



WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Red Breasted Sapsucker

Image: USFWS

See page 3 for more information about this woodpecker.

WHAS Summer Picnic

This year's summer picnic was held at the Wake Robin Nature Center which is managed by the Longview School District. We had a fun time walking forest paths, watching birds and the beautiful Coal Creek flowing through the property, or just sitting and chatting with others.



Image by Larry Brandt

2012 Backyard Bird Calendar for Sale Soon

By Carlo Abbruzzese

We are nearing completion of our 2nd Backyard Bird Calendar. Last year WHAS sold 200 calendars and raised nearly \$1,000. This year we hope to triple our effort and sell to a larger audience including the Portland metro area. The calendar will feature birds that can be seen in NW backyards and will include dates of regional birding festivals, meeting dates, arrival and departure dates of birds and typical holidays. Photographs were taken by local photographers, some of whom are WHAS members.

If you are interested in helping sell calendars (we need lots of help!) or would like to buy some please contact Carlo Abbruzzese at puffbird@juno.com or by calling 360-425-6133. All profits will go to support wildlife conservation and environmental education.

WHAS Movie Series

On **Saturday October 8** at 1:00 pm at the Longview Library, the Willapa Hills Audubon Society will be showing another movie in the "*Birds of Hollywood*" series, namely "*Animals are Beautiful People*", a humorous, Golden Globe-winning documentary about wildlife in southern Africa.

This is a great movie for adults and kids.

The movie and the popcorn are free and all are welcome.

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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.

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

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**~~

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OTHER

Bird Quiz

By Larry Brandt

A common field guide describes me as "A long-legged, knocked-kneed, pale, monkey-faced [blank]". How rude is that! In flight I have a moth-like appearance. I have a large head. Sometimes my voice is like a snore or hiss. I am found throughout Washington and Oregon.

Who am I?

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.

The answer to the last Bird Quiz is the five species of grebes found in Washington or Oregon. They have padded toes rather than webbed feet like other aquatic birds. They all dive when threatened or to feed. Grebes often hide in reeds to avoid predators. When it becomes concerned, the pied-billed grebe slowly and silently submerges in the water by exhaling until only its eyes and top of head are showing. Strangely, they eat their own feathers! Young grebes sometimes eat their parent's feathers. Yuck!

WHAS Kids Day was a Success

The Willapa Hills Audubon Society sponsored its Kids Day on June 11th, 2011 in Longview as about 20 youngsters joined us in learning more about birds and had fun doing it! The festivities included bird-related arts and crafts, building wood duck boxes, identifying common birds of western Washington in a slide show and via mounted specimens and wings, and dissecting owl pellets and identifying the rodent remains inside. The punch was cold and the cookies were crisp.

Thanks to volunteers John and Margaret Green, Chris Shaw, Ann Cordero, Gloria Nichols and Charlotte Persons for helping making this a big success. Hopefully we can make this an annual event.

Sapsuckers – Persistent Birds Drill Into, But Usually Do Not Harm Trees

From the WA DNR ENews archive: <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs009/1103464106731/archive/1104211526076.html>



A distinctive pattern of rows or clusters of small holes in the bark of this tree's trunk are the work of a sapsucker. Photo: WSU Extension.

Sapsuckers! Sounds like an invasion of harmful, tree-killing insects, but sapsuckers—a type of woodpecker—are a common bird in Washington State. Sapsuckers do bore holes in trees but, for the most part, the damage is not harmful. Many people encounter sapsucker damage to trees in the forest or in their yards. Sapsucker damage is easy to identify. The holes are 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter and drilled in a pattern, such as lines or clusters. You'll often see many of the holes close together. It may look like someone took a tiny machine gun to the tree.

Sapsucker damage is often mistaken for insect damage (e.g. barkbeetles or other boring insects), but there are some important visual differences. Trees with bark damage due to insects will typically have fewer, smaller holes, and the holes will be randomly distributed, not in patterns like sapsucker holes. The presence of sapsucker damage does not mean the tree has insects. Unlike other woodpeckers, sapsuckers are drilling for the tree sap, not for insects living in the tree.

So what should you do about sapsuckers? In most cases, do nothing. The shallow damage will not be severe enough to cause serious problems to the tree(s). If a persistent sapsucker is causing serious injury to a tree, or making it vulnerable to other problems, try wrapping hardware cloth around the affected area. This might shift the bird's focus to a neighboring but, likely, healthier tree that can sustain the minor damage the bird causes.

Sapsuckers, like all woodpeckers, are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For the most part, sapsucker damage is just part of living with nature, something to be endured as an occasional inconvenience. Just be glad that they are drilling into your trees, not your house's siding.

Introducing WHAS Volunteers

By Darrel Whipple

Linda Jennings of Rainier is a frequent volunteer on WHAS projects, including the chapter's educational presentations. Here she is shown interpreting owl survival features to second graders at Hudson Park Elementary on May 26th. Anyone interested in doing similar work is urged to contact WHAS's Education Committee chair, Darrel Whipple at dwhipple@opusnet.com.



Image by Darrel Whipple

Fall ACOW

The Fall Audubon Council of Washington will be held in Moses Lake on October 8. It will be a one day event. The meeting location will be at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

The main topic on the agenda will be the recommendations and deliberations of the Working Group on rejuvenating a state office. Contact Charlotte Persons at cpersons@yahoo.com if you would like to participate.

San Juan Island Cruise

October 3-5, 2011

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day wildlife cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass. Contact 360-681-4076, or email rcoffice@olympus.net. Details at: www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org



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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.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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.

Saturday, September 17:

Join WHAS for a work party pulling invasive English Ivy. This will take place on the banks of Lake Sacajawea in Longview (no canoeing involved) as part of site preparation for possible native plant introduction and historic restoration. We advise bringing heavy gloves, clippers, and water. You'll be in good company. The event will begin at 9:30 AM and finish around 12:30. Please contact John Green for more information and to sign up – jgreen2317@aol.com or 360-575-9238.

End of September (for venue, time and more information check the website and / or our email announcements)

Alan Bauer, a noted author, will be talking about "Exploring the South Cascades and Mount Rainier" and the experiences he has had as well as the flora and fauna he has seen and photographed while doing so.

Saturday October 8: 1:00 pm Longview Public Library

WHAS will be showing another movie in the "Birds of Hollywood" series, namely "*Animals are Beautiful People*", a humorous, Golden Globe-winning documentary about wildlife in southern Africa. This is a great movie for adults and kids. The movie and the popcorn are free and all are welcome."

Thursday, October 27th, 6:30 pm in the auditorium at the Longview Public Library

Laura Guderyahn, will be speaking on amphibian malformations and mutations based on her research on the topic, and what they signify regarding the health of our environment. The title of her talk will be *How Many Legs Does a Frog Really Need to Catch a Fly?*

Saturday, October 29:

We will travel to Woodland Bottoms to check out winter waterfowl, cranes, and raptors, which over-winter in "The Bottoms" in great numbers. Please contact John Green for more information and to sign up – jgreen2317@aol.com or 360-575-9238. This will be a morning trip, returning in early afternoon.

Friday, November 18: 7pm: Columbia Gorge Talk in room PSC 102 at Lower Columbia College

Please join Willapa Hills Audubon Society and the Lower Columbia College Biological Society in welcoming Columbia River Gorge Commissioner Judy Davis in celebration of the 25th anniversary this month of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area act.

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