

# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*

Volume 45 // Issue 4

Winter 2019



Northern Flicker --- Image by Royce Craig – seen last winter near Kelso WA

## Expanding Our Range

By President Steve Puddicombe

Recently I noticed an Anna's Hummingbird flying around my house, hovering near windows and peering in at me, and perching on various bushes and trees nearby. I put out a feeder and now have my first resident Anna's. Also, this Fall I've had a Black Phoebe in the neighborhood, frequently peeping from the tops of trees in my apple orchard as I rake leaves. These and other species, the Eurasian Collared Dove, the Red Shouldered Hawk, have expanded their range into our area while the numbers of other denizens have diminished.

All of this has been chronicled in part by citizen science and any birder can get involved; by participating in backyard bird counts, field trips, and Christmas bird counts. Check out announcements in the *Whistler* and at our website [www.willapahillsaudubon.org](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org).

WHAS elections for next year are coming up. See page six in this issue a call for nominations for officers. If you have any interest in serving on the board or otherwise helping to pursue our goals, contact me at [president@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:president@willapahillsaudubon.org) or go

to our website and link to the volunteer page. We still have need of a coordinator for programs and field trips and are looking for help with our committees on conservation and membership. There are always opportunities to volunteer in countless ways to benefit education, citizen science and land stewardship.

With membership in mind the board is in the process of modernizing our system for accepting membership dues and donations by offering an online payment page at our website. And beginning next year we will simplify our renewal process by having all renewals come due at the beginning of the year rather than at various times per individual members. This has been a long time in coming and will make it much easier for us, and for you and your continuing support. Stay tuned for more details on page six in this issue and in our next edition.

Finally, I do ask for your continued support of WHAS and our mission. We are the only organization serving the SW Washington region engaged in efforts to preserve and protect the environment, from Longview to Long

## Christmas Bird Counts

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 120th 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 21, 2019

**Wahkiakum:** December 30, 2019

**Cowlitz Columbia:** January 1, 2020

...more info on page 3

Beach, and we partner with groups in NW Oregon and the Vancouver area in these efforts.

We donate generously, for example to the local rehab center and sponsor educational outreach such as Bird Notes on KMUN. We partner with national Audubon and Washington Audubon as well. So, if you are a national member only, consider a chapter membership as well; reach out to a student or interested neighbor with a gift membership; and renew if you are a current member.

**Happy Birding!**

## In this issue of the Whistler:

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## Support our mission, join WHAS today!

### Check type of Membership:

- ☐ New Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Renewal Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$20 check for annual membership)
- ☐ I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes 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 <https://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 \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # Y14

### 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.

✂ -----Clip

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Steve Puddicombe  
360-200-4580 president@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Vice-President:** vacant

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**Conservation:** Larry Brandt  
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**Hospitality:** Gloria Nichols  
360-636-3793 jgnt@comcast.net  
**Program:** vacant  
for questions contact our president Steve Puddicombe  
**Field Trip:** Charlotte Persons  
360-431-1174 cpeople2u@gmail.com  
**Membership:** Larry Brandt  
360-200-4580 lbrandt@cni.net  
**Education:** Chelsea Chandler  
chelsea\_chandler@live.com  
**Finance:** vacant

#### OTHER

**Newsletter:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Publicity:** Stephen Glucoft  
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net  
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360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Mail

Other options :

(Add your email address below)

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
- ☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Add me to your announcement email list\*

### Donate to WHAS when you shop!



Shop at Amazon through <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0951287>.  
Choose "Willapa Hills Audubon Society" as your charity and we'll  
receive 0.5% of your purchase total.

### Olympic BirdFest 2020

Olympic Birdfest 2020 will take place April 17-19, 2020. The featured speaker is Scott Pearson, researcher in Ecology, Marine Biology and Zoology at the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

It is preceded by their San Juan Islands Cruise on April 14-16, 2020 and followed by a two-day excursion to the Neah Bay area of coastal Washington on April 19-21, 2020.

