

# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*

Volume 41 // Issue 4

Winter 2015



Tropical King Bird seen on Long Beach:

*Image by Suzy Whittey*

## Revitalizing WHAS

**By George Exum, President**

The board of Willapa Hills Audubon Society will be sponsoring a workshop to **discuss and strategize the direction and course** for our organization. **All Audubon members and interested public are invited** to attend and help in this process. We especially would like input from past board, committee, and volunteer members in the decision making.

All organizations go through cycles of involvement. WHAS is in a part of the cycle that is crucial. There will be a number of openings on the board due to members moving or unable to continue due to personal issues. Filling board positions, programs for the public, field trips, conservation issues, public involvement, and future direction are all areas to be addressed but the overall goal is to define a plan for the future.

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. So if you would like WHAS to continue to be effective with our mission, please join us for this workshop. Long-time member and former president Kay Beck has graciously agreed to facilitate the workshop.

**Time and place: December 14th, 2015, 1 – 3:30pm at Skamokawa Towncenter Meeting Room**, behind Skamokawa General Store and Post Office on Route 4 in Skamokawa, across from Redmen Hall/Lower Columbia Interpretive Center (looks like a church but is a 110 year old school) on.

## Annual Lake Sacajawea Walk & Social

Practice waterfowl identification with the abundance of ducks, grebes & herons hanging out at the lake either over wintering or migrating through on **Saturday, December 12**. After walking a portion of the lake, we will congregate for backyard birds at the Greens as well as socializing with a hot drink and snacks. Call 360-575-9238 or email [jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com) John Green to sign up. This is always an enjoyable time with WHAS friends, old and new.

## WHAS Officer Nomination

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, 2016.

*Please see page six for details*

## Christmas Bird Counts 2015

**By Carolyn Norred**

Once again it is time to organize the annual Christmas Bird Count. This WHAS event gives all of us the opportunity to share birding with others. If you are a novice, it provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from the more experienced birders. This citizen science program is in its 116th year and provides data used to understand and develop bird conservation programs. Beginners provide extra eyes and experienced birders provide accuracy. If you are joining the group, come prepared for weather and an extended tour: raingear, field glasses, water, and lunch.

WHAS sponsors the following counts:

**Leadbetter:** December 19, 2015

**Wahkiakum:** December 29, 2015

**Cowlitz Columbia:** January 1, 2016

*Please see page three for details.*

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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 4 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 changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

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#### OFFICERS

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**Website:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
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#### OTHER

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\*

### Olympic BirdFest 2016

Come Bird With Us in Sequim, Washington, April 15-17, 2016  
Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted artist Tony Angell, "Revealing the Secret Lives of Owls". Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 12-14, 2016. Register separately at [www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon). Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 17-19, 2016: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

### Winter Wings Festival 2016

Klamath Falls Oregon, February 11-14, 2016  
Enjoy winter birding and photography at its best in the scenic Klamath Basin located in Southern Oregon and Northern California. We are consistently rated as one of the best organized and friendliest festivals you will find. Come experience it for yourself at our 37th festival! More at <http://winterwingsfest.org/>

### The Great North Central Washington Bird Race

Help Support Communities Affected by Recent Wildfires  
**Saturday, January 16, Sunday, January 17, and Monday January 18, 2016 in Omak and surrounding areas**  
What is the Bird Race? A team competition to see what birding team can score the highest number of points each day. Points will be awarded based on Washington Birder ([www.wabirder.com/](http://www.wabirder.com/)) abundance codes in the respective counties. The birding day will be defined as going from midnight to 5:00 pm. Results will also be posted online. Please email Tim O'Brien, at [kertim7179@yahoo.com](mailto:kertim7179@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## Christmas Bird Counts 2015



### Leadbetter CBC

This is the 116th annual Christmas Bird Count. The Leadbetter Count Circle includes the Pacific Ocean beaches on the Long Beach Peninsula, Willapa Bay's east shore mid-point on the peninsula to the tip of Leadbetter point on the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and the west side of the bay from the Naselle River north to Bay Center, WA. (See map)

People with any level of birding experience can participate. It is a great opportunity to see shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. Novice birders will be accompanied by more experienced birders so that all data collected is accurate.

