

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 37 // Issue 2

March / April 2011



Snow Geese

“Remote Arctic Wilderness Wildlife” by Russian Biologist Vasily Baranyuk

Please join Willapa Hills Audubon Society in welcoming visiting Russian biologist Vasily Baranyuk, an expert on snow geese. He'll be talking about Wrangel Island, Russia, 2900 square miles of the most remote Arctic wilderness on the planet and its unique wildlife including snow geese, polar bears, Arctic fox and wolves, lemmings, walruses and snowy owls.

The talk will be Tuesday March 8th at 7:00 pm in the Wollenberg Auditorium at Lower Columbia College in Longview WA. This free event is sponsored by the Willapa Hills Audubon Society and open to the public.

Annual Dinner / Meeting Program: “Landscaping for Wildlife”

Date: March 19, Saturday

Place: St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1428 22nd Ave, Longview, WA

Cost: Dinner \$10 for member and \$15 for non-member

Time: Dinner at 6:00; Program at 7:30

Come enjoy a pleasant social gathering at which we will learn more about supporting wildlife. After dinner WHAS's own Ann Kastberg will be presenting an educational and informative program entitled "Landscaping for Wildlife: Reptiles and Amphibians." Learn how to provide habitat for frogs, toads, lizards, snakes and newts in your own backyard!

The membership will also vote during the dinner on the two proposed amendments to the WHAS bylaws—see box on right for more information.

This year the WHAS Annual Dinner will again be catered by a local women's service group, Amalak. The menu will include beverages, salad, vegetable, and dessert, with a choice of either a vegetarian lasagna or chicken entrée. RSVP is required by March 12. Please contact Gloria Nichols at 360-636-3793 or jgnt@comcast.net to reserve your spot and indicate your entrée preference. For carpool information contact Charlotte Persons at president@willapahillsaudubon.org or 360-578-3949.

Changes for Us All

By Charlotte Persons, President

Amendments to Our Bylaws

On March 19 I will lead a quick Annual Meeting at which I hope members will approve two amendments to the WHAS Bylaws (see page five for complete descriptions). One amendment is a minor change to allow the WHAS board to appoint people to fill vacant offices until the next scheduled board election. This replaces the current language, which allows these appointments until the next Annual Meeting. This is a change we should have caught in 2007 when drafting the new Constitution and Bylaws that created two- year terms instead of one-year terms for elected officers.

The other amendment is more substantive. It will create a new standing committee, a Stewardship/Science Committee. This committee will coordinate sub-committees that monitor species, develop habitat, or act as stewards for land projects. Originally this type of project was under our Conservation Committee. However, the sub-committee and task force chairs of these projects felt that their goals were not compatible with the more issue-oriented focus of the Conservation Committee. Right now Amphibian Surveys, Backyard Birding, Christmas Bird Counts, and Nelson Creek/Jackson Slough Stewardship are four active projects that will be under this committee.

Changes in WHAS Officers

This is my last “President’s Message” as I will be stepping down as president on March 19.

Continued on page 5 : Changes for...

In this issue of the Whistler:

- 2 Member Form, WHAS News; Bird Quiz
- 3 Nelson Creek Update; Bald Eagle Survey
- 4 Amphibian Surveys;
Earth Day Volunteers needed
- 5 WHAS Bylaws change;
- 6 Backyard Birding; Program Impressions
- 7 CBC Results for Cowlitz Columbia and
Wahkiakum county circles
- 8 WHAS Programs and Field Trips;

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.

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

For membership in National Audubon Society visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.

