



# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*

**Volume 38 // Issue 1**

**January /February 2012**



**Read more about Snowy Owls seen locally on page two -- Image R. J. Maupin**

## **Environmental Lobby Day Coming Up**

**By Steve Puddicombe**

January 25, 2012 is the day for the conservation community to lobby their legislators during the upcoming legislative session in Washington State. Willapa Hills has been a co-sponsor of this event with other of the state's leading conservation groups in an effort to promote the Environmental Priorities Coalition's legislative package. This year's package, when the budget is threatened with major cuts, focuses on preserving initiatives that have previously had success and enjoy wide public support such as protecting children's health from cancer-causing flame retardants and helping to put businesses on the path to using chemicals that won't harm the environment and continuing to fulfill the goals of the Clean Energy Initiative. People For Puget Sound organizes the event and you can learn more about the event and the legislative priorities at <http://www.pugetsound.org/lobby-day>.

While meeting with our local legislators we can also discuss our positions on other pressing issues, such as the proposed coal port at Longview. It's inspirational and fun! So consider lending your body and voice to the cause: there is a nominal registration fee that includes a breakfast snack and lunch, and our chapter's conservation committee will help with gas costs. Carpooling may also be available. For more information contact Steve Puddicombe, 360-465-2205, or [pudfella@willapabay.org](mailto:pudfella@willapabay.org).

## **President's Message**

**By Steve Glucoft and Larry Brandt**

As 2011 disappears in our rear view mirror, members of Willapa Hills Audubon Society can be proud of its conservational and educational activities as well as our several accomplishments in the community. Looking ahead, 2012 promises many opportunities for us in the areas of conservation, restoration, education and citizen science.

We are extremely proud of our many programs this past year managed by our Program Chair Bob Arnsdorf. Each of these programs was open to both members and non-members. We took a slide tour of the south Cascades Range, visited the high arctic to study and photograph geese, lived in sub-zero conditions with penguins and learned the art of taxidermy.

Also this year, our Educational committee, Chaired by Darrel Whipple, funded transportation for students to visit a nature area where they could learn about our native flora and fauna. This was the first outing into nature for a few of the students. Our conservation committee worked hard to apply good scientific research and influence a number of projects that we feel would change the environment of Southwest Washington. These projects include the bulk coal terminal proposed for the Longview port, dike removal proposed for the Willapa Bay Refuge and the Windy Ridge wind turbine farm north of Naselle. (See more on these conservation projects in Charlotte Persons' article).

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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.

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### OTHER

## WHAS Board Meeting

### By Larry Brandt

Excerpts from the 4th quarter Board of Directors meeting held on Saturday, November 5:

- Approval of Margaret Green as Membership Chair
- Date for membership meeting set to March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed future of Audubon Council of Washington

## Tidbits: How Birds Cope in the Cold

### By John Green

According to eNature, Black-capped Chickadees have adapted to extremely cold weather by changing their bodies. They go into a nightly hypothermia lowering their body temperature down to 12 or 15 degrees (F). Their normal daytime body temperature is 108 degrees (F). This reduces the birds' hourly metabolic expenditure by 25%. The birds have to replace the fat burned during the night, which explains why they are constantly on the move looking for food during the day.

## Snowy Owl in Ridgefield NWR

### By Darrel Whipple

Some locations in Washington and Oregon have reported sightings of snowy owls, which are rarely seen locally. Every few years the conditions in the Arctic force some of the owls southward to find adequate food.

At any rate, northwest birdwatchers are excited to see these magnificent birds whenever an irruption occurs. About 25 years ago one of our WHAS members had a Snowy Owl perch on her rooftop in Longview and stay in the neighborhood for a week, creating quite a sensation for the neighbors and local birders.

Check the next Whistler for more pictures of Snowy Owls seen at the Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count.



## Recent Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk and Social Update

By John and Margaret Green

What a great day it was! 27 participants and 35 species; Good birds, good folks and interesting conversations. Here is a list of the many bird species we found on Saturday December 3, both at the Lake and in the Green's back yard. Images: Carolyn Norred

### Ducks:

Eurasian Wigeon  
American Wigeon  
Mallard  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye

### Other waterfowl:

Pied-billed grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Green Heron

### Raptors:

Red-tailed Hawk

### Gulls:

Ring-billed Gull  
Western Gull  
Glaucous-winged Gull  
Western/Glaucous-winged  
Hybrid

### Other Birds:

Rock Pigeon  
Anna's Hummingbird

Downy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker  
Stellar's Jay  
Western Scrub-jay  
American Crow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
European Starling