Citizen scientist's volunteers, who annually brave the wind and rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use the data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

For the **Wahkiakum CBC**, the area includes portions of the Skamokawa, Puget Island, Cathlamet, and Brownsmead areas.

For the **Cowlitz-Columbia CBC**, count circle areas include East Oregon, West Oregon, South Washington, East Washington, West Washington, and North Washington. We will be out for an 8 hour period covering an area 15 mile diameter circle looking for any birds that will let us see them.

Please plan to join us this year. It is a great way to start out the New Year.



House Finches

*Image courtesy of WDFW*

### Ongoing Citizen Science at home "Project Feeder Watch"

Here is a fun opportunity to participate in bird related research, from the comfort of your home.

The **Project Feeder Watch with Cornell Bird Laboratory** will go from November until April, but one can sign up until the end of February. It runs for 21 weeks and involves counting birds at one's feeders or just in a bird-friendly habitat that one has provided. This is usually done in backyards. Birds are counted for two days every week or two (at least 5 days between a pair of counting days), and the results are submitted to the Laboratory for research and analysis. There is a \$18 participation fee which covers some materials.

You do not have to spend a lot of time watching; some people do it before and after work, or 5 minutes each hour, or whatever structure works for you.

For more information and to sign up, visit

<http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

See the box below for details about all Willapa Hills Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Counts.

### CBC Where and When?

#### Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count:

**Saturday, December 19, 2015**

Because of the large area, and the fact that we access the west side of Willapa Bay on numerous pieces of private property, I organize participants into 8 small groups.

If you want the challenge of counting shorebird, waterfowl, raptors and song birds this is your opportunity. Sometime we get some rare migrants like tropical kingbirds. There have been at least three on the peninsula for the last few weeks.

If you wish to participate in the Leadbetter CBC please contact Suzy Whittey at [suzy@reachone.com](mailto:suzy@reachone.com). Subject: Leadbetter CBC.

#### Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

**Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015**

For more information and/or to sign up contact Andrew Emlen by phone 360-795-8009 or email: [aemlen@centurytel.net](mailto:aemlen@centurytel.net)

#### Cowlitz – Columbia Christmas Bird Count

**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

To sign up, call Bob Reistroffer 360-636-5125 or email [breistrof@aol.com](mailto:breistrof@aol.com). He'll form teams or you can put together your own team for the area of your choice. He will get information to all participants by mid-December when teams are figured out. Bob has reserved the back room at the Masthead Restaurant, 1210 Ocean Beach Hwy for the compilation meeting. He told them counters would arrive between 4:30 and 5pm. A map and driving directions will be provided to all participants. HOPE TO SEE YOU 1-1-16 !

## Sharnelle Fee, 1947-2015

### Founder/Director, Wildlife Center of the North Coast

By Steve Puddicombe

About 15 years ago I was privileged to be present at a neighbor's barn as a rehabilitated Barn Owl was placed back in the nest it had fallen from a month or so earlier. Sharnelle Fee had personally brought the youngster from her wildlife rehab center near Olney, Oregon, for the small ceremony attended by a score of local wildlife enthusiasts. A reserved and quiet person, she always brightened at the prospect of a successful rehab and release of a bird or animal back into the wild. Always humble, I suspect the cheers and animation of the rest of us meant little to her, and despite a festive board of food and drink she was soon off in her small car on the hour-long drive back to Olney.

Over the years I have delivered half-a-dozen injured birds to Sharnelle, who would meet me at the Washington side of the Megler bridge. Most, I'm sure, could not be saved, but she never hesitated to gather them in without fuss or complaint.

Sharnelle Fee died recently after a lengthy illness. She was 68.

Fee founded the Wildlife Center in the '90's after a full career as a paralegal. It is the only accredited seabird rehab center in Oregon. The focus has always been on ministering to wildlife: she never paid herself a salary, subsisting on retirement benefits and funneling all the donations back into the center. The staff is almost entirely volunteer. Each year the center takes in more than 3,000 injured and sick birds and animals.

She explained her selfless dedication by saying, "At some point you have to decide what's important in your life, and whether you want to be happy."

