



Volume 33, Issue 3

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

May/June 2007

UPCOMING WHAS PROGRAMS

Mark Your Calendar

“SKY TIME IN GRAYS RIVER: LIVING FOR KEEPS IN A FORGOTTEN PLACE”

DR. ROBERT MICHAEL PYLE

Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 6:30 PM, The Longview Library, 1600 Louisiana, Longview

“Meet the Author”, reception to be held at 6:30 PM, Art Gallery of the Longview Library. Join us for beverages, cookies and close encounters with Bob Pyle. Author’s Reading and Program to follow the reception, at 7:00, Lower Floor Auditorium of the Longview Library.

WHAS is partnering with Lower Columbia College and The Longview Library to bring Robert Michael Pyle to Longview as a Northwest Voices author. Three decades ago, the renowned naturalist and lepidopterist Robert Michael Pyle traveled to rural southwest Washington, looking for butterflies to photograph. Although the area didn’t provide much in the way of moths and butterflies, Pyle was drawn to the extraordinary village of Gray’s River, and he has lived there, in the same house, ever since. “Sky Time in Gray’s River” is a beautiful account of his time in the area, capturing the essence of country life in the Pacific Northwest.

“Sky Time” is full of wonderful prose, both funny and poignant tales, and a love of place. The Oregonian stated “. . . Pyle’s best book, astonishingly attuned and beautifully crafted . . . one of the outstanding nature writers in the country.” Though full of the smallest details, brought with the unfolding of the seasons, it is much more than a nature book; it inspires us to look more closely, and to contemplate more deeply, what our choice of home can mean to us. Don’t miss this chance to hear Robert Michael Pyle share his love for Gray’s River, his home and special place.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and SOCIAL, INCLUDING THE MUCH ANTICIPATED “SILENT AUCTION”*

*Saturday, June 2, 2007, 5:00 PM
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
1428 22nd Avenue, Longview*

A scrumptious array of salads, snacks, beverages, and dessert provided
\$5 suggested donation welcome at the door

Program follows social at 6:30: “Birding Texas” – by our own Jim and Bea Harrison

We are lucky to have these two uprooted Texans, setting their roots here in the Willapa Hills. Jim and Bea will share photos of birding, birds and other wildlife, and some of the beautiful natural areas of Texas.

***THE AUCTION:** Nature prints and cards, including art by WHAS member Charles Kingsland, bird books including one written and signed by shorebird expert Dennis Paulson, a wonderful wood duck nesting box created by WHAS member Barney Wheeler, and two nights stay on the Oregon coast. The silent auction will be open at 5:00 and closed 5 minutes after the program completes.

For food planning, **RSVP** by May 20 to Gloria at 636-3793 or Margaret at jgreen2317@aol.com.

COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME

Don’t forget to vote in the WHAS election of officers!

Your ballot is enclosed in this issue of the *Whistler*. Also, see the article by Pat Reistroffer on page 4.

Please Join Us!

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

Chapter Membership

_____ \$20 for annual membership dues.

_____ \$15 for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

National Audubon Membership

_____ \$20 for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

Combination

_____ Yes, you can do both options above, if you like. *Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).*

Willapa Whistler Only

_____ \$5 for six issues (one year). *No membership is included with this option. Make check payable to WHAS.*

For any of the options above, clip this form and mail it with your check to:

Willapa Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

_____ Please add me to your Discussion email list

_____ New **Y14**

_____ Renewal **7XCH**

For more information about WHAS, You may call Wayne Nelson at 503-556-9379 or Betty Mayfield at 503-556-6841.

WHAS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**OFFICERS**

President: Betty Mayfield

503-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com

President: Steve Puddicombe

503-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org

President: Wayne Nelson

503-56-9379 gusdog1@msn.com

Secretary: Charlotte Persons

360-578-3949 cpersons@yahoo.com

Treasurer: John Green

360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

Director at Large: Steve Glucoft

360-577-0303 sglucoft@adelphia.net

Director at Large: Shirley Bartholomew

503-556-978 hankb@opusnet.com

Director at Large: Pam Snively

360-642-8123

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs: Margaret Green

360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

Education: Darrel Whipple

503-556-9838 dwhipple@opusnet.com

Publishing/Newsletter: Alan and Diane Clark

360-795-3905 alan_c_clark@hotmail.com

PO Box 102, Cathlamet, WA 98612

Field Trip Co-chairs:

Ann Musche

360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org

Pamela Wright

360-560-3772 audubon@zygops.com

Conservation: Steve Puddicombe

503-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org

Publicity: Steve Glucoft

360-577-0303 sglucoft@adelphia.net

Finance/History: Betty Mayfield

503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com

Bird Counts: Alan Richards

360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org

Willapa Bay Issues: Miranda Wecker

360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org

Wildlife Sightings: Andrew Emlen

360-795-8009 aceasp@pacifier.com

Membership: Gloria Nichols

360-636-3793 johngloriaromeo@earthlink.net

WHAS Web Site: Dick Wilson

360-875-6172 bcfarms@willapabay.org

Nelson Creek Stewardship: Jim and Bea Harrison

Jimharrison2@peoplepc.com



Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayner

It's late spring migration and early summer nesting time for passerines, with bird song and activity at their maximum. While song-birds can be found in many habitats, one of the most under-birded seems to be the large timber company tree farms. While some stands are large single aged mono-cultures, largely devoid of birds, other places have various aged trees in close proximity, mixed with other vegetation and can be quite birdy. I've found the best access is to park and walk on the gated logging roads. Frequently on a morning's bird walk, there is no one else around. My favorite tree farm habitat is about 2.5 miles up the 1901 Weyerhaeuser Road. This is reached by turning on the 1900 road just before Kid Valley, about 18 miles east of Castle Rock. I've been birding this spot a few times each summer for the past 10 years. Within easy walking distance of a junction of five different roads, there are clear-cuts, young and mature stands of Douglas fir, plus some alders.

My first ever visit to this area was highlighted by a northern pigmy owl being mobbed by a variety of passerines. June 2006 was the best ever at this site, both for the number of species, and the unusual birds. The clear-cut held a pair of western blue birds. Is this species more numerous in Western Washington than is realized? This was the second pair I've seen in a clear-cut, an environment that I rarely bird. The mature stands hosted a number of pairs of hermit warblers, my favorite Southwest Washington specialty. The best find was the bay-breasted warbler in the immature Douglas fir. This eastern vagrant sang for a month and was seen by many people including a number of WHAS members.

So let's get out there and enjoy some summer walks while exploring our nearby tree farms. These roads can be found up nearly every drainage in our area, and are open, in most cases, to non-motorized recreation. Obey any signs, watch out for log trucks on weekdays, and enjoy the outdoors.

Newsletter Editor Needed

WHAS will need a new newsletter editor for 2008. Al and Diane Clark, current editors, will help you get started. Contact them for information at 360-795-3915, alan_c_clark@hotmail.com.

You Are Invited!

Wenas Campout, May 25-28, 2007

www.wenasaudubon.org

By Helen Engle

For over 38 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground, officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, SW of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which Auduboners have been assured will be in protective status soon.

The free "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

- * The campground is about 2,500' elevation, can be quite cold at night, hot during day.
- * Bring water for drinking (the creek is beautiful and bountiful but not potable).
- * We set up tents or use "pick-up" type campers.
- * We all share in the rent of portable toilets for four days.
- * Bicycles and Frisbees are fun, telescopes and cameras standard gear.
- * Please leave pets at home.
- * There are organized field trips throughout the Wenas drainage and WADF&W management areas and some on private property at owners' requests.
- * In camp we have natural history workshops with some of the state's top birders, WNPS botanists, entomologists etc.
- * There is an old-fashioned campfire in the evening with singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit the new Wenas Website, by Webmaster Michael Hobbs, to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout (www.wenasaudubon.org). There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and more. If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend - May 25-28, 2007!

See you there, Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112.

President's Message

By Steve Puddicombe

This month I have the chance to regale you with some recent accomplishments.

Bylaws & Constitution Revision

The board finally completed the process of updating and adapting the bylaws and constitution of WHAS after several years work. The board voted approval of the new revision and now it is up for a vote of the general membership (see an explanatory article elsewhere this issue). Please review the changes and cast a vote. If you would like to see the entire set of documents you can request them by sending a message to me at: puddfella@willapabay.org.

One of the key changes will be in the terms of officers, currently set at one year. If adopted, the new terms will be for two years, thereby (we feel) reducing the stress involved in having elections yearly and also, hopefully, contributing to a satisfying sense of continuity and competence.