Spotted Towhee

Song Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Red-winged Blackbird  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow



## Conservation Issues

By Charlotte Persons, Conservation Co-Chair

Ruth Deery's death three years ago left more than one hole in our lives. The Conservation Committee is still looking for a volunteer to read through all Cowlitz County building permit proposals. Ruth used to alert us to environmental problems. She also made suggestions for features that would contribute to long-term environmental and people-friendly development, such as bicycle racks, native plant landscaping, and permeable surfaces. If you have a couple hours each month to read through two or three proposals, please contact me at [cpersons@yahoo.com](mailto:cpersons@yahoo.com)

Margaret Green has written an article ( see page five) about the newest developments concerning our most active conservation issue, the proposed coal export terminal in Longview.

Here is an update on four other ongoing conservation issues:

### Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

Last spring WHAS made comments on the proposed 15-year CCP/EIS and attended a public meeting in Ilwaco. In August the National Refuge System announced the final CCP/EIS. WHAS was pleased to see that the concerns of local residents about removing the 50-year-old dikes had been addressed. The final CCP/EIS eliminates impacts to private landowner's freshwater wetlands and the need for raising County Road (67th Place). It preserves 93 acres of short-grass habitat in the Riekkola Unit for elk—and for about 44 walk-in hunters each year.

**If you live in SW Washington, please contact U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler and U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell** to ask that funding not be blocked for the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, especially dike removal to re-create 763 acres of tidal marine habitat.

...continued on page 5: Conservation Issues

## 2012 Great BackYard Bird Count

*Article compiled by Larry Turner with information from: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>*

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Great Backyard Bird Count is a four-day annual event from **Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20**. It engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website.

As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see. Find a selection of images at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/gallery>.

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

Your help is needed. Make sure the birds from Southwest Washington are well represented in the count. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.



**Your counts can help answer many questions:**

- How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations?

- Where are winter finches and other "irruptive" species that appear in large numbers during some years but not others?
- How will the timing of birds' migrations compare with past years?
- How are bird diseases, such as West Nile virus, affecting birds in different regions?
- What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural, and natural areas?
- Are any birds undergoing worrisome declines that point to the need for conservation attention?

**Here is how it works:**

**1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count.** You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.

**2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.** You may find it helpful to print a list from <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/checklist> to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February.

**3. When you're finished,** go to the GBBC website at <http://www.BirdCount.org> and click on the big "Submit your checklists" button at the top. You won't see this button until 7:00 AM the Friday the GBBC begins. Everything you need to know will be clear on the web page as you enter your information.

**Stationary Count:** This is a count made in one area, such as your backyard, where you remain in one place. In this case, simply report the highest number of each species seen together at one time, as usual.

**Traveling Count:** This is a count made over a distance, such as birding on a trail. In this case you will count new birds of each species as you move along, but only if you can be relatively certain you did not count them previously. You'll add the numbers for each species at the end of your walk.

## WHAS Officer Nominations 2012

Nominations are now open for all officers on the WHAS Board. Terms are for two years with installation occurring at the annual WHAS meeting in March, 2012. The following people have agreed to run for election to the WHAS board in 2012: Larry Brandt for president, Steve Glucoft for vice president, Charlotte Persons for secretary, and Linda Jennings for treasurer.

**This year we are specifically looking for members who would like to run for Director at Large.**

All members are encouraged to nominate others (or themselves) for any of these positions; our board will be stronger if members have a choice between candidates when casting their ballots. Please make your nominations by clipping out this form and mailing it to WHAS-Nominations, PO Box 399, Longview, WA, 98632 or send by email to [election@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:election@willapahillsaudubon.org). For further information contact Ludger Woehrmann at the email address mentioned earlier.

President \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Director-at-large \_\_\_\_\_

Director-at-large \_\_\_\_\_

*...Continued from page 3: Conservation Issues*

This salt water habitat improvement is important for salmonids (many endangered), ducks and geese. A similar project at Nisqually Refuge has seen a doubling of ducks and geese in just the first two years after dikes were removed.

The CCP/EIS also plans actions to improve the numbers of the endangered Western Snowy Plover, Streaked Horned Lark, and Oregon Silverspot Butterfly. It has many planned features to attract more people interested in hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing--such as blinds, boat launches, trails, and an education center as part of a new headquarters.

The Friends of the Willapa National Refuge and the Refuge staff will be calling on our members to help with these and other projects as the plan is implemented over the next several years.