Willapa Hills has long made a yearly donation to the center and maintained a relationship with Fee. She and the center's volunteers gave a program for us several years ago with live birds, including a Spotted Owl, at a jam-packed hall at Lower Columbia College and she was especially gratified to see so many young people at that event—the future spokesmen for wildlife preservation and care. The center also contributed in no small way to our scientific understanding of birds as, for instance, in monitoring starving pelagic seabirds, pelicans, and other species.

With her death the center is in transition and needs renewed public support, both financially and with a new generation of volunteers. A former intern and longtime volunteer, Josh Saranpaa, was appointed by Sharnelle to carry on the leadership at the center. WHAS will make a special donation in her memory of and encourage our membership to donate or volunteer as well. You can learn more by visiting the center's website at <http://www.coastwildlife.org/Home.html>.

We are very fortunate to have the Wildlife Center of the North Coast in our area and honor the dedication and inspiration of Sharnelle Fee.

## Highlights of Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW)

By Charlotte Persons

Ninety-five people, representing 20 of the 25 Audubon chapters in Washington, attended this day-long meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2015, in Mt. Vernon. Susan Markey (Black Hills Audubon) was awarded the third annual Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award.

### Proposals to Reduce Carbon Emissions in Washington

Confusingly enough, there are currently three different ideas about how to move forward. Chapters will have to decide which proposals to back.

Gov. Inslee has directed the Department of Ecology, under the Clean Air Act, to enact a Climate Air Rule establishing limits on the amount of carbon pollution. The draft rule targets 35 entities with a focus on the manufacturing industry. A fuller explanation is at <http://www.sightline.org/2015/10/30/governor-inslees-executive-carbon-pollution-cap-explained/>

Carbon WA is proposing an initiative for a Carbon Tax, similar to British Columbia's, that would be revenue neutral. Tax fossil fuels, cut the sales tax by 1 cent per dollar of sales; fund a tax rebate for working families; reduce the B&O tax on manufacturing. Sufficient signatures gathered and ready to go to

the 2016 legislative session. If it does not move there, it will go to the 2016 ballot. More at <http://carbonwa.org/>

Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy is unfolding a campaign for a Cap and Trade initiative to be placed on the 2016 ballot. Details will be announced in early 2016 when signatures gathering will begin. For updates see <http://jobs-clean-energy-wa.com/>

### Presentations

Sean Saville, Field Director, NAS Policy Office, gave a short presentation on how chapters can be more effective grassroots advocates. Dr. Josh Lawler, University of Washington, presented information on the effects of climate change on different habitat systems in Washington State. Generally, species impacts will be greater in Southwest and Eastern Washington. Climate refugia are expected in high mountain elevations. In terms of conservation planning for climate change, Dr. Lawler referenced Heller and Zavaleta's 2009 article at

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S000632070800387X>

## Conservation Committee Efforts

By Charlotte Persons

WHAS made comments on four issues during June to November 2015:

(1) Proposed Helicopter Training Areas from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

The Army's proposals are for helicopter training all days of the year and at all hours in four areas in our state. However, WHAS scoping comments focused on the three training areas (HTA) proposed for SW Washington. WHAS requested the application of the Army's Best Management Practices for minimum helicopter flight levels over towns, state parks, refuges, conservation areas, and critical habitat in our area. Fog or low clouds force helicopter flights to be lower than the 2,000 feet altitude recommended to protect Marbled Murrelet. So WHAS also requested curtailment of all flights over Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat during its breeding period from April to late September. In addition, Audubon WA is allying with other conservation organizations to challenge proposals for military training in national parks and national forests, a use of federal lands that is not included in their authorizing laws.

(2) Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy

This state plan for protecting the threatened Marbled Murrelet was mandated over a decade ago, but progress was finally made this summer. The plan will cover a 50-year period, until 2067. WHAS oral and written comments discussed our acute awareness of the need for funds of Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties and our support of finding other funding mechanisms besides timber harvest on state lands. The biggest decline in the Marbled

Murrelet's numbers are on our coast, greater than 48% in the last eleven years, and there is little federal land with suitable habitat in SW Washington. So WHAS urged creating a long-term plan that will conserve habitat on state lands in SW Washington. Stay tuned to our web site to find out how you can help shape this plan--the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be published in spring 2016.

