



WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Winter 2023



Images by Cathy Kendall

Update on Avian Interpretive Signs

By Cathy Kendall

The new avian interpretive signs are in! Thanks to Longview resident Vincent Mahouski, the City of Longview, and WHAS, the faded signs have been replaced with brand new ones, re-created

with the original artwork. They look terrific and are guaranteed for ten years. I walk at Lake Sacajawea frequently and it's gratifying to see people stopping to examine the new signs.



Christmas Bird Counts 2023

Save the dates:

This is a fun event for seasoned and new-be birders alike. All dates and events are preliminary as there might be changes and adjustments due to severe weather.

Leadbetter (Pacific County) –

December 16, 2023

Wahkiakum –

December 28, 2023

Those who wish to participate may contact Andrew Emlen at 360-795-8009.

Cowlitz-Columbia –

December 30, 2023

This year we are changing up our date to Saturday, December 30th to try and get a few more people. Our count is centered just south of Rainier, OR in the Columbia River and includes the cities of Longview, Kelso, Rainier, and the old Trojan Nuclear Power Plant. We will have 8 or 9 areas within the circle that will be counted. We can always use Feeder Watchers who live within the count circle.

Contact Becky Kent 360-560-0001 or beckykt@comcast.net if you are interested.

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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.

✂ _____ -Clip

OFFICERS	President:	Steve Puddicombe 360 465 2205 president@willapahillsaudubon.org
	Vice-President:	vacant
	Secretary:	Cathy Kendall 408- 205-3058 clkendall95@comcast.net
	Treasurer:	Sherry Hawkins 971-255-2531 treasurer@willapahillsaudubon.org
	Director at Large:	John Gross 360-425-0083 grossenuf1@gmail.com
	Director at Large:	Darrel Whipple 503-556-9838 dwhipple@opusnet.com
	Director at Large:	Ann Cordero 360-577-8626 flnatureniche@gmail.com
	Director at Large:	Robert Sudar 360-423-1780 fallcreek734@gmail.com
	Director at Large:	Carolyn Norred 360-578-2853 cjnorred@gmail.com
	Conservation:	Larry Brandt 360-200-4580 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org
COMMITTEE CHAIRS	Hospitality:	Gloria Nichols 360-636-3793 jgnt@comcast.net
	Program:	vacant
	for questions contact President Steve Puddicombe	
	Field Trip:	vacant
Membership:	vacant	
OTHER	Finance:	vacant
	Newsletter:	Ludger Wöhrmann 360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org
	Publicity:	Stephen Glucoft 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net
	Website:	Ludger Wöhrmann 360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

Please indicate any **new** information:
 I prefer you contact me by:
 Phone
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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 \$ _____

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival 2024

The 2023 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival is scheduled to be held for **March 22-24, 2023**. Celebrate their return and discover why nearly 35,000 sandhill cranes choose Othello...
 More info: <https://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

Olympic BirdFest 2024

April 11-14, 2024
 The North Olympic Peninsula, a strip of prairie and forest between million-acre Olympic National Park and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, is widely known as a great place for bird watching.

The April dates of Olympic BirdFest are timed to overlap wintering birds such as Harlequin and Long tailed ducks, songbirds, and seabirds with spring migration.

Rufous hummingbirds arrive in this area from South America with the blooming of wild red-flowering currants in early April.

Field trips are planned for [Sequim Bay](#), Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, [Dungeness Spit](#) and the Elwha River, as well as trips through wooded areas and fields to view songbirds.
 A [cruise around Protection Island](#) National Wildlife Refuge is available on Sunday morning.

More info and BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Southbound Vaux Swift migration 2023

By Carolyn Norred

We are still having fun counting the Vaux swifts as they come to roost in the Riverside Church's defunct boiler chimney on their way south for the winter.. Using clickers, we eyeball 10 birds per click and as the chart shows, sometimes that is quick clicking.

One night this September Terri and I were sitting in our handy camp chairs at 3rd and D streets in Rainier with a few visiting birders between us. As night fell and we called the count, Terri and I were astounded to realize our numbers were exactly the same, 6150 birds. Since these wee creatures sometimes back into the chimney top in bunches, it can be said that our counts are

"approximate." When Terri files the evening report to the vauxhappening website, she generally splits the difference in our counts.

Having arrived at exactly 615 X 10 on both clickers was exciting. Clapping hands in glee, we felt as though we had just won the lottery! Never before and never since.

'Exact or not, sitting with friends on a sweet September evening watching the sky, the river, and the town below is a fine way to end a day. Consider joining us, maybe when the swifts return in May on their way north for the summer.



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.

New for the November 2023 season!

- This year they are adding the option to **record mammals!**
- They have expanded on the ability to monitor sick birds.
- You can track your well-being during your counts.

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

WHAS Officer Nominations 2024

Would you enjoy having a direct voice in running Willapa Hills Audubon Society? WHAS has begun the nominations process for the March 2024 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. 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 Whistler.

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

President: _____

Vice-President: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Director-at-Large: _____

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.

December 16 2023

Leadbetter CBC – see page one for the details.

December 28 2023

Wahkiakum CBC – see page five for the details.

December 30 2023

Cowlitz Columbia CBC see page five for the details.

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 whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org for this and past issues.

News from the Children's Discovery Museum on Commerce Ave in Longview

CDM Holiday Extravaganza!! Also, we have our BIG fundraising event on Saturday December 16, 2023, from 12pm-5pm at the Children's Discover Museum on 1209 Commerce Ave in Longview, WA.

The Holiday Extravaganza will be a special holiday event for the community featuring live music and special programming from local artist including: Evergreen Chill, Acoustic Ridge, Claire Beck, John Henry, Higher Ground Dance Studio, a special never before reading of local authors newest holiday story, and a special appearance from Santa Claus and his elves. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for the Children's Discovery Museum.

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: <https://willapahillsaudubon.org/get-involved/member-services>

Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/willapahillsaudubon/>

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



WHAS *Whistler*, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632 or email them to newsleter@willapahillsaudubon.org.

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:

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.



TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