### **Radar Ridge Wind Facility.**

On November 17 **the four public utility districts invested in this wind facility discontinued the project** because of protections for the endangered Marbled Murrelet that were imposed by the U.S. Forest Service. Seattle Audubon, with help from WHAS and Grays Harbor Audubon, led efforts to deny permitting for this facility over the last three years. **"This decision is a major victory** in the ongoing work to restore critical habitat for murrelets," said Shawn Cantrell, executive director of Seattle Audubon. "The key for any wind power project is appropriate siting, and the Radar Ridge project was proposed in absolutely the wrong location."

### **Margaret Mine on the NE border of Mt. St. Helens.**

Three years ago we asked for your emails, letters and postcards against a proposed mining lease permit for General Moly. Receiving over 30,000 comments, almost all against the mine, was a large factor in the BLM's decision to deny the permit. Now another company, Ascot Resources of Vancouver, B.C. has bought the mineral rights and begun exploratory drilling.

**In October Gifford Pinchot Task Force sued the BLM for allowing this drilling without an Environmental Impact Statement.** This has temporarily stopped the drilling. We believe this lawsuit will be successful, and when the EIS is issued, we will call on WHAS members to send in comments.

### **National Park Status for Mt. St. Helens.**

In 2009 a local advisory committee appointed by congressional representatives recommended that Mt. St. Helens remain a National Monument under the U.S. Forest Service. However, since funding through that agency still remains scarce (when there are no one-time federal economic stimulus funds) **advocates for a national park are active again.** They have asked Rep. Herrera Beutler to sponsor legislation asking that the National Park Service investigate the national significance of Mount St. Helens and determine whether it should be included in the National Park System. This group wants more facilities to draw tourists, especially overnight.

WHAS is interested in the extra protections for the flanks of the mountain that National Park status would bring--to ward off mining and other inappropriate development.

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## **WHAS ON COAL**

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**By Margaret Green**

Willapa Hills Audubon, as part of the Washington State Audubon Conservation Council (WSACC), has joined in the statewide opposition to coal export from west coast ports. Currently export terminals are proposed for Bellingham, WA, Longview, Coos Bay, OR and less visibly, a few other locations. The degradation of habitat, both human and non-human, as a result of global climate change as well as the potential consequences to local communities from the impacts of traffic and coal dust, precipitated a strong stance on this issue.

A coalition of environmental groups are organizing the west coast opposition, including Climate Solutions, Columbia Riverkeeper, Earthjustice, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Sierra Club, and locally, Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community. Other groups are forming along the train route, through the Gorge and all the way to Bellingham, including a group of 160 physicians who are vocally opposing the Bellingham terminal.

The local Longview proposal located at the old Reynolds site is from Millennium Bulk Terminals (owned by Australia's Ambre Energy and Arch Coal, the second largest US coal company). The first permit application for this proposal was withdrawn because the stated scope of the project was found to be misleading and in reality, planned to be 10 times the size revealed in the application. A full Environmental Impact Statement and new application are yet to be presented but

expected soon. The final annual tonnage is not yet known. When the application comes to the Cowlitz County Planning Department and the County Commissioners, it will be time for action. The public comment period will allow your written comments to be received and considered and your testimony at open public hearings is invaluable.

Even now, letters to the editor of your local newspapers, the Cowlitz County Commissioners, and city officials, will help express opposition and be effective. If phone calls are your preferred means of communicating, they also have impact. To read the WSACC resolution against coal export, go to our website [www.willapahillsaudubon.org](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org) and look for the article on the coal port in the '> Current Issues' > 'Coal Port' section. To learn more about this issue, visit the following websites:

- Sierra Club <http://beyondcoal.org/>
- Columbia Riverkeepers <http://columbiariverkeeper.org/>
- Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community <http://www.lcsco.org/>

To receive more information, action alerts or organizational meeting announcements, email [lcscl@yahoo.com](mailto:lcscl@yahoo.com) and ask to be added to the list. Feel free to call (360-575-9238) or email ([jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com)) Margaret Green with questions or to get connected.



## Wildlife Sightings: Pied junco at local feeder

By Darrel Whipple

WHAS volunteer Mary Huels of Longview has a pied junco in her yard. So far, she has been able to get two photos of this Dark-eyed Junco that show its unusual white splotches. Information regarding pied juncos was solicited from *Oregon Birders On Line*, an email discussion group. Alan Contreras, noted birder and author of *Northwest Birds in Winter*, reported that he sees a few pied juncos each year.

Pamela Johnston offered the following explanation: "These are leucistic birds, which is to say they have patches of white where there should be color. It's a genetic abnormality that persists through molts. In Juncos it seems to be spots and white rings around an eye. I have wondered if they find



mates, because birds are very particular about symmetry. Even though they will (rarely) mate with birds of another species, they will turn down a potential mate that is irregular from side to side."