(3) Oregon LNG

WHAS made oral and written comments to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC), and WHAS also signed onto a letter by Columbia Riverkeeper to the City of Warrenton. WHAS comments focused on the threats to wildlife, specifically endangered salmon and Marbled Murrelet, and the lack of mitigation proposed in the DEIS.

(4) Grays Harbor Oil Terminals

Grays Harbor is one of four resting areas for thousands of migrating shorebirds on the West Coast. Especially important are the Grays Harbor National Refuge and four pristine, state-recognized Important Bird Areas. Three oil terminals are proposed for Grays Harbor, but Draft Environmental Impact Statements have been submitted for only two. Comments by WHAS focused on the likely risks of oil spill documented in the DEIS and the lack of prevention or mitigation in the DEIS to avoid destruction of endangered salmon, nesting Western Snowy Plover, and migrating shorebirds.

## Highlights of WSACC Meeting

By Charlotte Persons

The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee met on Friday, October 23, 2015, in Mt. Vernon and passed unanimously proposals to codify the activities of WSACC and integrate them with Audubon WA. The group also passed three resolutions:

- (1) prohibit snag felling on National Forest Service Lands (implementation to be gradual and with a broad group of stakeholders);
- (2) reform the regulation of urban forest practices; and
- (3) promote best management practices for geoduck aquaculture.

Neil Beaver, a contract lobbyist, will represent Audubon in the 2016 legislative session. In terms of past WASCC resolutions, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society continues to lobby the federal government for the inclusion of additional central Hanford lands into the Hanford Reach National Monument.

The next WSACC meeting is scheduled for Monday, December, 2015, via conference call to vote on a tabled resolution that suggests chapters divest from investments in fossil fuels and to get an update on the 2016 legislative session. Sam Merrill (Black Hills Audubon Society) and Charlotte Persons (Willapa Hills Audubon Society) were selected to serve on the Audubon Washington state conservation committee.

## Results of the 2014 Christmas Bird Count

Results of the 115th Christmas Bird Count are almost complete online. To get the full count summary, regional summaries, articles from participants, and more delivered right to your inbox, sign up for American Birds [online](http://bit.ly/1XCRCBv) (<http://bit.ly/1XCRCBv>).

American Birds is a FREE quarterly citizen science e-newsletter that contains news from all our citizen science programs: the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, and Hummingbirds at Home. It also includes the types of CBC information and summaries previously distributed in the print edition of American Birds .

[www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org)

## The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can see the Willapa Whistler in color online on our website? All the links are easy to follow. Go to <http://whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org> for this and past issues.

## Crossing Path with Washington's Wildlife - Birdbaths

### From the WDFW website

#### **Water is key to complete backyard wildlife habitat.**

This year's record drought really brought home a basic tenet of providing backyard wildlife habitat: Water is often THE limiting factor.

Anyone who witnessed birds or other wildlife drawn to lawn sprinklers this summer can attest to this key element. With the weather forecast for Washington this fall and winter including higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation, relatively dry conditions are likely to continue.

While most species need to consume water regularly, either directly or through their food, some also require it for cleanliness and fitness. Many birds need water for bathing and post-bath preening to keep their feathers in shape to provide "all weather" protection.

The provision of water, including through fall and winter freezes, can turn an average wildlife habitat into an extraordinary one.

Those fortunate enough to have a natural waterway running through their property already have that "extraordinary" status. But most of us need to create sources of water, either building ponds, ditches, landscape swales, or rain gardens, or just setting up birdbaths.

The trick with maintaining a birdbath through the winter months in many parts of Washington, of course, is keeping the water thawed. Birds need to drink and bathe even on the coldest days, and although they can use snow and melting ice, open water may be more attractive. Keeping water just above freezing between dawn and dusk, when birds are active, is key.

You can keep a birdbath free of ice by regularly pouring water into the bowl, but that quickly becomes tedious during extreme cold when water freezes rapidly. A stick of wood left in the water during cold snaps can help you pop out the ice so you can add fresh water. When the water freezes, the stick will also help prevent the birdbath from cracking. Providing water next to a reflecting window can also help keep it open.