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

**) Not active at this time -- To allow members to announce and discuss items of general interest.

-----Clip

OFFICERS

President: Charlotte Persons
360-431-1174 president@willapahillsaudubon.org

Vice President: Stephen Glucoft
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net

Secretary: Larry Brandt
360-200-4580 secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org

Treasurer: Pamela Wright
360-560-3772 treasurer@willapahillsaudubon.org

Director at Large: Russ Kastberg
360-430-5541 director-a@willapahillsaudubon.org

Director at Large: Larry Turner
360-423-3556 lturner2@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Steve Puddicombe
503-465-2205 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org

Nelson Creek Stewardship: Russ & Ann Kastberg
360-274-7091 nelsoncreek@willapahillsaudubon.org

Programs: Bob Arnsdorf
360-414-2728 programs@willapahillsaudubon.org

Membership: Gloria Nichols
360-636-379 membership@willapahillsaudubon.org

Education: Darrel Whipple
503-556-9838 education@willapahillsaudubon.org

Newsletter: Ludger Wöhrmann
360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

Field Trips: John Green
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

Publicity: Stephen Glucoft
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net

Finance/History: Betty Mayfield
503-556-6841 finance@willapahillsaudubon.org

Bird Counts: Alan Richards
360-484-7119 birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org

Willapa Bay Issues: Miranda Wecker
360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org

Wildlife Sightings: John Green
360-795-8009 jgreen2317@aol.com

Website: Ludger Wöhrmann
360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Mail

Other options:

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
(Add your email address below)
- ☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Add me to your announcement email list*
- ☐ ~~Add me to your discussion email list**~~

WHAS Board Meeting

The next WHAS board meeting will in March. Check the website for details.

Bird Quiz

By Larry Brandt

We are a group of aquatic birds found in Washington and Oregon. We build shabby nests from reeds and hide them among shoreline plants. We don't have webbed feet but, instead, have pads on each toe. A species of our family, when concerned, slowly sinks in the water so that only his head and bill show. We all dive when threatened. None of our family members have rigid tail feathers. Our strangest habit? We eat our own feathers. Our young sometimes eat their parent's feathers.

Which birds are we?

First correct answer will receive credit in the next *Whistler*. Send your answer to quiz@willapahillsaudubon.org. If you have a good bird question, you are invited to submit it to the e-mail above. Questions used in this column will be given a by-line

Tom Finn was the first to correctly identify the Common Poorwill in the last quiz. The Common Poorwill is the only North American bird that truly hibernates 70-100 days each year..

Receive the *Whistler* by email

Willapa Hills Audubon Society now offers delivery of the *Willapa Whistler* newsletter by email. The "*eWhistler*" offers enhanced viewing with color photos and graphics as well as live links to referenced websites and emails. You will receive an email 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. Send your full name and e-mail address to our Membership Chair, Gloria Nichols at jgnt@comcast.net.

Nelson Creek / Indian Jack Slough

By Russ Kastberg

Columbia Land Trust is renaming their Nelson Creek property to "Indian Jack Slough". This new name will better describe the property as the Slough is located within the property and is a known local landmark. The WHAS board, on February 5th, decided to adopt the new name to our committee. You will see the new name transition in over the next few months.

On February 19th, the committee met and developed our activity plans for 2011. Dan Friesz, CLT Land Steward, provided us with a long list of activity choices he can use help on at the property. We identified and prioritized our areas of interest in working on. We have been carrying out baseline surveys since 2007, when this committee was formed. Exciting things are happening now with restoration beginning. So, in addition to carrying forth the baseline surveys, as needed, we will be monitoring the restoration efforts.

We started this year's amphibian surveys with our first survey on January 29th. Last year a new tide gate was installed at the mouth of Indian Jack Slough which has resulted in a different pattern of drainage on the property. With the heavy rains in January, the property filled up, like a bath tub. The frogs liked it! In our first survey, we found over 800 red-legged frog egg-masses. Also, long-toed salamanders were abundant, and a few Northwest Salamanders were found. But, the water has been dropping since mid-January, leaving many of the egg-masses out



Surveying new wetland at Indian Jack Slough

Image: Russ Kastberg

of the water. Eventually, the water will reach the predetermined level at the tide gate. It will be interesting to see how the tide gate and spring rains affect the wetlands on the property, and how that affects the amphibians. All this, along with the creation of uplands for the Columbia Whitetail Deer must be thought out as the restoration is planned and designed.