This issue also contains the latest ballot for officers. You will note that we have a vacancy for one of the board members at-large. If you would like to serve you can contact me after the election or pencil yourself in on your ballot. All the positions have space for write-in candidates.

Shorebird Grant

A joint application for a grant to study the snowy plover was made by Grays Harbor AS and WHAS. News that we had been approved as recipients came in February and Jan McMillan of Grays Harbor AS is heading the project in our behalf. The project is being done in conjunction with work the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife is doing to enhance the survival of this bird.

Volunteers are needed for nest surveys at Leadbetter Point, preferably with birding experience and good binoculars and scopes. These surveys will occur several days of the months of April, May, June and July. Also volunteers are needed to help make the nest sites less vulnerable to predators. This work does not require birding skill. The grant covers two years of work with progress reports after each year. This is a good chance for birders to become familiar with our endangered shorebird friend and to help with their survival. If interested or for more information contact Jan McMillan: mcmomjan@comcast.net.

Voting For Audubon Officers, Constitution and Bylaws Update

By Pat Reistroffer

PLEASE take the time to vote and send in your ballot for the upcoming officers and the constitution and bylaw updates. The people on the ballot are willing to give their time to serve and represent the organization. I hope that you will take the time to support them by voting and mailing in your ballot. If you plan on attending the annual meeting you can vote or turn in your ballot at that time.

We are not a large organization and it helps if everyone can take a turn serving in an office so that all the responsibility doesn't fall on the shoulders of the same people. All the people on the ballot have served in their offices this year. We need to be thinking about the future and bringing new people on board. PLEASE consider how you can help support this great organization in serving in an office or being a committee chairperson in the future. I know when I served as president, many years ago, I learned so much and felt that I gained more than I gave. REMEMBER: "Many hands make light work."

Willapa Hills has passed a resolution to oppose the Liquid Natural Gas terminus proposed Northern Star LLC to be constructed at Bradwood Landing, OR. We just presented a resolution to the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee that passed, aligning all the state's chapters against the proposal. LNG terminals on the Columbia threaten the integrity of the estuary in many ways, but especially salmon recovery and would be a dominant sight near two wildlife refuges, altering the natural and communal heritage of the area for generations. The permitting process is moving forward with a draft EIS expected soon.

If you would like to join with the effort to halt this development, your support in writing letters to legislators, newspapers, and in attending public discussions will be appreciated. To learn more about the threat of LNG on the river and to help stop it you can contact George Exum at 360-849-4324.

Field Trip Schedule



We are reinvigorating the field trip committee and will have very infrequent meetings open to anyone with ideas or interests regarding field trip activities. If you have ideas for field trips, would be available

to lead a trip, or would like to be notified the next time we have a committee meeting, please contact Pamela Wright at audubon@zygops.com or 360-560-3772.

South Nemah Natural Resources Conservation Area

Sunday May 6- 10am-1pm

Join noted botanist Cathy Maxwell for a guided plant walk of the South Nemah Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). This 2,440 acre preserve contains some of the last patches of relatively undisturbed natural forest in the Willapa Hills.

Massive 300-year-old-plus western red cedar and Sitka spruce trees are interspersed among younger forest that regenerated after a 1921 windstorm. Plants that may be found during the walk include wintergreen (*Gaultheria ovatifolia*), coast *Boykinia* (*Boykinia elata*), and the inside-out-flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*). This is an easy to moderate hike. Wear clothes that are appropriate for the weather. Bring food and water.

Contact Carlo Abbruzzese, carlo.abbruzzese@dnr.wa.gov, 360-274-2056 to sign up for this trip.

Fox Creek Trail Wildflowers

Saturday, May 19

Alleviate your feelings of nature deprivation and discover a new opportunity to appreciate the respite offered by natural spaces within urbanized areas. Join Darrel Whipple for a short wildflower-oriented walk at the Fox Creek Trail in Rainier, Oregon on Saturday, May 19. We hope to catch the Inside-out Flower in bloom as well as other local beauties, and of course we'll watch for tweeters as well. Meet at the Riverside Community Church lot on C Street near 2nd Street West in Rainier at 9am.

