

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Summer 2021



Willow Flycatcher -- Image by Royce Craig

Owls

By John and Margaret Green

On February 8, we were on our daily walk on the Hawk's Prairie Trail in the Jubilee adult community in Lacey, WA. We stopped to talk with a friend, another birder, when we 3 heard the hooting call of a Great Horned Owl(GHO). Those of you who live along green spaces, are lucky enough to hear these birds at night, but they are seldom seen. That day, we found the owl high in a fir. We told a couple birding friends about the owl and formed an informal owl watch group and were able to find it numerous times.

Because of the regular presence of the owl within a small area, we felt this bird was probably a male vigilantly guarding and feeding a female on nest and awaiting the hatching of the young. We continually looked for the nest, with no luck, but had a theory that it could be in a cavity of the huge 20 foot snag outside the city and our right of way. That was our best guess. GHO's do not build their own nests and use nests built by other birds such as hawks, tree cavities or

even along the sides of cliffs where trees are not present

When we saw trees marked for removal on the adjacent property, we became very concerned about losing trees in the area and destroying the nest if present. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, prohibits disturbing birds during nesting season – calls were placed to the county but no connection made until after the trees were cut (and that's a whole other story.)

Here is the timeline for GHO child raising: The gestation to hatching is 37 days. At 3 weeks after hatching, the mother is able to leave the young at the nest and help the father gather food for the kids. He has been solo on that duty until then. GHO eat primarily rodents and other mammals and occasionally birds and amphibians. At 4 weeks, the young are able to stick their bums over the nest edge to poop outside the nest.

This is how we were able to find the nest; by observing small splotches of white wash (poop) on the trail as well as partial owl pellets (the regurgitated bones from prey) below the nest tree.

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The Voices of Youth in a Noisy Climate Crisis

By Jillian Rogers

What is on the minds of people these days? Particularly, what's on the minds of teens? Ah, now I've started off with the age-old question we may never have an answer to. Psst - climate change weighs heavily on the mind of the modern youth. After all, such a generation of youth has, arguably, never had so much exposure to the issue of climate change, and environmental degradation in general.

The pressure is on us youth to learn the procedure of being environmentally friendly; from the beginning of our school years, it is no longer standard to just learn how to tie your shoes and stay in a single file line while walking down the hall. Now, children are being taught how to separate the recycle from the trash, and how to reduce their water usage while brushing their teeth or taking a shower. We are becoming more environmentally conscious as a whole, and we're each making a difference with every small action taken.

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WHAS Summer Picnic

Please check our website regularly during the next months to find out if Covid19 regulations will allow for our traditional annual summer picnic!

In this issue of the Whistler:

- Membership Form
- NW Birding Events
- Owls
- The Voices of Youth in a Noisy Climate Crisis

Support our mission, join WHAS today!

Membership renewals are due March 1 of each year. If you prefer to pay by credit or debit card use our online form on our website at <https://willapahillsaudubon.org/join-us-donate>.

Membership includes 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually. Gift Memberships are available online.

Check type of Membership:

- Individual Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$25 check for annual membership)
- Family Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$35 check for annual membership)
- Lifetime Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$750 check for lifetime membership)

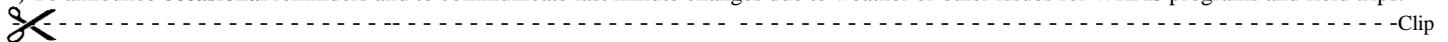
We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. All dues and donations are tax deductible

Please make your check payable to:
 WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:
WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.

Name _____
 Address _____ Email _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone. For membership in National Audubon Society visit <https://www.audubon.org/> Chapter# Y14
 *) To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.



Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- Phone
- Email
- Mail

Other options:(Add your email below)

- I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
- Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- Add me to your announcement email list*
- I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$ _____**

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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.