An additional amphibian surveys is scheduled for March 13th. Some of the sites are surveyed by walking in waders and the Slough is done using canoes or kayaks.

We are always looking for new people to get involved. If you have questions, or want to get involved, give Russ Kastberg a call at: 360-430-5541, or, e-mail at: rkastberg@cni.net.

Bald Eagle Survey Yields Nine

By Darrel Whipple

The 33rd Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey sponsored by WHAS turned up eight adults and one immature eagle in the two latitude-longitude blocks along the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers between Toledo and Kalama. David Miller and I conducted the survey on January 19th, 2011, using a vehicle route that was prescribed in 1979. David has participated numerous times, as have other WHAS members over the years. I have managed to do it every year and I have been the one who maintains a file of the data.

This year's count is a record number and may be a hopeful sign for the eagle population, though we would like to see more immature eagles as evidence of successful reproduction. The survey hours were 8 am to 3 pm, with fog in the early hours. Temperatures ranged from 36 to 45 degrees F. Six of the eagles were found in the northern block, three in the southern. Each block is about eight by twelve miles in size.

Tid Bits

By John Green

According to Audubon Magazine, Pygmy Nuthatches, which live east of the Cascades, huddle in tree cavities with up to one hundred or more other nuthatches to stay warm in winter.

Swallows and swifts drink on the wing by flying low over water and dipping their bill. They even bathe while flying.

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* at the top menu.

Citizen Science Amphibian Surveys

By Ann Kastberg

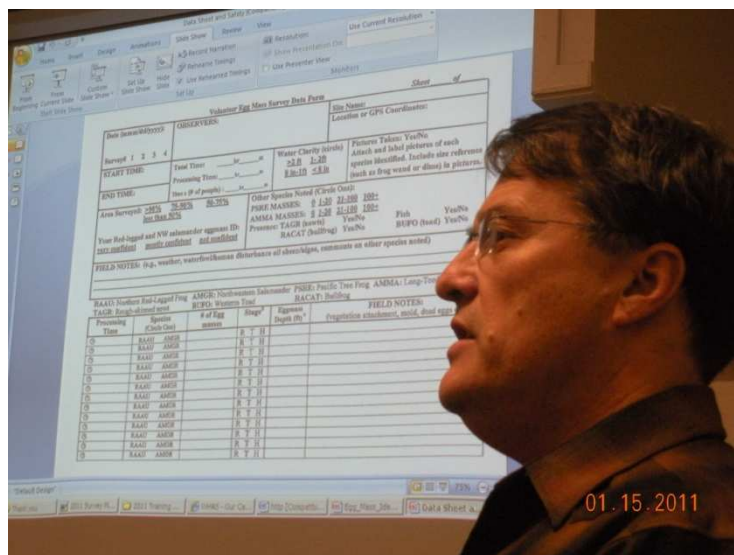
The 2011 Citizen Science Amphibian Survey season started with training at LCC by Dr. Marc Hayes on January 15 and by Dr. Peter Ritson at WSU the following Saturday.

At the January 15 training, the generosity of WHAS allowed prior year volunteers Margaret Green, Tom Finn, Carlo Abbrusese, Maxine Nieman and Louis La Pierre each to receive a copy of Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia for thanks and recognition. They completed three surveys in 2010, submitted their findings on-line, and turned in their data sheets. These honored volunteers are committed to surveying in 2011 and will make good use of the guides.