Silver Star Mountain

Saturday, June 16th

John Green will co-lead a hike along an old rocky road to the top of Silver Star Mountain with Gerry LaPointe of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force starting from the

trailhead at end of FR 4109. The hike is about 5 miles round trip, with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. The Yacolt fire ravaged this area in 1902, resulting in an even-aged forest, peppered with large meadows and exposed rocky outcrops. The trail offers views of the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, the Columbia River, and four volcanic peaks in the distance. Silver Star was named for the star shape formed by five ridges when seen from an aerial view. Weather patterns change quickly and can bring cold winds and fogs to this area. Be prepared for diverse weather conditions. Carpools will leave from Longview at about 9am. For more information contact John Green at jgreen2317@aol.com or 1-360-575-9238.

Bone River Canoe/Kayak Tour

June 30

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Areas Programs will cosponsor a free public tour of the spectacular Bone River Natural Area Preserve (NAP) in Pacific County on June 30th. This field trip will showcase the ecology and history of these sites and will highlight DNR's efforts to eradicate the non-native *Spartina*.

The Bone River natural area contains some of the highest quality examples of native coastal salt marsh communities in Washington which include six distinct, rare, salt marsh plant communities. The salt marshes and associated mudflats also provide important habitat for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, elk, and the uncommon plant, Henderson's Checker-mallow. Rare species such as marbled murrelets, Dunn's salamander, and bald eagles, make their homes in the upland forests surrounding the marsh. Nutrient-laden estuaries are among some of the most biologically rich ecosystems on the planet and provide crucial habitat for young fish, shellfish and crustaceans.

For further information or to sign up please contact Carlo Abbruzzese, Pacific Cascade Region natural areas manager, (360) 274-2056, carlo.abbruzzese@dnr.wa.gov.



California Quail by Darrell Pruitt, WDFW

Book Review *(Continued from Page 7)*

This is a well written in depth review of a small portion of the available data. The book is an expansion of a series of articles Kolbert wrote for the New Yorker magazine. She recounts travels and interviews with scientists who study climate change from diverse angles including permafrost depth, migratory patterns and archeological records. She also meets with politicians and provides historical insight into our nation's past and present official position on our contribution to climate change. The book is thoughtful and thought provoking, relying on data and details to substantiate its message.

Mt. St. Helens Mine Update
Your Comments Needed (Again) by May 14 to
Stop Mine at Mt. St. Helens

By Charlotte Persons

The Bureau of Land Management recently released an Environmental Assessment outlining their preliminary decision to grant a lease to Idaho General Mines for a 3,000 acre mine site in the Green River valley below Goat Mountain. This area directly borders the Mt. St. Helens National Monument on the northeast flank. The lease will allow the mining company to apply for a permit to explore the site for copper, gold, molybdenum and silver. While you may have previously written a letter, please act again. NOW is the official comments period, and the BLM must consider public interest when making this decision.

The value of this site for wildlife habitat has long been recognized. Much of the lease area was purchased by the USFS from the Trust for Public Lands using Land and Water Conservation Funds which are to be used for recreation and conservation. The lease area enters the Tumwater Inventoried Roadless Area, intended for protection under President Clinton's 2001 Roadless Rule. Most of the area is forested, and part is ancient forest over 270 years old. This is potential nesting habitat for the endangered spotted owl and for several birds listed as needing conservation on the 2003 Washington State of the Birds report: northern goshawk, olive-sided flycatcher, Vaux's swift, and American blackback woodpecker. Other sensitive amphibian and botanic species may be found in the old growth habitat. Threatened salmon and trout species spawn in the Green River. The effects on all these species from a mine—traffic, toxic dust, stream destruction, and so on—have not yet been assessed.

People will also be affected. A large mine will destroy the experience of visiting this part of the National Monument. Additionally, the area includes popular hiking trails, a horse camp, and fishing streams. Most alarming is the strong possibility of acid mine drainage and other toxins entering the nearby Green River, whose waters join the Toutle River and then the Cowlitz River. This water is used for agriculture and the municipal supplies for Toutle, Castle Rock, Longview, and Kelso. The seismic activity of the area makes the possibility of a tailings dam failure more likely.

As more money and effort is expended by the government and mining company, momentum will build to grant the mining company further leases to begin mining. Help stop this process now.