More info and BirdFest registration at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

### Winter Wings Festival 2020

Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival takes place February 13-16, 2020. Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers of all stripes to learn and explore. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its winter raptors and its stunning abundance and diversity of waterfowl. It features keynoters Rosemary Mosco, Gerrit Vyn, and Nathan Pieplow. Join them for an extensive array of field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions.

To learn more visit [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org).

### Othello Sandhill Crane Festival 2020

For nearly two decades they have celebrated the annual return of nearly 35,000 sand hill cranes to Othello, Washington every March as they migrate north to their breeding grounds in Alaska. The Festival offers an incredible opportunity to view the cranes up-close, with tours led by local experts.

The 23th Annual festival will be held March 20-22 2020. More info:  
<https://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

## Christmas Bird Counts 2019



This is the 120th annual Christmas Bird Count. 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 make 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.

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)

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.



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/>

### CBC Where and When?

#### Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count:

**Saturday, December 21, 2019**

Because of the large area, and the fact that we access the west side of Willapa Bay on numerous pieces of private property, Participants will be organized into small groups. If you wish to participate contact Charlotte Persons at [cpeople2u@gmail.com](mailto:cpeople2u@gmail.com).

#### Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count:

**Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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

#### Cowlitz – Columbia Christmas Bird Count: Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

We will be out for an 8 hour period covering a 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.

To sign up, call Bob Reistroffer 360-636-5125 (message) or [breistrof@aol.com](mailto:breistrof@aol.com). He will form teams.

**Or you can put together your own team for the area of your choice.** (Areas include Eastern Oregon, Western Oregon, Southern Washington, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, and Northern Washington.) Our circle is centered in the Columbia River by the Lewis & Clark bridge thus we cover areas in Oregon and Washington. In Oregon most of the decommissioned Trojan Nuclear Power site is in the circle, the city of Rainier and west to near Alston. In Washington the circle includes Willow Grove, Lexington and the cities of Kelso and Longview.

Bob will get information to all participants by mid-December when teams are set. He has reserved space at Papa Pete's Pizza, 5614 Ocean Beach Hwy in Longview for the compilation meeting. We have the space from 5-6:30 pm.

Hope to see you 1-1-20!



## New Report—Global Warning Affects Birds

By Larry Brandt, Conservation Chair

The Audubon Society recently released an extensive study on the effects of global warming on birds of the United States. With the title *Survival by Degree: 389 Bird Species on the Brink*, Audubon demonstrates the impact of incremental increases of global climate on our native birds. After the report was released, Audubon Chief Conservation Officer, David O'Neil was quoted as saying: "Our findings in this report are the fifth alarm in a five-alarm fire."

Audubon scientists have run climate models that show an increase of only one-degree Celsius (1.8- degrees Fahrenheit) could alter all life on earth, as we now know it. More than two-thirds of American birds are at risk if the current pace of global warming continues. Sadly, 37% of American birds are already at high risk of extinction.

The report notes that birds are ideal taxa for assessing the vulnerability to climate change. Bird species are ubiquitous and there are millions of geolocated bird observations representing much of the North American continent. Audubon scientists used 140,000,000 data points from big-data sources such as ebird, the North American Breeding Bird Survey and nearly 70 other data sources. Predictions of climate change complied with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) model.

The biology of each bird is incorporated into the analysis.

The Report divides into three sections: Part 1 outlines the key findings of climate change vulnerability assessment for North American birds; Part 2 takes a closer look at how the

threats associated with climate change will affect birds; and, Part 3 puts forward Audubon's strategy for addressing the causes and consequences of climate change by translating scientific knowledge into action to protect birds and people from the threat of climate change. Audubon chose not to use environmentally destructive resources for this report, so it is available only in file format.

An interactive web page that demonstrates the results of the report is available at

<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>. Viewers can put in their zip code and learn much about birds at risk in their neighborhood. This is a wonderful educational visual for adults and kids alike!