Ponds from 2010, which will be surveyed again in 2011, include Germany Creek, Merrill Lake, the Mint Farm, Nelson Creek/Indian Jack Slough, and Walt's Pond. Additional sites for 2011 are the Castle Rock High School Swale, Fisher Lane pond, SLC Pond (Structured Learning Center), and Willow Grove. In fact, most of the sites had their first surveys by Valentine's Day. All four target species (long-toed

salamander, red-legged frog, northwestern salamander, and chorus frog) eggs have been found. Due to a drop in the water, many of the red-legged frog egg masses were left high and dry at Nelson Creek/Indian Jack Slough. Fortunately, around 880 egg masses were found, so a good number should survive.

In 2010 toads were found along the



Dr. Marc Hayes with data sheet in background



Fresh, clear long-toed salamander packet from Nelson Creek / Indian Slough



Surveying at the Structured Learning Center Pond (Feb 2) Images: Ann Kastberg

Gray's River. The folks in the Gray's River area attended the Jan. 15 training at LCC and plan to conduct formal surveys in 2011.

Volunteers seem excited, engaged and ready to survey. Data gathered from the variety of sites help determine effectiveness of restorations and suitability of habitat types for amphibians.

2011 Earth Day Volunteers Needed

By Pat Reistroffer

Yes, it is fast approaching. Once again will we be hosting a booth at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds **on Saturday, April 16** 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 and are great fun for volunteers of all ages and inclinations.

If you love kids and their high enthusiasm, you can help them with the bird-feeder project; measure their armspans against our folding wooden bird wings; or talk to them and their parents about our mounted specimens. If you prefer something more

low-key, you can explain to adults about birding in our area and WHAS's activities. 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 mounted birds. I will set everything up and be working at the booth most of day but **NEED HELP! PLEASE** consider volunteering to work in the booth for one or two hours on Saturday.

Contact Pat Reistroffer at 360-636-5125 email preistrof@aol.com

WHAS Bylaws Changes

The proposed changes to the WHAS Bylaws –published below-- will be voted on at the next annual WHAS membership meeting scheduled for March 19, 2011. See president message on page 1 for more information.

Board Officers:

Be it resolved that the board of directors of WHAS recommend that the bylaws be amended as follows, to allow for the appointment of officers when there is a resignation mid-term.

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws, Article IV, Officers, section 2, currently as follows:

Section 2. Vacancy of the office of President, or of any other office, shall be filled by an individual chosen from WHAS membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, and hold office until the next Annual Meeting at which time the vacancy shall be filled by regular election.

To be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. A vacancy that occurs between regular elections in the office of President, or in any other office, shall be filled by an

individual chosen from WHAS membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to complete the term for that office.

Science and Stewardship Committee

The WHAS Board of Directors have recommended (October 4, 2010 Board Meeting) the creation of the Science & Stewardship Standing Committee. This committee will become part of the Constitution and Bylaws of Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Article VII: Committees. The description reads as follows:
SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP

This committee shall oversee and coordinate WHAS subcommittees and projects related to land or species conservation, collection of natural history information, and management of land owned by the Society, solely or in partnership with other groups, entities or landowners. Each subcommittee or land acquisition must be approved by the Board. Science and Stewardship projects without budget impacts, or are temporary, do not require board approval.

Changes for us all ...Continued from page one

By Charlotte Person, President

Two volunteers will take my place--Steve Glucoft, our current Vice President, and Larry Brandt, our current Secretary. Both work at professions that require a lot of travel, so sharing the president's duties is the best solution.

As soon as the membership approves the amendments described above and our Annual Dinner is concluded, I will preside over a super-fast, one-issue board meeting at which the board members will officially appoint Steve and Larry as co-presidents. Then I will officially hand over the presidency.

BUT - who will be secretary for the WHAS board?

WHAS is still looking for someone to take over Larry Brandt's job as recording secretary. The job requires taking minutes at four quarterly meetings each year—usually in early October, December or February, March and early June. This is made easier by committee chairs sending their reports and proposals via email before each meeting. The secretary just attaches these to the minutes. As former secretary, I can tell you this office is an easy way to learn about WHAS. It is also an excellent steppingstone to responsibility in any community organization. Please contact me if you can offer WHAS this service.

