

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 39 // Issue 6

November // December 2013



Bald Eagle -- Image Aaron Nelson

Bald Eagle Released at Willow Grove Park

By Darrel Whipple

On September 20th Audubon Society of Portland's wildlife rehab clinic released a male adult Bald Eagle at noon at Willow Grove Park. The injured eagle had been picked up in the Abernathy Creek watershed suffering from lead poisoning caused by ingesting dead animals that had been shot. Vets repaired broken tail feathers using feathers from four other eagles in a process called "imping." About 20 people were able to watch the release, despite short notice. Several WHAS people attended, including Tom Finn, Bob Reistroffer and me.

Welcome back Pacific County Auduboners!

By Charlotte Persons

We are excited to welcome back to our chapter all former and current Auduboners who live in Pacific County south of the South Bend zip code. As of October 8, Willapa Hills Audubon Society's official region now includes some parts of Columbia County in Oregon, and Cowlitz County, Wahkiakum County and a large part of Pacific County.

Revitalizing Audubon in Pacific County

Our first steps in reviving Audubon activities in Pacific County were to reach out to the other bird-loving organizations on the coast. We want to collaborate with them and enhance their existing activities, not inadvertently duplicate or conflict. After many emails and phone calls to Shoalwater Birders, Friends of the Willapa National Refuge, and Grays Harbor Audubon Society, we had a first meeting on October 20 in Long Beach. Suzy Whittey, Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count Coordinator, was especially helpful in smoothing the way.

Collaborative Citizen Science Program on December 7

Our first collaborative effort with the four other conservation organizations in Pacific County will be a program on Saturday, December 7, from 1:30—3:30 at Long Beach Grange, 5715 Sandridge Road. COASST will present a program/class titled "*Flocking Together: Learn How Citizen Science Counts*". COASST works with citizens to collect, identify, and count birds that have died and been washed up on beaches in Washington State and other states.

Continued on page 4: Pacific County

Christmas Bird Counts sponsored by WHAS

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is citizen-science at its best. You can help with this effort, whether you have ever gone bird watching or not. You will have the opportunity to meet new people with interests in birds, or spend time with friends from previous years.

Observant eyes are needed for that day: the more the better. You can point out where you see birds and experts in your group can do the identifying; if you do know some of the birds in your area, so much the better.

This is your chance to help collect the information which will direct decisions in the future, decisions which will affect how much natural beauty, including birds, remains for future generations.

Bring your binoculars if you have some, boots, warm clothes and a lunch, and join us for a day outside, looking closely at some of Nature's most interesting creatures, sharing the day with people who have similar interests.

WHAS sponsors the following CBC's:

- Leadbetter Point
- Wahkiakum
- Cowlitz

If you happen to live within the Count circle you can count birds at your feeder that day.

...see page 3 for details

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 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.

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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*

A Special Memorial Gift

Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS) would like to extend a huge thank you to **Dr Arthur Hauge for his generous donation in memory of Marjorie Burns**. Dr. Hauge preferred the donation be used close to Cathlamet where Marjorie had resided for many years.

WHAS partners with Columbia Land Trust on the restoration of the Indian Jack Slough property across SR4 from the Julia Butler Hanson National Wildlife Refuge in Wahkiakum County just west of Cathlamet.

The donation will be used to erect Purple Martin houses in hopes of establishing a population on the site. The houses will be placed where they will be visible to the public and a plaque will be placed in commemoration.

Lake Sacajawea Updates

Invasive weeds (English ivy, holly, and blackberries) were sprayed on the north island of the lake by Jon Green, Carlo Abbruzzese, and Larry Brandt in August.

Some of the plants in the Native Plant Garden were lost as a result of drought. They will be replaced in the next few weeks.

John Green is preparing the wood duck boxes for use by cleaning out debris and adding new wood shavings. Bob Arnsdorf was a major contributor to this activity previously, and additional volunteers are solicited to replace his substantial efforts.

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://willapahillsaudubon.org> and just click on the Whistler in the top menu for this and past issues.