The 76-page PDF full report *Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink* is downloadable from:

<https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/climatereport-2019-english-lowres.pdf>

La version en español se encuentra aquí:

<https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/climatereport-2019-spanish-lowres.pdf>

Please, if you have time and interest, download the report and read it. Children will especially benefit from the information. Or you can call Larry Brandt, Conservation Committee chair at 360 200 4580 or e-mail [lbrandt@cni.net](mailto:lbrandt@cni.net)

## The Children's Discovery Museum has a new home in Longview!

By Ann Cordero



The Children's Discovery Museum closed in early July when Three Rivers Mall needed its space. The search for a new location led to 1209 Commerce Avenue in downtown Longview, between Hudson and Hemlock Streets. With the new site come additional open hours. The museum will be open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 11 am to 4 pm, with hours on Friday extended to 11 am to 7 pm. Its first day of operation will be Saturday, November 30 from 11 am to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome to visit the museum and get it started on its next adventure!

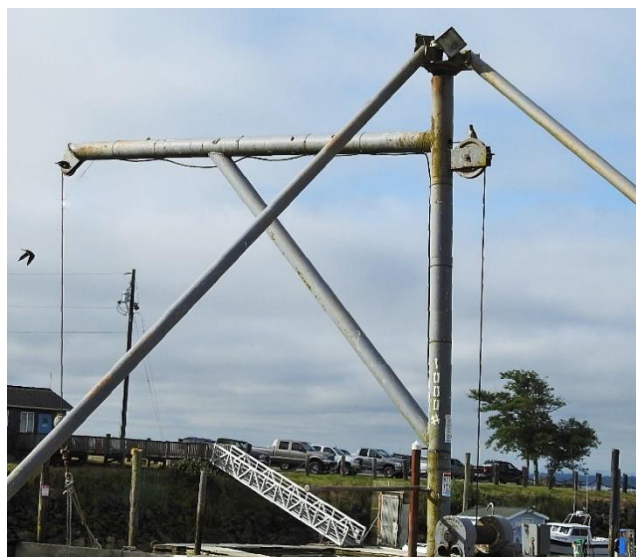
The museum encourages Audubon members to provide their assistance by volunteering and by donating funds and exhibit materials. Willapa Hills Audubon Society continues to sponsor the Nature Niche, a collection of natural objects and microscopes which help the kids explore some of the wonders of the real world. The lease at the new location is an additional expense for the Children's Discovery Museum, which still offers free admission to all visitors. Willapa Hills Audubon Society has generously donated \$600 to help the museum ready its new premises. Please come and enjoy the exhibits for children of all ages!

## Purple Martin Nest Box Program on the Long Beach Peninsula

By Suzy Whittey

The 2019 Purple Martin Nest Box Program on the Long Beach Peninsula sponsored by WHAS had its successes and failures.

At the Chinook marina 6 nest boxes were installed at the boat entrance into the marina near a jetty. The location was selected by the port manager and did not work. On every observation between April and the end of August when the martins departed, predator birds (in order of sightings: cormorants, gulls, brown pelicans and bald eagles)



were perched on the tops of the pilings keeping the martins from nesting.

One pair that has historically nested in a 12' high metal winch lift hole that a cable runs through did successfully produce 3 young this year. They were the only pair to successfully nest at the Chinook marina.

At the Ilwaco marina 6 nest boxes were installed on three pilings along Outer Harbor Way road on the east



side of the marina. This was a great opportunity for the public to view close hand the 3 pairs that successfully nested in 3 of the boxes. One box was used by a pair of house sparrows and two were not used. I located a sign maker who donated two signs that read "Purple Martin Sanctuary" that hung near the nest boxes so the public would now what the nest boxes were for.

There were between 10 and 15 pairs of martins using the Ilwaco marina this year. Most nested in the interior of the marina either under vegetation on the tops of wood pilings or in a few holes in the sides of the pilings.



The good news is after meeting with the ports manager in October and discussing the issues of the 2019 nesting season he is supporting the project for 2020 and allowing me to make the changes that I think will better benefit the martins. He received nothing but positive feedback from the community.

In Chinook the six martin boxes that were not used will be moved to a better location and two more boxes added. In Ilwaco the martins mainly nested in old piling in the center of the marina. There will be 10 new boxes placed on the tallest piling in this area. I want to thank Willapa Hills Audubon Society for supporting the Purple Martin Nest Box Program on the Long Beach Peninsula again in 2020.