Changes for Me

It was hard for me to decide to leave the president's job as I enjoy being in touch with all of WHAS's many doings. Starting this spring, my work will be demanding more of me—some curriculum projects and courses. I realized that I just will not have time to do all the WHAS work as well. I intend to stay active in WHAS as co-chair of the Conservation Committee and in the WHAS Calendar 2012 project. I also hope to have time for at least some of the WHAS fun stuff—field trips, programs, and citizen science.

At the last ACOW I was surprised and flattered when someone mentioned that our chapter has a reputation for being “very active”. A minute's reflection made me realize that this reputation is well-deserved—our little chapter does a lot in the Lower Columbia region! Our members' dedication to birds and their/our habitat makes WHAS a strong and vibrant Audubon chapter.

For my part, it has been easy to be president of WHAS because so many energetic and self-directed people take responsibility for our many activities and projects. I thank you all for the experience of helping to lead this exemplary all-volunteer organization.

Do You Store any WHAS Goods?

By Pam Wright

We are working to improve our accounting of WHAS-owned materials that have been graciously stored in member's homes. If you have agreed to hold onto something after a program or activity, please let Pam Wright know by calling 360-560-3772 or sending an email to treasurer@willapahillsaudubon.org.

We would like to know the type of item you have and a rough estimate of how many (if relevant). We will keep an updated roster of where things are (in a location other than members' memories) so that we know what resources we have available and don't accidentally lose track of items.

If something has been stored in the corner of your basement for awhile and you'd really like to pass it, let us know that as well and we'll arrange for a new storage location.

Backyard Birding

By Larry Turner

We hope that many of you enjoyed the 14th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21**. We would like to know how many WHAS people participated. If you took part, no matter how much or how little, please email me at LTurner2@aol.com or call at (360) 423-3556. If you missed it, mark your calendar for the 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count next February.

Please check the Willapa Hills Audubon Society **web site** for a **new section on backyard birding**. The first offering consists of bird lists for three of our members, two in residential neighborhoods of Longview and one in rural Rose Valley.

At present, these are simply lists of birds seen in yards without considerations of season or abundance. If you have a list, we hope you will submit for posting on the web site. People who are new to the area or new to birding may appreciate knowing what others are seeing in their yards.

Over time, we hope to include more information on seasonality and abundance. We also expect to augment the backyard birding section with information on planting and habitat improvement for birds, feeding and maintenance, references, and other items.



Kid McGurn from Conservation Northwest presented "Columbia Highlands: Washington's Last Wilderness Frontier" Image: Louis LaPierre

Birds and Wildlife Need You! - Sign up for Audubon Action Network.

The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help. All members in Washington are encouraged to sign up for Audubon's Action Network. Through the network, you will receive action alerts for both federal and state legislative issues.

Get access to your lawmakers, local media, and inside information on issues impacting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats! All you need to do is fill out the form at the link below, which will automatically match you to your specific federal and state lawmakers, and give you full and free access to all of the options our AUDUBON ACTION CENTER has to offer. This information is confidential and will not be used for other purposes.

http://www.audubonaction.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=1341

Helping is easy, won't take much time, and most importantly, will go a very long way in protecting our wildlife!



Impressions from the February 10th "Ducks Unlimited" presentation. Image: Louis LaPierre

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species. This years festival is from **April 29 – May 1, 2011 in Hoquiam, WA**. For more info check:

www.shorebirdfestival.com.

Christmas Bird Count Results

Wahkiakum County

By Andrew Emlen

On Thursday December 30, 19 volunteers participated in the thirteenth Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count. The Wahkiakum Count straddles the Lower Columbia River, including the Julia B. Hansen and Lewis & Clark National Wildlife Refuges and the towns of Brownsmead, Knappa & Westport in Oregon and Cathlamet, Puget Island and Skamokawa on the Washington side. Weather was clear with a mild east wind, with a low near 28 degrees F and a high near 40.

