “ideas” as to how the property should look. Andrea will be going to work with Oregon State Parks doing similar work. Dan Friesz will replace Andrea. We will miss you Andrea! Remember!! We always welcome new volunteers, so, keep an eye out for upcoming activities at Nelson Creek.

Nelson Creek Restoration Activity: GPS Training & Mapping

GPS Training and Blackberry Mapping will be taking place at Nelson Creek on **Saturday, MAY 15, 2010 at 9:00 am.** We will meet at the building site at the corner of Nelson Creek and Risk Roads. Bring field clothes and a lunch. If you have a GPS of your own, you can bring it. There will be units available to use and train on. Thomas Burke, CLT GIS Specialist, will be training us and leading the mapping event. Our goal is to map the Blackberry patches and calculate the acreage. The CLT AmeriCorp crew will then cut the blackberry and plant those areas later this year. Please RSVP Russ Kastberg: rkastberg@cni.net or at 360-430-5541.

Book Review

By Beatrice Harrison

Spring is upon us and I have already been looking at all the tempting plants at the local nurseries to replace the ones that didn't make it this winter. But this year, I want to try something different. I just read the book, **Bringing Nature Home – How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens** by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2009.

Tallamy explains how adding native plants to your suburban or rural landscape can not only make your yard work easier, but will actually make a difference to the native plants and animals of the area. Our native insects such as butterflies and moths depend on native plants to survive and our native birds and bats depend on those insects. Tallamy says that “all plants are not created equal, particularly in their ability to support wildlife. Most of our native plant-eaters are not able to eat alien plants, and we are replacing native plants with alien species at an alarming rate, especially in the suburban gardens on which our wildlife increasingly depends.”

One good reason to use native plants is because of the risk of introducing another alien plant that will have severe negative impacts on the environment. Most people know about the costly consequences of the introduction of Canadian thistle, kudzu vines and Scotch's Broom. One of the reasons these plants thrive is because our native insects did not evolve with them and therefore cannot eat

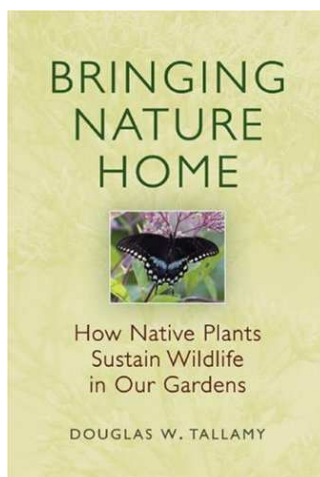
them. There are thousands of other examples of non-native invasive plants that are nearly impossible to get rid of once they get started.

This concept of planting your yard so that insects have something to eat is totally alien to the way we have been thinking about gardening. In the past, we would have purchased plants that were labeled “pest free” to avoid having insects in our yards.

But, think of a different kind of garden. In it would be many different species of plants.. In it would be insects eating the plants, but also other kinds of insects, insect predators, eating those insects. In turn, birds, amphibians and small mammals will be eating those insects, keeping the ecosystem in balance. Did you know that baby birds almost exclusively eat insects? Even birds that are seed-eaters feed their young insects.

Non-native insect pests and plant diseases are another major problem created by importation of exotic non-native plants. The American Chestnut tree forests were literally destroyed by Chestnut blight brought in from Asia on infected Japanese trees.

Native plants have been ignored, in favor of lush lawns and ornamentals from throughout the globe. But, “restoring native plants to most human-dominated landscapes is relatively easy to do”. You can make a difference by planting just a small area with native plants and trees.



WHAS Annual Meeting

By Charlotte Persons

On March 27, thanks to Gloria Nichols, our hospitality and membership chair, forty people enjoyed a delicious dinner. The food was catered by Amalak, a women's service group from Kalama, and beverages were organized by Gloria herself. She also kept track of everyone's reservation and dinner choices and juggled last minute changes. We appreciate her time and attention to these tasks.

At the annual meeting we said good-bye to four people leaving the WHAS board of directors—Russ Koppendrayar, Gloria MacKenzie, Ann Musche, and Margaret Green.

Fortunately we will still benefit from time they give WHAS: Russ will write Birding Bits for the Whistler and lead field trips; Gloria will help connect us to the efforts to defeat the Bradwood LNG; Ann will help coordinate volunteer efforts to monitor rehabilitation of Snowy Plover and Horned Larks on the Long Beach Peninsula; and Margaret will contribute to maintaining the membership list and solving conservation issues.

WHAS welcomed three new board members—a new secretary, Larry Brandt, and two new directors-at-large, Chuck Erdman and Larry Turner. The skills and experience they bring

will be benefit to WHAS in the next two years. Larry Brandt is a consulting engineer in digital communications, Chuck Erdman worked as a maintenance mechanic at Reynold's Aluminum, and Larry Turner was leader of the EPA's pesticides program to protect threatened and endangered species. All three retirees share one interest—back-yard birding.