Submit comments by May 14 to:

U.S. Department of Interior

Attn: Fred O'Ferrall

BLM, Oregon State Office

P.O. Box 2965

Portland, OR 97208

Official comments email: Eric_Hoffman@or.blm.gov

Further background and talking points can be found at www.willapahillsaudubon.org and the EA at www.blm.gov/or/index.php.

Introducing Russ Kastberg

Candidate for WHAS Director-at-Large

My partner (soon to be married, May 5th) Ann and I live at Castle Rock, WA. I was a member of WHAS many years ago, but, we took it up again two years ago. We have enjoyed your programs and field trips, especially with Carlo Abbruzzese. I worked for Washington State Department of Natural Resources for 30 years, the last 15 years here at Castle Rock at the Southwest Region. Jobs included the regulatory, fire, farm forestry, public use, and state land management timber sales programs. I retired in 1998. Since retirement I do some volunteer work, some of which includes working on projects with Carlo on the Natural Areas program at DNR. I enjoy working and recreating outdoors and birding is part of that. Currently, I am participating on the Nelson Creek project committee.

WHAS Committee News



Some of the Nelson Creek Stewardship Committee members visited the site following their meeting on March 3.
Photo by Bea Harrison

Nelson Creek Stewardship Committee

The second meeting of the committee was held at the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge on March 3, 2007. The following objective statement was adopted:

Restore the Nelson Creek property to a healthy natural habitat that supports a diversity of native plants and animals. Establish riparian forest as a major habitat component to benefit Columbian white-tailed deer, forest birds, fish and amphibians. Provide wildlife-related educational and recreational opportunities for people.

The committee decided to create a Memorandum of Agreement between WHAS and the Columbia Land Trust. Ian Sinks of the Land Trust will write a draft for consideration. The following subcommittees were

established: mammals/herps, birds, botanical, aquatic (fish and invertebrates), terrestrial invertebrates, fundraising and publicity, and education and public use.

Action items were agreed on. The next meeting will be May 5 at the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge Office. All interested persons are welcome.

Education Committee

The Rainier (Oregon) Garden Club has asked Darrel Whipple to present a program on local birds at their meeting on May 2nd. Darrel will use slides and mounted birds from WHAS's collection stored at Lower Columbia College's biology lab.

Site Guide for Kress Lake and surrounding areas in Cowlitz County

by Ruth and Patrick Sullivan

Reprinted from *Washington Birder*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Summer 2005

Washington Birder is a quarterly newsletter published by Ken and Laurie Knittle; they can be contacted at 2604 NE 80th St., Vancouver, WA 98665, 360-574-2590, washingtonbirder@hotmail.com

Kress Lake is located east of I-5 along Old Hwy. 99 South in southern Cowlitz County. To access it, take Kalama River Rd. Exit, or Exit 32, off of I-5 and then continue east over the I-5 overpass to the first road on your left, which will be Old Hwy. 99 South. Continue North on this road past a large playfield area until you arrive to the main parking area at Kress Lake, which requires a yellow public parking permit to access the lake for recreational purposes.

Kress Lake, in general, offers birders an ample variety of birding along a woodland trail that surrounds the entire perimeter of the lake. It is especially good during mid spring and again in late summer for migrant and nesting passerines, etc., then slows down the remainder of the year. The wooded trail is accessed directly from the north or south end of the parking area and a public restroom is available for public use. Kress Lake is quite heavily used by fisherman in season and is strictly a day use area for summer picnics, fishing, hiking and birding. A small boat launch is accessible for limited boating purposes, such as small outboards, fishing canoes, floats and rafts, and is often most heavily used during the weekends and during the best weather. Tall Black Cottonwood trees and other deciduous growth such as local, native Oak line the woodland trail and are most evident along the "first portion" of the northbound trail and during visits, it has been our observation that this "first portion" seems to produce the greatest diversity of species. The remainder of the trail covers additional thick deciduous and coniferous undergrowth and trees and the eastern portion of the trail hosts a nearly pure oak grove. A steep vegetated hillside is evident above the northern portion of the trail, where a small creek drains into Kress Lake along the northeastern corner of the lake. The woodland trail around Kress Lake is a "loop" trail and is essentially a side trip for birders to take if checking other nearby areas such as the Woodland area along Dike Rd., or the Ridgefield NWR and points beyond and we emphasize that the Kress Lake area is NOT a major stop for birding.