Mary Huels says that this is the second year she has noticed an unusually-colored junco in her yard and wonders if it is the same individual, though her recollection is that the former year's bird had fewer white splotches.

All pictures by Mary Huels



### Presidents Message - Continued from page 1

Regular **field trips** were another popular activity hosted by Field Trip Chairman John Green. Members and non-members visited "hot" bird spots in 2011 such as Lake Sacajewea, the Richfield Refuge and Willow Grove. Most field trips rewarded attendees with bird counts of 50 to 75 species! Novices and experts alike were welcome.

We conducted our first **Birdathon** in 2011. It was to be only a test this year but ended up being a great success netting us over \$1000! Teams were formed. Each member of each party collected pledges per species, or a fixed amount. We pitted the Green-winged Wisecrackers against Darrel's Dodos. Over 100 species were identified in the short birding window of 24hr traveling from site to site. In the end, everybody won—our teams, our many contributors and Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

A very visible project began this year on Lake Sacajewea. In partnership with Eagle Scout Candidate Jody Wiltfong, the Longview Parks Commission and WHAS member Carlos Abbruzzese as project leader, our members and numerous non-members assaulted a steep bank on the Lake to **remove invasive non-native species of plants and replant the area with native flora**. Volunteers pulled ivy in the rain on a muddy slope over several weekends to prepare the site for replanting. Some of that planting has been accomplished but the work is far from finished. 2012 will see more native plant restoration on the Lake and we are looking for volunteers to participate in this important restoration project. You can contact any board member for details.

Now looking forward—2012 will be full of opportunities and challenges for WHAS. Our first issue will be to replace several members of our Board of Directors. Three of 16 members, with important years of service to us, have decided to retire from the Board. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work. Now we look for their replacements among our membership. **If**

**you are interested in taking on a more active role in nature conservation, education, citizen science, restoration and community awareness, please contact any Board member.** Their contact info is in the Whistler or on the society's web site.

Some conservation issues require constant awareness by WHAS, and multi-directional efforts on our part to conserve and improve our environment. We are talking about large-scale projects in Southwest Washington that will impact us all.

The first and potentially most harmful of these is the proposed **coal port** that Australian based Millennium Bulk Terminals wants to build on 400+ acres in the Longview Port. Willapa Hills Audubon and other important environmental organizations have taken a position against this project. We will work hard in 2012 and beyond to see that this property receives an environmentally cleaner and better use.

Another foreign company (Canadian this time) proposes to develop a **copper strip mine** adjacent to and partially on the Mt Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument. The company is currently drilling test holes to make a determination of the range of useful copper ore. Willapa Hills Audubon is opposed to the test hole drilling as well as the huge defacing proposed for the area east and north of the Monument.

Finally, we come to Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge system conducted an EIS/CCP in 2011 to put in place a 15-year plan for dike removal, facilities improvement and water intrusion impact to adjacent farmers. While the modified plan was set in place, funding is in doubt. Everyone's help is needed to make this plan happen. WHAS can help you with phone calls and letters to our Congressional delegation.

So, as you can see, we have lots to do. We need help to accomplish it all but we will have fun doing things! And in about a year we will look back to 2012 and feel good about our efforts.

## Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

### *Bird Cloud;*

Annie Proulx;

Simon & Schuster, 2011

Bird Cloud is a memoir of the two years Pulitzer Prize winning author, Annie Proulx, spent building her home on 640 wild Wyoming acres along the North Platte River. Upon deciding to build her dream home, Ms Proulx found the property, owned by the Nature Conservancy, for sale. This book records her joys, and frustrations as she finds the perfect site, architect, builders, and permits needed to bring her vision to fruition.

Although the book is about more than birds and bird watching, the wonder and variety of the birds living there were a big part of what helped her decide to go for it and purchase the land. "...The place was already a diverse wildlife habitat. It was obviously a refuge for birds and I thought at once that it could be managed as an avian preserve" (47). The love of birds also entered into the naming of her new home:

"There were many times when it looked as though it could not work out. But...on a windy day when the sky was filled with stretched-out laminar wave clouds I saw to the west...one cloud in the shape of an immense bird, the head and beak, the breast looming over the Rockies. I took it as a sign that



I would get the property and thought Bird Cloud should be the new name for the old sheep ranch (48)."