ACOW 2021

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) this year will be in-person/hybrid statewide chapter meeting! Please save the date for ACOW this **September 24-26, 2021!**

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 11-12 2021

Keynote Speaker: Maria Mudd-Ruth
 Due to uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, indoor activities such as presentations and workshops will most likely be delivered online, while field activities for small groups will be offered in person. Please check <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com> for the latest information.

Wings over Willapa Festival

September 24-26 2021

This annual birding and nature festival is a celebration of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge's many species and diverse habitats. There will be an array of tours, workshops and other events happening all around the Long Beach Peninsula and Willapa Bay. More info at <https://wingsoverwillapa.org>

...continued from page 1: The Voices of Youth

Where am I going with this? The earth as we know it is under more direct threat from human activities than it has ever faced, and it's not just up to adults to fix this looming problem anymore. As the urgency of the issue continues to grow, youth leaders from around the world (like Greta Thunberg) have stepped up and confronted the issue of climate change for what it is and what it should be. Currently, it is seen as a game of political football; it really should be seen as an environmental and humanitarian crisis.

Youth have undoubtedly helped to depoliticize conversations around climate change, all the while highlighting the importance of legislation that would reduce human impacts on the environment: lower carbon emissions and fossil fuel use and fast-track the shift to renewable energy. This is what Washington CCL Youth does.

Our small group of Washington youth that became independent of CCL's Bellevue chapter has been in operation for

about a year. We contact businesses, organizations, and, more recently, state legislators and schools, asking them to endorse the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, as well as hosting various presentations and youth events about the bill and climate change. What I've noticed through all of this, though, is that our work never drifts from the focus of climate change.

It's easy to lose sight of the original purpose or motivation for starting an organization, but the youth on the CCL WA Youth Team are constantly tuned into the larger picture of the climate crisis. I believe that this isn't particular to our group of youth activists, and that isn't to label 'adult' organizations as short-sighted or distractable; what it reveals is the growing importance of youth in the global pursuit of a sustainable, equitable climate solution.

Jillian Rogers, is a high school Junior working with the Citizens Climate Lobby Youth Washington Team.

...continued from page 1: Owls

At 5 weeks, the young can leave the nest to begin "limbing" or "branching" which is hopping from limb to limb to begin strengthening their wings and getting familiar with their surroundings. At 7 weeks, the young are able to fly for short distances and begin hunting on their own at about 12 weeks.

Occasionally an owlet falls from its perch. Sadly the Jubilee owl family lost an owlet, probably at about 6 weeks when the owlets were venturing from the nest. We have our theory that the cutting of nearby trees and reduction of nearby crossing limbs has inhibited the owlets' opportunity to do extensive limbing and thus practice their skills. There are many other unintended consequences of cutting trees and clearing of vegetation during nesting season, including the disturbance of song bird breeding behavior, territory defense, as well as the destruction of actual songbird nests. We are sorry that there is no mechanism to advise land owners to delay their clearing projects to a time when the birds are more able to adjust their behavior to the changing environment.

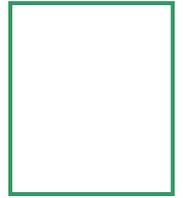


We can only hope that the fallen owlet is hiding safely and being fed by the adults.

On a positive note, it appears that our remaining owlet is still hanging out with its parents, being fed, and hopefully is growing stronger every day, and will be able to make its way and find his own home territory to raise future owl families. Fast forward to now and the "Rest of the Story". Human intervention has taken place. A resident of an adjacent property called a Port Townsend Rescue non-profit, who checked the fallen owlets health and hoisted him into a tree and into a nest "basket". The owlet was watched over by the adults until he began branching activity and slowly worked his way down the trail to open forest where we hope he flourishes.



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Longview, WA 98632



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

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Send in your stories & photos

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15th 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.



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.

Fieldtrips and in person programs are postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions and will resume once gatherings are allowed again.
Please check our website for updates!

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 past issues.

**WHAS made changes to membership by switching to a yearly renewal date.
All membership renewals are due in March.**

**Other programs and field trips will appear on our website and will be announced through our email alert system.
More information about the alert system here: <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/member-services>**