Birdbaths equipped with submersible, thermostatically controlled heaters will save time and maybe the birdbath itself. Small heaters designed to operate at a depth of one to three inches, many with automatic shut-off features when water levels drop or evaporate, are available through garden and hardware stores that cater to bird-feeding enthusiasts, and catalogues or on-line businesses.

Be careful about the source of electricity needed to run a birdbath heater. Outdoor outlets should be on a circuit or outlet protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which will cut off the flow of electricity in the event of a short. Most outlets in newer homes are GFCI-protected, but if you're not sure about yours, have outlets checked by an electrician.

Providing water for birds and other wildlife comes with the responsibility to keep the water clean to prevent diseases from spreading. This is especially important during warm months, but periodic thaws during cool months can be deadly, too. Scrub the birdbath a few times each month or briskly hose it out to remove algae and bacteria. Change the water frequently; locating the birdbath near a hose bib is a good idea. Never add chemicals to clean or keep water from freezing because you may poison wildlife.

If providing open water consistently through winter is difficult for you, consider other ways you can help your backyard birds and other wildlife.

Drinking water is obtained by some animals through fleshy fruits, berries and other plants they eat in your landscape.

Some birds bathe in dust, rather than water, sifting and shaking soft, dry soil through their feathers to clean them for thermal regulation. Wrens, sparrows, quail, grouse, pheasants and hawks will enjoy vigorous dust baths in a tilled garden space or specially-dug area with a mixture of loose sand, loamy soil, and wood ashes.

For more on providing water in your backyard wildlife habitat, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/birdbaths/index.html>.



### WHAS Officer Nominations 2016

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, 2016.

#### **Please consider running for the WHAS board. We need a diverse board to fulfill our mission.**

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 an email to [election@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:election@willapahillsaudubon.org). For further information contact any board member using the contact information on page 2.

President	_____
Vice-President	_____
Secretary	_____
Treasurer	_____
Director-at-large	_____
Director-at-large	_____
Director-at-large	_____

## Book Review

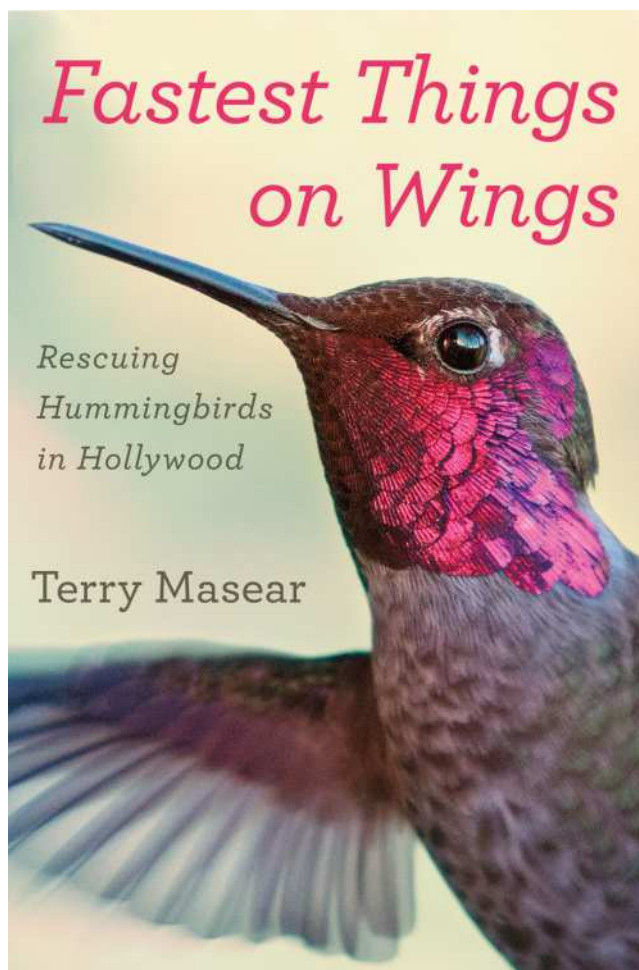
By Carolyn Norred

***Fastest Thing On Wings***  
**Masear, Terry**  
**HMH, 2015, NY(293pg)**

When the tiny hummingbird nestling fell into Terry Masear's Los Angeles backyard, it reverberated in earthquake proportions through the next 10 years of her life. Within two years, Terry had become an official hummingbird rehabber. In this, her new book, she tells us hummingbirds have the "fastest, most mass to power" of all birds, including the enormous Albatross whose 10-12' wingspan can carry him thousands of miles and "enables him to circle the globe in less than two months" (p136). In addition, she suggests that "Because of their capacity to brake in midair, hummingbirds inhabit a rich evolutionary niche between insects and birds"(135).