## WHAS To Make Membership Renewal Changes

By Steve Puddicombe, President

Beginning next year WHAS will transition to a **yearly membership renewal** date and end the cumbersome practice of calling for renewal on an individual and monthly basis. That method was a legacy of when national and chapter memberships were linked but it has proven difficult and inefficient for a small chapter such as ours to maintain.

At our June meeting the board agreed that having a general subscription period will make it easier to keep track of membership, and for members to know with certainty when they need to renew.

For now, the board has agreed to link renewal with our February mailing of the Whistler, making announcement of renewal easier and universal. In 2020 those who renewed in the last few months will be excused from payment if they wish but beginning in 2021 all renewals and memberships will be yearly. This process of transition is ongoing, and more details will be available in the next issue of the Whistler.

In addition, we hope to make renewal easier by including self-addressed envelopes and by offering the option of payment with a credit card at our website.

A special “thanks” to Gloria Nichols, Larry Brandt, Sherry Hawkins and Ludger Wöhrmann for implementing these needed changes and to all WHAS members for their patience and support.

Any suggestions or questions are welcomed at [president@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:president@willapahillsaudubon.org)

## WHAS Officer Nominations 2020

Would you enjoy having a direct voice in running Willapa Hills Audubon Society? WHAS has begun the nominations process for the March 2020 election for members of its volunteer board of directors. The next two-year term for elected officers will begin after elections and the annual meeting, in late March. Besides their particular tasks and projects, board members attend four quarterly board meetings each year—other board business is conducted by email. We welcome members to run for any position or to nominate other members. Secretary and Director-at-Large are particularly good positions for newcomers to the board. The board would benefit from any number of talents and interests, and we hope you will contribute yours.

Please make your nominations by January 10 to fulfill the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws and to be included in the March 1 Whistler.

Clip out this form and mail to WHAS Election, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632 or send your nomination to [election@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:election@willapahillsaudubon.org)