A morning visit to Kress Lake may be most productive in mid April to early May for various species of warblers, flycatchers and other passerines and in the past we have normally stopped here en route to other main areas for birding, such as previously mentioned. We personally began visiting this location in late spring while researching the lake for dragonflies, specifically for a dragonfly species called the Widow Skimmer. This species is very local and only known from a few western WA locations. It was only recently discovered to be located at Kress Lake.

Birding wise, this location has produced a few noteworthy species away from normal or regular sightings. To begin a spring visit on the 28th of April, 2001 produced a single Dusky Flycatcher and up to 2 Nashville Warblers, of which both species at the time represented a first record for Cowlitz Co. On the 21st of August, 2004 a single White-breasted Nuthatch was encountered amongst an active passerine flock north of the parking area along the woodland trail. This sighting represented a very scarce record for Cowlitz Co. in a location away from their usual haunts at the nearby Ridgefield NWR and Vancouver Lake area of Clark Co., despite good, ample habitat for this species at this location. Besides these 3 separate rare sightings, typical species in season of the area may be sought, including the potential for Red-eyed Vireo. We have encountered Chipping Sparrows at Kress Lake during spring and fall migration and probably occur annually to and from breeding grounds east of this location. Osprey and overhead soaring Turkey Vultures are a relatively common sight during spring through early fall. Osprey breed nearby and are often seen diving into the lake for fish during a given visit and are occasionally in competition with nearby nesting Bald Eagles that also use the lake for feeding purposes. Western Scrub-Jays are a common resident sound and sight at Kress Lake, and in periods away from major human activity such as during the winter months, waterfowl should be looked for at this location. We have never encountered seeing the lake at low levels so the potential for shorebirds during fall migration may not be evident since the lake is stream fed. Spotted Sandpipers can be occasionally noted along the immediate shoreline during spring through fall and most likely absent during the winter months. On the 21st of August 2004, a single Green Heron and a lone Solitary Sandpiper were observed at a wetland area immediately west of Kress Lake, which can be partially seen from Old Hwy. 99 across from Kress Lake. (Continued on Page 7)

Kress Lake *(Continued from Page 6)*

This location in general is very limited, due in part to the area being off limits to the public. It is possible that on occasions Solitary Sandpipers may visit the limited shorelines of Kress Lake in migration, if one checked it enough.

For additional birding areas away from Kress Lake

(1) You may explore more areas such as along the eastern portion of Kalama River Rd., which dead ends at about 20 miles east of I-5, and offers more forested birding with the good potential for Hermit Warblers and other forest denizens. This area borders the Kalama River nearly the entire way along the road with heavily forested areas passing both the Lower Kalama River Hatchery and the Kalama Falls Hatchery.

(2) The area west of I-5 along Kalama River Rd. which is primarily an industrial area for the Port of Kalama, but at least one area for potential birding is accessible to the public along the shores of the Columbia River. To gain access to this area follow Kalama River Rd. west of I-5 and continuing west to the 2nd road on your left, which will be called Sportsman Club Rd. Continue along this road for a about 1/2 miles to a large parking area at the end of the road, which in turn offers viewing for various waterbird species in season. The Kalama Sportsman Club owns land south of the road, but you may check from the parking area and points north of that location. Thick vegetation lines the north side of Sportsman Club Rd. and away from regular occurring woodland species the added potential for Red-eyed Vireo may be possible during late spring into the summer months.

(3) Away from Kalama River Rd. even more birding may be sought at points beyond such as a visit to the Woodland area and the Ridgefield NWR, which may be visited for more involved birding. There are also a few areas along the Columbia River in Kalama (west of I-5) that may offer viewing for various waterbird species such as loons, grebes, waterfowl and gulls.

(4) And, if driving north along I-5, at MP31 north of the town of Kalama, small numbers of Tundra Swans can be readily viewed during late fall through early spring in a wetland area just east of I-5.

The areas mentioned in this article may offer great birding when visited during the right time and season and offer a good feel for Cowlitz County.