The final species count is 114 plus two additional count week species, which is six species above average and one short of the record for this count circle.

Two species were new to the Wahkiakum CBC: a Redhead was at Little Island and a flock of Sanderlings, long overdue for this count circle, were on Grassy Island. A Black Phoebe was on Little Island, and a Northern Mockingbird was seen on Puget Island. Other species uncommon in this count

circle included White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, and Savannah Sparrow.

A Wahkiakum CBC record of 19 Streaked Horned Larks were just inside the count circle on White's Island. A count of 116 Surf Scoters shattered the previous record for that species; likewise the count of 80 Greater White-fronted Geese. Great Egret, once rare here, has now been seen for the seventh straight year. We have recorded the colonization of Eurasian Collared-Doves in this area, from 0 found in 2008 to 10 in 2009 to 55 for this count. Misses included Cooper's Hawk (second miss in the history of this count) and American Dipper (first miss). The most abundant bird, for the thirteenth straight year, is Greater Scaup, with a relatively high count of 22,294. We are definitely one of the country's most important wintering areas for this species; some years we record more than any other U.S. count circle.

A pdf file with detailed results and with a break down of the count circle by area is available on our website at www.willapahillsaudubon.org in the "Current Issues" section.

The **Leadbetter Point CBC results** were published in the January / February Edition of the Whistler.

Cowlitz Columbia

By Bob Reistroffer

Br-r-r it was cold for our 30th Annual Cowlitz Columbia Christmas Bird Count, but there was no wind or rain (What a difference that makes!). 19 field observers and 4 feeder watchers enjoyed discovering **100 Species** and 14,528 individual birds. We also had 6 additional species, we managed to miss on count

day, reported within the count week,. The temperature ranged from 19° to 37°. We had a scrumptious potluck afterwards. Thank you to all that helped.

We had a large number of all-time high counts - they are marked by **HC**. Low counts are marked with a **LC**. Seen in count week = **CW**. **NC** = Means new to our count.

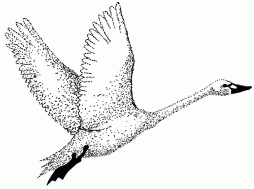
1/1/2011 Sightings:

Pied-billed Grebe, 39
Horned Grebe, CW
Western Grebe, 22
Double-crested Cormorant, 129
American Bittern, 1
Great Blue Heron, 109
Great Egret, 5
Tundra Swan, 224
Gtr, White-fronted Goose, 1
Canada Goose, 844
Cackling Goose, 298
Goose sp., 2500
Wood Duck, CW
Mallard, 580
Northern Pintail, 74
Gadwall, 111
American Wigeon, 248
Eurasian Wigeon, 2
Northern Shoveler, 237
Green-winged Teal (Am), 553
Greater Scaup, 1537, HC
Lesser Scaup, 1058, HC
Ring-necked Duck, 76
Common Goldeneye, 11
Barrow's Goldeneye, 1
Bufflehead, 149
Hooded Merganser, 14
Common Merganser, 195

Ruddy Duck, CW
Northern Harrier, 2
Cooper's Hawk, 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2
Red-shouldered Hawk, CW
Red-tailed Hawk, 45, HC
Rough-legged Hawk, 1
Bald Eagle, 14
American Kestrel, 14
Peregrine Falcon, CW
Ringed-necked Pheasant, 2
Ruffed Grouse, 1
California Quail, 9
Common Loon, 1
American Coot, 12
Killdeer, 18
Spotted Sandpiper, 3, HC
Greater Yellowlegs, 2, NC
Wilson's Snipe, 15
Mew Gull, 3
Ring-billed Gull, 2
California Gull, 1
Herring Gull, 1
Glaucous-winged Gull, 40
Western Gull, 9
W./Glaucous-winged Gull, 86
Gull sp, 211
Rock Pigeon, 434, HC
Band-tailed Pigeon, 12 NC