Our evening was topped off by Carlo Abruzzese, who works for the Washington Department of Natural Resources as a Natural Areas Manager. For WHAS he has often led birding classes and field trips (Check page 7: Introduction to Backyard

Birding). This time he entertained us with lots of information about owls, especially their adaptations for hunting. Many of our members showed off their skill in remembering owl calls, and Carlo's young daughters helped close the program by giving owl "prizes" to the audience.

One thing is noteworthy about this annual meeting—every single part was due to the efforts of volunteers, from the food to the entertainment. Thank you to all the many people involved in creating an annual business meeting that was also an enjoyable and informative social evening.

Calling all Nature Photographers

Do you enjoy photographing birds both in your yard and in wild places of SW Washington? Willapa Hills Audubon Society is sponsoring our first backyard bird photography contest in support of a Backyard Bird Calendar.

Photos should consist of birds that one can expect to see in your backyard. Winners will receive prizes and the honor of having their photos printed in WHAS's 2011 Backyard Birds Calendar. The calendar will also highlight ways to make your yard more bird friendly. All proceeds from the calendar will support WHAS. So, dust off your camera and start taking photos. If you are interested in helping with this project (calendar design, text, finding prizes etc.) or for more information please contact Carlo at (360) 425-6133 or by email at puffbird@juno.com. More details to come in future issues of the *Whistler*.

Opt Out of Junk Mail

By Pam Wright

- *It takes more than 100 million trees to produce the total volume of junk mail that arrives in American mailboxes each year—that's the equivalent of clear cutting the entire Rocky Mountain National Park every 4 months.*
- *The manufacture of junk mail releases more greenhouse gas emissions per year than the emissions released by 9,372,000 million average passenger cars.*

Source: <http://donotmail.org>

In the realm of reducing one's personal carbon footprint, there can hardly be a more satisfying simple step than reducing mailbox clutter. You can reduce the annoyance of junk mail and take positive steps to decrease waste by investing a small amount of time at the following sites. I've personally used these free sites and have found them helpful.

<http://www.catalogchoice.org> This free service allows you to decline catalogs that you currently receive from participating merchants, and keeps track of how long it's been since you requested to be removed. This lets you not waste annoyance on receiving a catalog when it's only been a week since you asked to be removed.

<https://www.dmchoice.org> Again, this is a free service, and while cynics may suggest it won't help because it's

run by the direct mail industry, I found that going through their process decreased our junk mail substantially. It takes a bit more effort than catalog choice to click through it all, but I'm happy with the results.

While credit card offers may not be the scourge that they were during boom times, you can opt out of receiving offers from the lists maintained by the main consumer credit reporting agencies, that are often used by credit card and insurance companies to send out Junk mail. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit <https://www.optoutprescreen.com> to get your name and address removed from the mailing lists circulated by these agencies.

And while you're at it, carve out a bit more time for things you value by cutting down on calls from telemarketers. Register online at www.donotcall.gov.

Of course we hope that you don't consider the *WHAS Whistler* to be junk mail, but please notice that we are now offering the option of receiving the newsletter electronically rather than by snail mail. If you would like to elect to receive the *Whistler* by email, please send your full name and e-mail address to our Membership Chair, Gloria Nichols at membership@willapahillsaudubon.org.

Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes and Other Ways to Start the Day

Diane Ackerman,
W.W. Norton & Co. Inc. 2009

Some years back, a local artist, Rosemary Powelson, did a series of visual art titled Dawn and Dusk, (www.lcc.ctc.edu/faculty/powelson/project-light), so when I spied Diane Ackerman's Dawn Light on the library's new book shelf, I couldn't resist taking it home to compare the two artist's perspectives on this single topic.

Diane Ackerman's book is a praisesong to the moment of morning light. As a naturalist, she writes in prose, but her words carry the delicacy and often joy of poetry. Although she focuses the work on the dawn, she follows any number of trails out into history, science, linguistics, and literature in a complex layering of response to her topic.

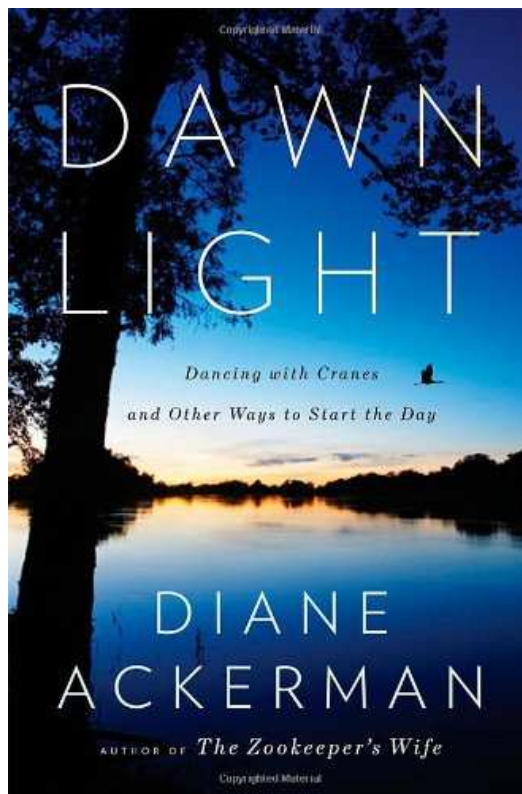
An example of her science reporting is: "Even on windless days, doves flock and swoop... Based on simple rules, their actions and reactions result in winged complexity. In 1986, computer wizard Craig Reynolds created what he called "boids," perfect flocking organisms that inhabit only computers. By studying them, Reynolds arrived at three rules they follow: (1) separation- steer to avoid flock mates; (2) alignment- adopt the heading of flock mates; and (3) cohesion- stay close to flock mates....based on flocking algorithms, the British firm Swarm

Systems will soon market an UltraSwarm, a flying cluster of computerized "Owls" that can fly and work together without colliding."