Book Reviews**Sky Time in Gray's River**

Written by Robert Michael Pyle

Mini-review by Charlotte Persons

Let's celebrate a new book from long-time WHAS member Robert Michael Pyle, who has given several programs for WHAS over the years and has written eleven previous books of nature writing. This new volume describes a small village familiar to most of us who have traveled along Highway 4 to the coast, but Pyle shows amazing ability to lyrically describe what for many of us has unfortunately become mundane. I hope you will allow Pyle to let you see our dripping world with renewed appreciation and wonder. Here is the book description from Amazon.com:

"Much the way Donald Hall's *Seasons at Eagle Pond* captured New England, *Sky Time in Gray's River* captures the essence of the Pacific Northwest by telling the story of Robert Pyle's life in rural Washington. One of the earliest communities established near the mouth of the Columbia River, the village of Gray's River is only tenuously connected to the world of the twenty-first century. Although Pyle is a lepidopterist and the Gray's River region is notable for its lack of butterflies, something about the place spoke to him three decades ago, and he has lived there, in the same house, ever since. This book brings Gray's River to life by compressing those thirty years into twelve chapters, following the lives of humans, animals, and plants month by month through the seasons. By demonstrating how the village has changed his life, Pyle illustrates how a special place can change anyone lucky enough to find it—and he highlights how much is being lost in a world of accelerating sameness, speed, and mobility. Above all, *Sky Time* shows that you don't have to travel far to see something new everyday—if you know how to look."

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change

Written by Elizabeth Kolbert

Review By Pam Wright

There is no longer any meaningful debate among scientists as to the whether or not humans are contributing to climate change. If you remain in doubt or struggle to eloquently respond to your uncle's rant that "it's all a hoax," find a copy of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change* by Elizabeth Kolbert. *(Continued on Page 8)*

New Constitution and Bylaws for WHAS

By Charlotte Persons

The highlight of the March 17 board meeting was final discussion and approval of several changes to the WHAS Constitution and Bylaws. Numerous volunteers have worked on these improvements over the last three years, including Wayne Nelson, Ann Musche, Margaret Green, Steve Puddicombe, Darrel Whipple, and Betty Mayfield. WHAS members can vote on the new Constitution and Bylaws either by mailing in the ballot included in this issue of the Whistler or at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

The most significant change for the new Bylaws is moving the Annual Meeting to March since many members complained that May and June are far too busy, and there are school spring breaks in April. Because the Annual Meeting is when board election results are announced and board members are installed, the new March date means a new timetable for nominations and elections. If the membership approves the new Constitution and Bylaws, the 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in March and the nomination process for new board members will start in October 2007. For a complete copy of the new Constitution and Bylaws, please contact Steve Puddicombe at 360-465-2205 or email him at pudfella@willapabay.org. Copies will also be available at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

All changes are summarized here:

There are two changes to the Constitution, both in Article II, Section 2—the addition of the mission statement (the same one that has been on the back of every Whistler for several years), and classes of members now are Chapter, Chapter-full-time student, Chapter lifetime, and Joint membership of Chapter and National Audubon Society.

There are eight changes to the Bylaws:

--Article II, Section 1—Required regular meetings of members are changed from monthly to at least four times per year.

Section 2—Annual Meeting is changed from June to March.

--Article III, Section 2—Required Board of Directors' meetings are changed from monthly to at least four times per year.

Section 5—New section. "A member of the board can be removed as specified by Board Policies; a

replacement, nominated by the President, must be approved by a majority of the board."

--Article IV, Section 1—Elected officers stay the same, except that current "a President and Vice-President" is changed to "a President and a Vice-President or Co-Presidents."

Section 7—Checks and drafts may be signed by another board member approved by the board in addition to the current Treasurer, President or Vice President. Two signatures are still required.

--Articles V and VI. Nominations and Elections. The process is the same but the timetable has been changed to accommodate the new Annual Meeting date in March. The new timetable is:

President selects a Nominating Chair by
October 1

Nominating form sent to members in
Nov./Dec. issue of the newsletter

Nominating form returned by members by Jan.
10

Ballot form sent to members in newsletter
issue before and closest to the Annual Meeting. (Note:
this will usually be the Jan./Feb. issue.)

Ballot form returned by members by March 1.
--Article VII. Standing Committees remain the same
except that the name of the Social Committee is now
Hospitality Committee, and a Web Site Committee is
added.