Christmas Bird Counts 2012



Leadbetter CBC

This is the 114th 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.

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 21, 2013

To participate in the Leadbetter Christmas Bird Count contact Suzy Whittey in Long Beach, WA at suzy@reachone.com or call 360-642-2239 between 7 am and 7 pm before December 10, 2013.

Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 29th 2013

For more information and/or to sign up contact Andrew Emlen by email: aemlen@centurytel.net

Cowlitz – Columbia Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, January 1st 2014

To sign up, call Bob Reistroffer 360-636-5125 or 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.

Sign up soon – Bob will be out of town Christmas week.

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 1-1-14 !

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 \$15 participation fee which provides you with a "research kit" which contains instructions, a bird identification poster, a wall calendar, a resource guide to bird feeding, and a tally sheet—everything you need to start counting your birds. U.S. participants receive a subscription to the Lab of Ornithology's newsletter, BirdScope. 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/>

Continued from page 1: Pacific County

From their mission: "COASST is a citizen science project of the University of Washington in partnership with state, tribal and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and community groups... By collaborating with citizens, natural resource management agencies and environmental organizations, COASST works to translate long-term monitoring into effective marine conservation solutions."

There will also be information about the many citizen science projects that involve counting live birds. Before and after the COASST presentation there will be information tables to explain the different missions of Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Shoalwater Birders, Grays Harbor Audubon Society, and Friends of Willapa National Refuge. We hope that audience members will connect with at least one organization.

Future Activities in Pacific County

The four organizations have agreed to post each other's events on their websites and on Facebook. We also plan to collaborate on future programs, field trips, and other educational/outreach activities. We share a lot of other goals as well, including protecting birds and their habitat; maintaining and expanding citizen science projects; and recruiting new members and volunteers, especially young people. We plan to meet monthly in the future, mostly by teleconference, to continue to create activities to fulfill those goals.

Besides being a great place to go birding, southern Pacific County offers lots of opportunity for WHAS to participate in conservation projects. In addition to many state parks, WHAS zip codes in Pacific County include Willapa

National Wildlife Refuge and four Important Bird Areas--areas internationally recognized as being important for migrating birds. The Pacific Flyway from Alaska to Chile is a conservation initiative for National Audubon Society.

WHAS would like to recruit members in Pacific County to participate in activities there. We hope that in time many will volunteer to be part of creating activities, and perhaps to serve as a liaison for the WHAS board with Pacific County birders.

Background

Pacific County and part of southern Grays Harbor County used to be in Willapa Hills Audubon Society's region. Discovery Coast Audubon Society was established in that area in 2006, but it became inactive in 2011. In July 2013 National Audubon Society sent a letter to Discovery Coast Audubon Society to officially rescind its charter as a chapter of NAS.

Last August the regional office of NAS sent an email to Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Grays Harbor Audubon Society, and Black Hills Audubon Society. We were asked which zip codes in Pacific County should be assigned to the three chapters. All three chapters asked that the zip codes be assigned based on geography and how easily members could get to a chapter's meetings.

In early October WHAS got an email stating that all the zip codes in Pacific County south of the South Bend zip code would be assigned to us and the northern zip codes to Grays Harbor Audubon Society. That was exactly what all the chapters wanted!

WHAS Helps with Forestry Days**By Darrel Whipple**

Willapa Hills Audubon Society volunteers participated again in field days at Wake Robin Learning Center for the annual Forestry Days program for Longview District fifth graders.

The students -- 393 altogether -- followed up classroom lessons by travelling by bus with their teachers to Wake Robin on Coal Creek west of Longview on either October 3 or October 4, where they engaged in activities in forest comparison and management, streams, ecosystems, orienteering, and the like. The activities were conducted by professional foresters, other resource persons and Wake Robin FFA members.

WHAS used selected mounts of birds and mammals from the Lower Columbia River Wildlife Collection (sponsored by WHAS and housed at LCC biology lab) to illustrate a 15-minute lesson for each student group on the scientific concept of adaptations -- features of an animal that help it survive.