President: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

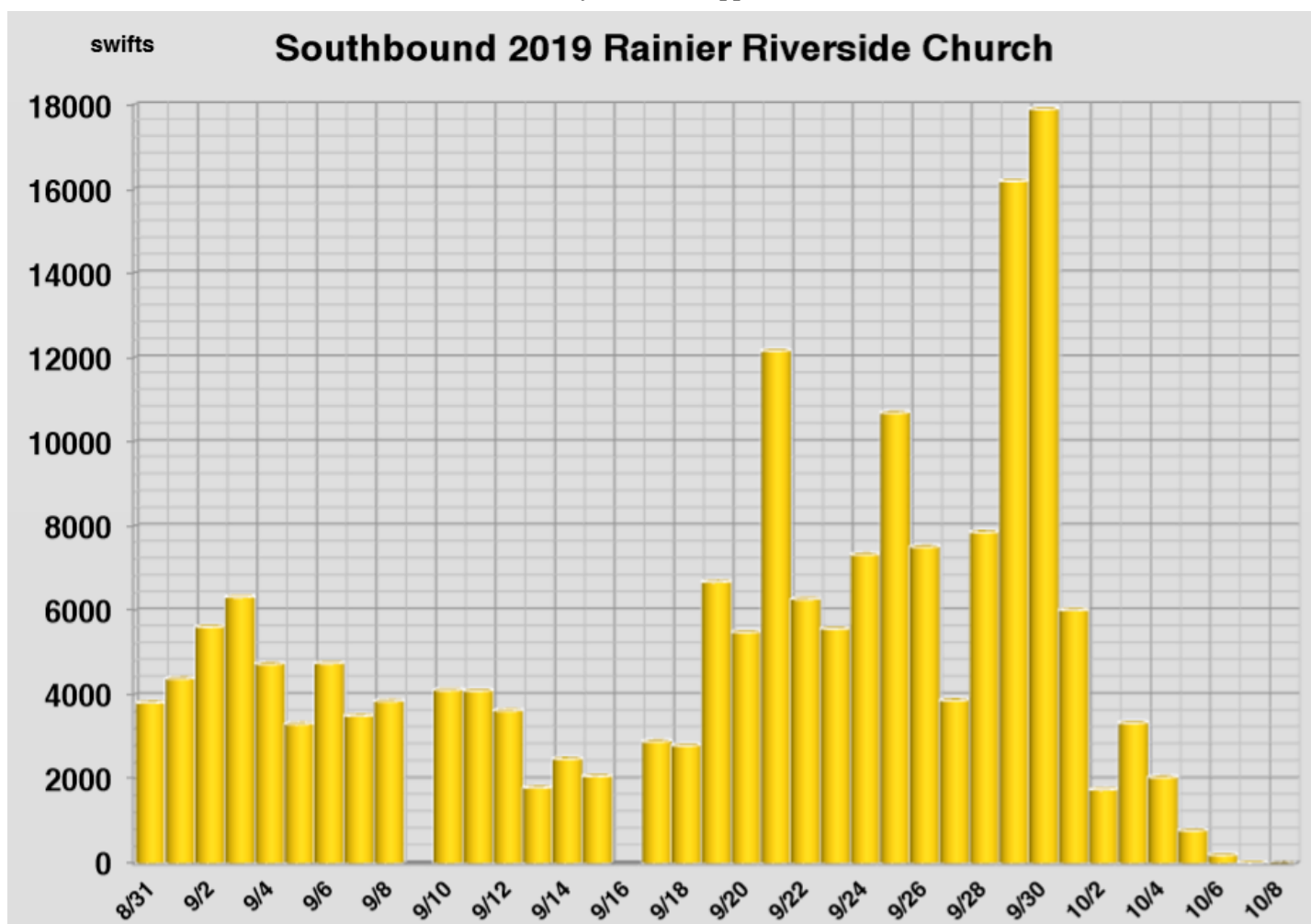
Director-at-Large: \_\_\_\_\_



**Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk** seen in Centralia, Washington  
Image courtesy of Charles Masters

## Vaux Swifts in Rainier Oregon

By Darrel Whipple



2020 is the year that the southbound migrating Vaux's Swifts that drop in overnight at the chimney of Riverside Community Church in Rainier, Oregon, blasted through earlier records for Rainier, Oregon!

With our 38 observations during the southbound migration, the Riverside Community Church chimney scored the third highest total number of swifts (185,890), the second highest average count (4,892), and the second highest one-night count (17,889), compared to the 14 other major roost sites on the flyway. Charts provided by Larry Schwitters:

<https://www.vauxhappening.org/data/2019.html>

If you would like to see a video of the Vaux's Swift entering the chimney go to our website at:

<https://willapahillsaudubon.org/current-issue/other-issues/news/546-video-of-vaux-s-swift-in-rainier-ore>

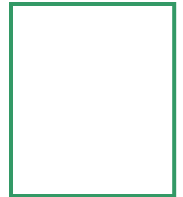
Congratulations, volunteers and supporters — a magnificent achievement for the birds and citizen science!

	Roost Site	Total Swifts	Obs.	Average	High
1	JBLM 2068	257,539	46	5,599	19,260
2	McNear's Brickyard	201,309	71	2,835	8,997
3	Rainier Riverside Church	185,890	38	5,298	17,889
4	Portland Chapman	168,705	37	4,560	9,500
5	Roseburg Clay Place	101,692	58	1,753	4,560
6	Selleck	58,427	58	1,007	2,747
7	Downtown Chehalis	52,319	56	934	4,335
8	Medford Hedrick School/Rez	48,651	61	798	3,242
9	Oregon City Downtown	41,497	26	1,596	3,056

Southbound Migration North  
America 2019 High Counts



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.

**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).

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

Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Willapa-Hills-Audubon/1386609461578276>

## 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.

### WHAS sponsored Christmas Bird Counts:

**Leadbetter:** December 21, 2019

**Wahkiakum:** December 30, 2019

**Cowlitz Columbia:** January 1, 2020

More info on page three.

### The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can subscribe to the Willapa Whistler on our website? All the links are easy to follow. Go to

<http://whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org> for this and

### WHAS Officer Nomination

Nominations are now open for all officers on the WHAS Board.

*Please see page six for details*

*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.*

Updates are on our website at [www.willapahillsaudubon.org](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org)