Mourning Dove, 64
Eurasian Collared Dove, 17, HC
Barn Owl, 1
Great Horned Owl, 2
Anna's Hummingbird, 7, HC
Belted Kingfisher, 10
Northern Flicker, 52
Downy Woodpecker, 12
Hairy Woodpecker, 1
Pileated Woodpecker, 2
Red-breasted Sapsucker, 3
Steller's Jay, 66, HC
Scrub Jay, 121, HC
American Crow, 607
Common Raven, 15, HC
Horned Lark, CW
Black-capped Chickadee, 96
Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 26
Bushtit, 40
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7
White-breasted Nuthatch, 2
Creeper, Brown, 4, HC
Bewick's Wren, 4
Marsh Wren, 1
Winter Wren, 12
Golden-crowned Kinglet, 59
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 63
Hermit Thrush, 5
Varied Thrush 68

American Robin, 205
European Starling, 1035
Townsend's Warbler, 1
Orange-crowned Warbler, 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler, 16
Spotted Towhee, 66
Savannah Sparrow, 4, HC
Fox Sparrow, 83 HC
Song Sparrow, 281, HC
Lincoln's Sparrow, 13, HC
Golden-crowned Sparrow, 210, HC
White-crowned Sparrow, 33
White-throated Sparrow, 1
Dark-eyed Junco, 690, HC
Western Meadowlark, 1
Red-winged Blackbird, 106
Brewer's Blackbird, 113
Evening Grosbeak, 130
House Finch, 32
Purple Finch, 5
Pine Siskin, 12
House Sparrow, 164
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS, 14,528
TOTAL SPECIES, 100 plus 6 others in count week



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

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

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

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.



Please recycle your *Whistler*
or pass it on to a friend.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHAS Programs and Field Trips

WHAS events are free and open to the public (Unless otherwise noted). Check the website for the latest information and updates.

Tuesday, March 8:

Remote Arctic Wilderness Wildlife by Russian Biologist Vasily Baranyuk, See page one for more information.

Sunday, March 13:

We will once again visit local birding hot spots. The specific locations will be determined closer to the outing date. The field trip will include some walking. We will start at 8:00 AM with a planned completion of noonish. Space will be relatively limited so reserve your spot by calling (360-575-9238) or emailing (jgreen2317@aol.com) John Green.

Saturday, March 19:

Annual WHAS Dinner / Meeting with a program "Landscaping for Wildlife" by Ann Kastberg. See page one for more info.

Saturday, April 30: This will be our first birding trip to Sauvie Island. We hope to find migrating songbirds and shorebirds. For a portion of the trip, we will split into two groups, one that walks the trail and a less active group (Lawn chairs may be the prop of choice.) Call (360-575-9238) or email (jgreen2317@aol.com) John Green to sign up. We will begin at 8:00 and return by mid afternoon. Pack a lunch.

Early May:

We are considering a return to the popular Coal Creek paddle trip just to see what can be found. Watch the web site and gmail alert list for the announcement.

Wednesday May 11, Venue to be determined

Craig Romano will be talking on "*Hiking in the Columbia River Gorge*". He's recently published a book on the topic.

Saturday May 14 and May 21:

Taxidermy workshop at Lower Columbia College; Bob Stone, retired taxidermist, has graciously offered to lead a taxidermy workshop. Participants will learn how to prepare study skins and parts of birds and mammals. Bob will share the finer points of taxidermy as it applies to more technical mounts. The May 14 workshop will last two hours (1-3 pm) and consist of Bob discussing the meaty details of the taxidermy process. The following Saturday will be a hands-on workshop lasting 4+ hours (10-2) where participants will have the opportunity to prepare a specimen. Requirement for the second workshop is attending the first. Both events will take place at LCC. Contact Louis LaPierre (llapierre@lowercolumbia.edu; 360.442.2884 for more info.

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