Volunteers assisting in this activity on one or both days were Linda Jennings, Ann Cordero, Russ

Kastberg, Bill Eagle, Claudia Eagle, and Darrel Whipple. John Gross, part-time manager of the center for the school district and a member of the WHAS board, assisted with transportation of the mounts to Wake Robin.

The Wake Robin forest land and buildings were dedicated to environmental education by the late owners of the property, Joe and Eleanor Lammi, who were leaders in the local Society of American Foresters and the Willapa Hills Audubon Society.



Images: Bill Eagle



Washington Audubon, WHAS, and Coal

By Margaret Green

Since 2010, there have been 6 coal export terminals proposed in the Pacific Northwest. Of the 6, 3 are still being considered and are working their way through the public comment periods and environmental review process. Washington and Oregon both have environmental regulations to protect our air, water, species of significance, and impacts on human populations, and allow public comment at various stages in the review process.

In 2011, the Washington State Audubon Conservation Council (WSAAC) passed a resolution [1] opposing coal export on the premise that export encourages burning and this burning increases global climate change, threatening our planet and all living things on it. The WHAS Board has followed suit to oppose any coal export in the Pacific Northwest. Both these actions allow WA Audubon and our board to use resources and our voice to speak out during hearings or comment periods against various terminal proposals. Conservation Co-chair and acting-president Charlotte Persons, recently testified [2] for WHAS at the Longview scoping hearing for the Longview terminal. Charlotte also wrote comments [3] for the recent Port of St. Helens rezoning hearing. It is thought that rezoning of this farmland is intended to open the land use for building a coal terminal.

The two Washington terminals still moving through the environmental review process are the Bellingham terminal and the Longview Terminal. Bellingham is further along; with the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in work. The Longview terminal is still in its "scoping" comment period, which allows public involvement to determine the "scope" of the environmental review. It is a chance for the public to voice concerns and request that studies be done to investigate the impacts of the terminal. It is vitally important for people to participate in this process. To comment on line, go to millenniumbulkeiswa.gov and choose the link "Submit Comments" or email your comments to comments@millenniumbulkeiswa.gov. If you need assistance writing comments, you

can join a comment writing open house sponsored by the local group Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community (LCSC). It will be held at their office at 1409 14th Avenue, Longview on November 9 any time between 10 and 3, where assistance will be available. Comments can be as simple as "Please study the impact of coal dust from trains on salmon in the Columbia River."

The scoping period for the Longview terminal ends on November 18, 2013 so all comments must be made by that time.

After scoping closes on November 18, 2013, the next phase will take 1 to 1 ½ years for the agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Using the scoping comments, they will determine what impacts should be studied and considered when determining mitigation and also the final decision on the terminal. The public will have one more chance to comment once the draft EIS is completed.

To learn more about this issue, the best web site with extensive information is powerpastcoal.org which also includes links to related web sites such as Columbia Riverkeeper, and Friends of Columbia River Gorge. Share any and all of these websites with your facebook friends.

[1] See full resolution at

<http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/current-issues/coal-export/287-whas-signs-on-against-coal.html>

[2] September 17, 2013 WHAS Longview scoping comments posted at <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/current-issues/coal-export/347-charlotte-persons-oral-testimony-at-the-longview-coal-export-hearing.html>

[3] October 9, 2013, WHAS St Helens comments posted at <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/current-issues/coal-export/348-darrel-whipples-testimony-against-port-westward-rezoning-.html>

Highlights of State-wide Audubon Meetings on October 4 and 5

By Charlotte Persons

The best news is that Audubon Washington, the state-wide office, is back up and running! You may remember that 3 years ago it was dissolved because of lack of funding. Donations from Washington chapters paid for a part-time lobbyist for 2012, and a half-time chapter associate/legislative liaison for 2013.

After intensive fund-raising, there is now a complete staff, including a **full-time director -- Gail Gatton**, formerly director of the Tahoma Audubon's Center. There is also a Chapter Associate and a Conservation Director. Other scientists and a fund-raiser are under part-time contracts.