The birds living there and her experiences with them are engaging and informative and threaded throughout the entire story. For example, she records the nest-building of two bald eagles within sight of her windows, "One morning one of the bald eagles brought a hefty stick to the new nest. It was long and awkward, and to get it in place the bird had to circle behind the nest and trample it in from the back with the help of its mate" (228). Proulx concludes her narrative with an entire chapter focused on "A Year of Birds."

Clearly a master of words, her style is lively and moves through the experience in an engaging and informative manner. Nonetheless, this is a quick read and not one that will go on my personal

favorites shelf. The tone and the project were by their nature self-indulgent and on occasion I found myself asking why I wanted to know some of it. Being something of a Proulx fan, I enjoy her ability to weave personal, public, and historical details in her fiction and although she does this in Bird Cloud, it just didn't carry the punch that her fiction has.

## Amphibian Training Scheduled for January 28 at LCC

By Ann Kastberg

Come join us in refreshing our egg mass identification skills and prepare for the 2012 survey season. We'll meet at **9:30 at LCC, Physical Science Room 104**. We're counting on your returning and encouraging friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances to join us. People who know nothing about frogs or salamanders are welcome.

This is WHAS's third year sponsoring the Citizen Science Amphibian Egg Mass Project. And what a project! We've done good research, had exciting discoveries, created lasting memories, established positive relationships, and are building knowledge about amphibians to make a better future for them and ourselves.

The good research data we've gathered on amphibians is being used by the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) and being considered by the cities of Longview and Castle Rock to make decisions on the ground. Our data is part of a larger lower Columbia River area data set available to researchers and is included in a large grant request about red-legged frogs. We've

discovered western toads in the Grays and Toutle river basins. Hopefully, this will lead to more and better research about toad habitat needs.

Some of our ponds will be part of more extensive, on-going surveys, if a grant proposal submitted by Marc Hayes on January 10 is approved. The grant seeks to determine the effect of urban development on red-legged frog survival. We know they do well in the forest and that they don't do well in an asphalt jungle; however, where is the line of development where people and red-legged frogs can co-exist? Four of our sites are offered for further research in the proposal: **Germany Creek, Walt's Pond, Castle Rock Sports Complex**



**Storm Ponds, and SLC.** We hope to get more ponds to create a larger data set. Ann Kastberg is talking to CLT about additional sites, Louis LaPierre plans to involve students in the on-going surveys, and we hope additional citizen sites can be added, like a little pond near Mt. Solo.





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Longview, WA 98632



The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each even-numbered month. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

[newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org).

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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 calendar for the latest information and updates.

**Saturday, January 14 and March 10: *Introducing the BI-MONTHLY Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk:***

Lake Sacajawea Park has a species list of 130 birds and is featured on The Great Washington Birding Trail. The Longview Parks and Recreation Department is joining Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS) in sponsoring a bi-monthly bird walk beginning in January 2012. The walk will be held the second Saturday of odd months. Participants should meet at Hemlock Square near the playground at 8:00 AM. No prior signup necessary. Bring binoculars for better viewing, though the leader will provide views through a spotting scope, and be sure to dress for the weather. The walks will last approx. 1 to 1 ½ hour.

**Saturday, January 21:** We will explore the trails and the new boardwalk at *Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*, just north of Olympia. Carpoolers will meet at 7:30 AM in Longview and can expect to return by mid afternoon. Participants should dress warmly and bring a lunch. To sign up, call or email John Green at 360-575-9238 or [jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com)

**Saturday, January 28** at LCC PSC 104: *Amphibian Training*; See page 7 for more information.

**Wednesday, February 8:** Lower Columbia College, room PSC 104 7:00 pm;

The Willapa Hills Audubon Society and the Lower Columbia College Biological Society welcome Kyle Hammon of Lower Columbia College presenting "*Mushrooms: More Than Just a Pretty Face*". Kyle Hammon will present a digital slide show and will discuss the incredible diversity of fungi and their impact on humans, both beneficial and otherwise.

**Saturday, February 11:** We are planning a trip to *Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge* for the auto tour route. We will leave Longview at 8:00am and return mid-afternoon. There should be lots of waterfowl, raptors, and hopefully views of the illusive Bittern. Please sign up early as space will be limited. Call (360-575-9238) or email ([jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com)) John Green to save your space.

**Saturday, March 10: *Annual Dinner Meeting*** at Cowlitz PUD Auditorium; Check the next issue for more details.

The Willapa Hills Audubon Society welcomes naturalist and author **Robert Pyle** for its annual dinner meeting. The title of his talk will be "*Still Walking: Bigfoot in the Dark Divide and Beyond*." This will be a discussion of his book on the search for Sasquatch in Washington and some exciting developments that have occurred since its publication.

*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](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org)