Gifford Pinchot Forest 2007 Summer Hike Series

Join the Gifford Pinchot Task Force the third Saturday of the month June through October for a hike in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. We will meet at 9am at the Gateway/NE 99th Ave Transfer Center located at 1321 NE 99th Ave., Portland 97220. Please contact Julia at 503.221.2102 ext. 103 or email Julia@gptaskforce.org for more information or to sign up. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Julia.

June 16th-Silver Star Mountain to learn about Birds from local experts Gerry LaPointe of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force (Task Force) and John Green of the Willapa Hills Audubon.

July 21st-Hike to Sleeping Beauty with Field Biologist and Task Force board member Bill Weiler and Task Force outreach coordinator Julia DeGraw
(Continued on Page 10)

Pinchot Hikes *(Continued from Page 9)*

August 18th-Quartz Creek in the Dark Divide to enjoy swimming holes and lots of shade from the ancient forest.

September 15th-Learn about the **Task Force timber sale monitoring program** and forest watch work by hiking through a planned timber sale.

October 20th– Foliage, Fungus, and Fruit-fall in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest brings mushrooms and fruit to fill your tummies, and fall colors.

Kalama Coal Gasification Plant Clears One Hurdle

by Darrel Whipple

I attended the April 10 meeting of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) in Olympia. The members discussed at length whether they could certify that the proposed Kalama coal gasification electrical power plant is consistent with state and local land use rules without thereby also implying that the proposal meets the requirements of Cowlitz County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

Apparently, the matter of critical areas is bundled with land use when such development proposals are considered in any of the larger counties in the state -- those counties populous enough to fall under the requirements of the Growth Management Act.

Since Cowlitz County has reportedly not yet reached the population threshold to be governed by the GMA, its Critical Areas Ordinance is not automatically bundled with other land use laws; hence the issues that may come up regarding the proposed plant's compliance with the ordinance can properly be taken up separately at a later time in the plant approval process.

Following that reasoning, the Council declared that the proposal is consistent with land use laws, and the Council will address whether it complies with the Critical Areas Ordinance at another time.

The Council had received information and testimony on the proposed plant (including mine in opposition on behalf of WHAS) from an earlier hearing in Kalama and had received letters from the City of Kalama and Cowlitz County affirming consistency with local land

use laws. The April 10 meeting was not a public hearing on this proposal, but the chairperson agreed to receive comments from Brett VandenHeuvel of Columbia Riverkeeper regarding applicable language in the state code. VandenHeuvel told Don Jenkins of The Daily News that he would be looking further into the county's Critical Areas Ordinance soon. (Stay tuned.)

The plant is proposed by Energy Northwest, a joint operating agency for 19 public utilities and municipal utilities headquartered in Richland, Washington. Cowlitz and Wahkiakum PUDs are members of the consortium.

The next steps in "the process" will be the issuance of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (in June, I think) followed by the request for intervention.

WHAS's position is that while this breed of coal plant is dramatically cleaner and more efficient than conventional coal plants, it will contribute a significant and unacceptable amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere at a time when massive efforts should be directed to forestalling global warming.

Large-scale CO2 storage in geologic formations on or near the site, offered as a tempting future add-on to the plant, comes with far too many economic and environmental unknowns to justify accepting this plant at this time. EFSEC and ultimately Governor Gregoire should disallow the plant and honor the recent successful statewide ballot initiative requiring greater investments in renewable energy. Moreover, EFSEC and Cowlitz County should honor the letter and spirit of the Critical Areas Ordinance to the extent that it applies to portions of the north end of the Port of Kalama's industrial area.

Volunteer Opportunities

Youth Forestry Days at Longview, May 24-25

WHAS will have displays. Contact Darrel Whipple, 503-556-9838, dwhipple@opusnet.com.

Washington Youth Outdoor Adventure Expo, Longview, May 18-19 Contact Campfire USA, Lower Columbia Council, Toledo, WA, 360-864-4259, campfireusa@toledotel.com.



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 8
Longview, WA 98632-7058

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, information, wildlife sightings and black-and-white artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public. The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

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.

Programs

See Page 1 for Details

May 15 - Sky Time in Grays River, by Bob Pyle

June 2, Annual Membership Meeting and Silent Auction

Field Trips

See Page 5 for Details

May 6 - South Nemah Natural Resources Conservation Area

May 19 - Fox Creek Trail Wildflowers

June 16 - Silver Star Mountain

June 30 - Bone River Canoe/Kayak Tour