Gretchen Starke and Helen Engle (from left)
Image: Mick Thompson

Audubon Washington is using office space at Seward Park Audubon Center on Lake Washington in Seattle.

To see the report and photos on the October 5, 2013 meeting of Audubon Council of Washington, go to <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-council-washington-2013>.

Gretchen Starke, Conservation Chair for Vancouver, Washington, received the Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award.

There are also two new state-wide conservation initiatives, Sage Brush Habitat and Marine Birds. Very interesting was Kathy Dale's summary of how valuable

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citizen science data is in research and conservation planning and her presentation of the forthcoming National Audubon's Climate Change Model. It uses over 100 years of CBC data and historic climate data to project the future range of birds under three emissions scenarios and time frames. See <http://ow.ly/qbYVv>

The Washington State Audubon Conservation Chairs (WSACC) meeting included passing two state-wide resolutions. One is to support protection of Greater-sage Grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse and their sagebrush steppe habitat in the Bureau of Land Management Plan for Eastern Washington and San Juan.

The other resolution is to support science-based planning, especially the 2008 Science Report, for Marbled Murrelet habitat protection. This is in advance of the Long Term Conservation Strategy for State Trust Lands forthcoming in

2014. WHAS board proposed an amendment to this resolution to promote legislation to fund encumbered land statues to help reduce the loss of county funds lost to designation of Marbled Murrelet habitat on state trust lands. This amendment was adopted. Note: In fact this funding has been an on-going priority for Audubon and other conservation groups for several legislative sessions. This next year we will work for more funding than the \$1 million allotted last session.

The WSACC meeting also included reports on chapter projects related to the Pacific Flyway, the 2013 Legislative Session, the Cherry Point and Longview coal terminal hearings, the Wild Olympics legislation in Congress, and tentative priorities for the next legislative session. At WHAS request, WSACC will send scoping comments on the proposed coal terminal in Longview and reference the WSACC resolution from 2011.

Update on LNG

Below is a letter written by Brett VandenHeuvel of the Columbia Riverkeeper in regard to the recent LNG events around the proposed terminal in Warrenton in Clatsop County.

My work is rewarding. And the work to protect the Columbia River estuary from harmful Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) may be the most rewarding of my career. It starts with the people. It is inspiring to work shoulder to shoulder with incredible people who stood up to protect their farmland, business, grandchildren, favorite fishing hole from the threat of LNG. People who believed that our communities and our property should not be sacrificed for gas company profits. We faced huge odds, but persevered. Now, we are very, very close to the final victory. The Clatsop County Commissioners voted 5 to 0 on October 9, 2013, to deny Oregon LNG's application for a pipeline. No pipeline, no project, right? More on that soon.

After fighting Oregon LNG (formerly Calpine) since 2005, our side had one hundred people attend the hearing last night, and we broke out in applause when the County Commissioners denied the pipeline! The incredible effort by local citizen groups, especially Columbia Pacific Common Sense, Oregon Citizens Against the Pipeline, Landowners and Citizens for Common Sense, Wahkiakum Friends of the River, and, originally, Rivervision, is the reason we are winning. Don't get me started listing all the individuals. Riverkeeper is proud to support these groups and local citizens.

I've made dozens of lifelong friends in this journey. Friendship may not show up in the box score as a statistic easy to track, but it is perhaps the greatest measure of our success as a community. We've balanced the blood, sweat, and tears with laughter, joy, and accomplishment.

Is this the final straw for Oregon LNG? We hope so. The next step in the process (stay with me here) is for Oregon to tell the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that the project violates Oregon's management plan under the Coastal Zone Management Act. FERC cannot approve an LNG license

unless the state says the project is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act. Here, the project is not consistent because Oregon's coastal plan states very clearly that a project must comply with county land use laws. Therefore, Oregon must reject the project. The Clatsop County decision to reject LNG is a major victory that we've been working on for years. This will be very difficult for Oregon LNG to overcome.