Masear frames her narrative with the story of the rescue and rehabilitation of an especially cooperative bird she named Gabriel, and develops the book through sharing other bird stories encountered in her years dedicated the health and welfare of these urban jewels.

Whether or not "everybody loves hummingbirds" as Masear suggests, I would dare to say only the sourest pessimist could deny the beauty of their brilliant iridescent feathers. Masear explains the source of these entrancing colors come from tiny air sacs reflecting the different colors of light (p96). These colors tend to match the colors of the flowers from which the birds feed. However, as with other birds, the brightest of these are male as the colors of the females and the young are more subdued for the sake of camouflage during nesting. Masear's book is a study of the lives and care of hummingbirds, such as the fact that a creature's strengths,



in this case speed and maneuverability, can also be its greatest vulnerability. A hummingbird's complex wing structure and size makes it easily injured and difficult to doctor, and not all her encounters end in joyful release back into the wild.

Although this work has much to teach of hummingbird lives and their care, along with her rehabbing bird skills and experiences comes the required expertise in human psychology. She is in almost every story required to deal with the passions and fears of the bird rescuers, embedded in their responses to the delicate and vulnerable wild things they bring to her. For example, one of her most moving experiences was with a desperate mother of a sixteen-year-old cancer patient. This mother and daughter had enjoyed watching a hummingbird make her nest and raise her young in a tree just outside their window for the past five years. The night before the patient was to go to surgery, their bird crashed into the window, seriously injuring herself. It soon became Masear's task to convince the panicked mother that the bird's misfortune did not foretell her daughter's.

Masear's narrative is filled with the personal insights she gains about herself and humanity as she nurtures the birds, and, in this way, the book becomes as much about us, human creatures, as it is about the lovely avian jewels of the title.

### Audubon Bird Guide App

National Audubon is excited to announce that today Audubon has released an updated version of the [Audubon Bird Guide app](http://www.audubon.org/apps) and it's now FREE to bird lovers nationwide.

With 821 species profiles and 3200-plus world-renowned bird photos, Audubon's award-winning app instantly turns any mobile device into the most trusted field guide in North America.

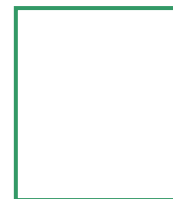
To download the Audubon Bird Guide, go to:

[www.audubon.org/apps](http://www.audubon.org/apps)

The free app also provides a great new way to engage more people in becoming active participants in conservation action. [Find a toolkit](#) of resources on Audubon Works to help you share the free app with your members and supporters. The toolkit includes tips and tricks for using the app, email and social copy and images, ecards, a poster, and a captivating video.



PO Box 399  
Longview, WA 98632



The *Willapa Whistler* is the quarterly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Complimentary copies are available for free on our website.

**TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.**

### **Send in your stories & photos**

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

[newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto: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 calendar for the latest information and updates.

### **December 12, 2015 Saturday – Annual Lake Sacajawea Walk & Social**

Practice waterfowl identification with the abundance of ducks, grebes & herons hanging out at the lake either over wintering or migrating through. After walking a portion of the lake, we will congregate for backyard birds at the Greens as well as socializing with a hot drink and snacks. Call 360-575-9238 or email [jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com) John Green to sign up. This is always an enjoyable time with WHAS friends, old and new.

### **December 14th, 2015, 1 – 3:30pm at Skamokawa Towncenter Meeting Room -- Revitalizing WHAS**

More info on page one.

### **WHAS sponsored Christmas Bird Counts:**

**Leadbetter:** December 19, 2015

**Wahkiakum:** December 29, 2015

**Cowlitz Columbia:** January 1, 2016

More info on page three.

*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), or**