By contrast, the poetry in Ackerman's words can be seen in her description of the mockingbird: "This morning, one lone mockingbird sits atop a telephone wire, testing out its full repertoire, a dictionary compendium under "birdsong" which it hurls into the faint light. Some of the hoots, jibbers, and melodic

pirouettes are new to me....the polyglot mimic. It trills and warbles, yodels and sighs, buzzes and caws in a single ribbon of magically changing song. It has a long stiff slender tail, a white lightning bolt on each wing, an oily-looking eye it seems to have ringed with eyeliner, and when it swells its throat for even the simplest peep notes, two tiny black feathers erect from its white throat feathers. Like a ventriloquist minus the dummy it runs through its routine."

Birds appear and reappear throughout this book and Ackerman touches on aspects as diverse as the Crane's mythic expression in history to the Rooster's circadian rhythms. In contrast, Powelson's visual project, Dawn and Dusk, kept a much more specific focus on expressing changes in dawn's light; however, even with that, the crows entered her work. Ackerman, and Powelson, both, it seems to me, express the "voice" of dawn as birdsong.



Introduction to Backyard Bird Identification and Attraction

This class is for people who are either completely new to bird watching or who have watched birds for a short time and would like to know more. The class will provide new birders with the techniques and skills to help them identify common local birds they might expect to see in their yards. Instruction will include information on birding equipment, reference materials and field guides, identification techniques, field marks, and some avian natural history. The class will also cover ways to make your yard more bird friendly using feeders, nest boxes, water features, and landscaping. The class will be taught on Monday, June 7th and Wednesday June 16th from 6-8 PM at the Longview Public Library (1600 Louisiana St, Longview). The cost for the class is \$15 and will be limited to 13 participants. To register, or for more information, contact Carlo at (360) 425-6133 or by email him at puffbird@juno.com.

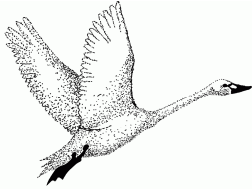
The class will be taught by Willapa Hills Audubon Society member and biologist, Carlo Abbruzzese, who has been watching birds for over 20 years.

Hummingbirds of the Northwest

If you love hummingbirds, you won't want to miss this class! Doug Robberson will teach a multimedia class (including photos, vocalizations, and video) on hummingbirds that you might expect to find in the Northwest. This class will be a good introduction to hummingbird identification and will include interesting facts about hummingbird biology and behavior. Doug will also include tips on how to attract hummingbirds to your home.

The class will be taught on Thursday, June 3 from 5:45 - 8 PM at the Longview Public Library (1600 Louisiana St, Longview). The cost for the class will be \$10 and space is limited. To register, or for more information, contact Carlo Abbruzzese at (360) 425-6133 or by email him at puffbird@juno.com.

Doug has been teaching birding classes for Portland Audubon Society, Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Tualatin River keepers, and the Friends of the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge for over 10 years. He has been birding for 18 years.



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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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.

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

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 email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHAS Programs and Field Trips

For more information and further details check the WHAS web site: www.willapahillsaudubon.org

Falling Off the Edge: Four Decades of Environmental Change at the Top of the World

Friday – May 7, 2010 7pm Lower Columbia College Rose Center Auditorium, Longview

George Divoky has studied the behavior of a small seabird, the Black Guillemot, and the arctic world it inhabits for 34 years. He has witnessed the habitat change over 3 decades of research. From his web site: <http://cooperisland.org>: "What seems like a long, long time ago, black guillemots on Cooper Island had the best of all possible worlds. The summer snow-free period was increasing annually, providing breeding birds with more time to raise their young, and the Arctic pack ice was close enough offshore that there was a readily accessible supply of Arctic cod to feed the nestlings. The only real dark cloud on the horizon was the realization, slow in coming over the past three decades, that the warming planet that had given the guillemots their "salad days" in the 1970s and 1980s could cause increasing melt of the pack ice, making Arctic cod less accessible and causing problems for parent guillemots provisioning their young in August and early September."

Lower Columbia College Biological Society joins WHAS to bring this world-renowned scientist to share with us reports of his observations and stories of his adventures. George Divoky is a sincere and captivating speaker. His program will be one you won't want to miss.

Nelson Creek Restoration Activity: GPS Training & Mapping

Saturday, May 15, 9:00 am (for info see page 5)

Upcoming classes:

Thursday, June 3 -- Hummingbirds of the Northwest

(for more info see page7)

Monday, June 7th -- Introduction to Backyard Bird Identification and Attraction

(for more info see page7)

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.

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>