What about preemption? Oregon LNG's new favorite line is that Clatsop County's decision making is preempted by federal law. Not true. While the Natural Gas Act does say that FERC has the exclusive siting authority for LNG terminals and pipelines, the law expressly states that FERC cannot trump the Coastal Zone Management Act. They didn't teach me any of this stuff in law school, by the way. Practically, if Oregon LNG really believed that Clatsop County's laws are preempted, Oregon LNG would not have applied to the county in the first place.

This victory is a big step toward protecting the Skipanon Peninsula, the proposed Oregon LNG terminal site.

So, if Oregon LNG continues the slash and burn approach to endless legal challenges, they might now challenge Oregon's denial of the coastal zone certification. Or they might challenge Clatsop County's pipeline denial to the Land Use Board of Appeals. Is the fight over? No. But Oregon LNG clearly faces an uphill battle.

Next Action : I encourage everyone to write the Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DCLD) and tell them to act swiftly in telling FERC that the LNG project does not comply with Oregon law.

Submit written comments to:

Juna Hickner
DLCD, OCMF
635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301-2540
juna.hickner@state.or.us

Book Review

By Larry Turner

***Freeway Birding: San Francisco to Seattle* Harry G. Fuller**

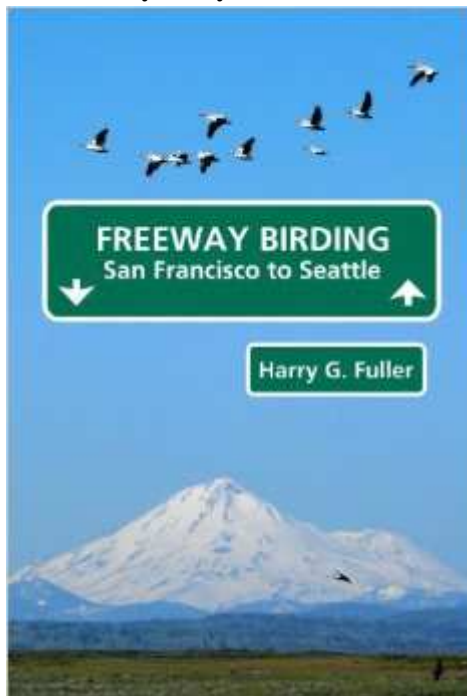
Living Gold Press 352 pp. \$21.95

Joanne and I regularly travel I-5 between Kelso and Sacramento, where we have grandkids. If time permits we stop at places like the Sacramento River and Klamath River wildlife refuges. And we pay attention to the birds we see along the way. So when we saw this modestly priced book, we had to see what it was all about. We have looked it over carefully, but have not yet traveled I-5 with it.

Freeway Birding covers San Francisco to Sacramento via two major routes. Then it goes up I-5 from Sacramento north to Seattle. From San Francisco, one route is U.S. Highway 101 north to California Highway 37 and then east to where it joins I-80. The other route from San Francisco is I-80 all the way. The “Winters cutoff”, I-505, is also included. From these major routes are additional birding areas up to 20-30 minutes from main routes. For example, it includes the road to Mt Ashland at the Siskiyou pass, Highway 30 out to Sauvies Island, and the Woodland Bottoms loop.

The book is designed to be used as a road guide, going from south to north. If one is going south, you start at the back and work forward. It uses freeway exit mile numbers and other mile markers where they occur. In some places, such as California where I-5 does not have mile markers, the birder needs to estimate miles by paying attention to exit mile markers. At many points, it notes fairly succinctly what is at the exit. For example, “I-5 Exit 632, Corning Rest Areas. The rest areas feature large, wonderfully aged olive trees. Scrub-Jays, Crows, and Mockingbirds are likely species here. North of the rest stops and south of Red Bluff, the pastureland may yield Western Meadowlark, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vultures and Western Kingbirds in spring and summer.” Many exits have a similar description, usually including times of year and habitats for the local birds, and sometimes even specific ponds or trees.

Other major entries start at an exit and lead through a route. For example, at I-5 exits 209, 216, and 228, the book describes ways to get to 99W and has a good description of



Finley Wildlife Refuge. Or it will take you out I-84 to the Sandy River and Lewis and Clark Recreation areas, or out WA 14 to Steigerwald Lake NWR. The Woodlands Bottoms loop mentions that Ebird has recorded 140 species there and specifically names a few shorebirds, gulls, raptors, passerines, etc.

The above are just examples. There are many exits and side roads included. Kelso only gets a climate description, and Longview is apparently too far to be mentioned.

An additional feature is profiles of a few specific birds, generally in the vicinity of where they are most likely to be found. The wrentit, yellow-billed magpie are profiled along I-80 in California, Woodpeckers of various species in northern California, the Great Gray Owl in southern Oregon, and the Northern Spotted Owl further north.

These species vignettes along with others on volcanoes, Lewis and Clark, and Puget Sound are not in the Table of Contents, which is pretty much a listing of various sections of I-5 and associated loops. There is an extensive index at the back of the book which apparently includes every page where a particular bird is mentioned.

After the introduction, California has 115 pages, Oregon 132 pages (including 28 for the Portland area, and Washington has 39 pages. There is also a 12 page chapter entitled Specialty Species where it describes more localized species, such as the Brant (rare away from saltwater; it frequents the arms of Puget Sound), the Band-tailed Pigeon (never far from large trees where it nests, but often feeds in pastures and croplands), and Olive-sided Flycatcher (tops of conifers and mixed trees north of Redding).

I did notice one error where the author stated that the Northern Spotted Owl and Bald Eagle were two species on the federal endangered species list as “threatened;” however the Bald

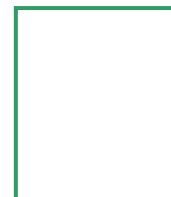
Eagle was delisted in 2007 (earlier in certain areas). And there might be a few other errors upon close scrutiny. But all in all, this looks like a most interesting and useful birding tool in our arsenal. I am looking forward to using it this Thanksgiving as we visit relatives in the Sacramento area.



Brewer's Blackbird
Image: Royce Craig



PO Box 399
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 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

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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.

November 9, Saturday: *Monthly Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk*

Carlo Abruzzese will lead the monthly Lake walk. Meet at 8:00 AM at the playground near Hemlock Square (at Hemlock and Kessler, Longview). The walk will last approximately 1 1/2 hours. Carlo will carry a scope for better views, but it is recommended that participants bring binoculars if they have them.

November 16, Saturday: *Fall Woodland Bottoms Exploration*

We expect to see waterfowl, cranes, and raptors on this trip to a predominately field and farmland area south of Longview in the bottoms between Woodland and the Columbia River. We plan to leave Longview at 8:00 AM and return by 1:00 PM. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Please call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email jgreen2317@aol.com to reserve your spot and arrange carpooling.

Saturday, December 7, from 1:30—3:30 at Long Beach Grange, 5715 Sandridge Road. COASST will present a program/class titled "*Flocking Together: Learn How Citizen Science Counts*". See page one for more information.

December 14, Saturday: *Annual Lake Walk and Social*

This just might be the 6th annual December Lake Walk and Social! Join us for the monthly Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk by meeting at 8:00 AM at the playground near Hemlock Square (at Hemlock and Kessler, Longview). Weather will determine the duration of the walk, but no longer than 1 1/2 hour will be spent. Then we will retire to the Green's for cookies, coffee, and backyard bird watching (Cooper's Hawk and Merlin-willing). Please call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email jgreen2317@aol.com to RSVP for the social, so we can accommodate with beverages and snacks. If history repeats, the social will prove a great time chatting and staying warm indoors with friends, old and new.

Saturday, February 1.

4th annual S.W.A.M.P. (Southwest Washington Amphibian Egg Mass Project) meeting and training at LCC. Watch for more information in the next Whistler or contact Ann Kastberg at acwikman@cni.net

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