

# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*

Volume 42 // Issue 1

Spring 2016



A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen in December on the Kessler side of Lake Sacajawea in Longview. It is definitely a county first, a Western Washington first, and only the 3rd recorded sighting in the state, the first two on the east side of the Cascades.

*Image courtesy of Nikki Perkins*

## Annual WHAS Dinner and Meeting on March 26, 2016

**By Charlotte Persons**

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship, and a timely and stimulating program. The annual membership dinner meeting and program for members, family, and friends will be held on Saturday, March 26th with dinner at 5:30 at the Women's Club Building on Lake Sacagawea in Longview. The address is 835 21st Avenue, Longview, WA 98632. Doors open at 5:15.

**This year will be a potluck.** WHAS will supply coffee, tea and water. Please bring a potluck dish to share that would feed 8 to 10: salad, dessert, casserole, bread, appetizer, or your own specialty. Let's make it a green event and bring your own tableware too.

If you have questions, call Carol at 360-849-4324 or email [carver.exum@gmail.com](mailto:carver.exum@gmail.com) or contact Gloria at 360-636-3793 or email [Jgnt@comcast.net](mailto:Jgnt@comcast.net).

At 7:00 keynote speaker **Kevin Smeltzlen** will present his **program on the unique life history of the Marbled Murrelet** and efforts to restore the birds in SW Washington.

## WHAS Slate of Candidates for 2016 Election

2016 is an election year for WHAS. Our biennial system means that officers serve for 2 years; the next election will be in 2018. Anyone interested in serving is urged to come forward as there can be up to 2 more Board-At-Large positions according to our bylaws.

There is a slot for write-in candidates on the ballots. The final tally will be at the annual meeting and banquet on March 26.

Several committee chairmanships remain open, including Field Trips and Programs, and these committees are always in need of members as well.

Anyone interested in becoming involved or in serving as a chair of these committees, please contact any of our current board officers. All committee chairs are also automatic WHAS board members. The ballot is attached to this Whistler.

## A Message to Our National Members

**By Margaret Green**

Please become one of the National Audubon Society (NAS) members in our area who annually sends \$20 to join and support our local chapter, Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS). This additional \$20 provided directly to the chapter, is a very significant contribution toward local conservation work and education programs, which benefit our communities. We provide speakers and field trips open to all members of our communities free of charge.

Your membership donation to WHAS also allows us to send you a copy of our quarterly Willapa Whistler newsletter which includes project updates and event announcements.

We know donations are discretionary and appreciate whatever level of giving you choose. You will find more details on our member form on page 2.

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## Support our mission, join WHAS today!

### Check type of Membership:

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

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

Membership includes 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually.

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

For membership in National Audubon Society visit <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 changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

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#### OFFICERS

**President:** George Exum  
360-849-4324 president@willapahillsaudubon.org

**Vice-President:** Steve Puddicombe  
503-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org

**Secretary:** Carol Carver  
360-849-4324 secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org

**Treasurer:** Linda Jennings  
dljennings@opusnet.com

**Director at Large:** Stephen Glucoft  
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net

**Director at Large:** John Gross  
360-425-0083 grossenuf@hughes.net

**Director at Large:** Larry Brandt  
360-200-4580 lbrandt@cni.net

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Conservation:** Charlotte Persons  
360-431-1174 cpeople2u@gmail.com

**Hospitality:** Gloria Nichols  
360-636-3793 jgnt@comcast.net

**Program:** vacant

**Field Trip:** vacant

**Membership:** Carol Carver  
360-849-4324 carver.exum@gmail.com

**Education:** Darrel Whipple  
503-556-9838 education@willapahillsaudubon.org

**Finance:** vacant

#### OTHER

**Newsletter:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

**Publicity:** Stephen Glucoft  
360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net

**Indian Jack Slough Stdshp:** vacant

**Wildlife Sightings:** vacant

**Website:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
360-423-7004 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org

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\*

### Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

**March 18-20, 2016, Othello, WA**

Experience the beauty and wonder of the natural world, highlighted by the return of sandhill cranes to the Channeled Scablands of Eastern Washington. Columbia National Wildlife Refuge is one of many field trip destinations. The three-day community event includes wildlife tours, lectures on the area's natural and cultural heritage, an art contest and children's activities.

<http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

### Olympic BirdFest 2016

**Come Bird With Us in Sequim, Washington, April 15-17, 2016**

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted artist Tony Angell, "Revealing the Secret Lives of Owls". Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 12-14, 2016. Register separately at [www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon](http://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon). Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 17-19, 2016: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

### Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

**May 19-22, 2016**

Check <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/> for the program

### Across the Big Sky Festival

Montana Audubon's Wings Across the Big Sky Festival, co-hosted by Five Valleys Audubon Society, will be held **June 3-5, 2016** in Missoula. Festival headquarters will be located at the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park

Registration starts in March at

<http://mtaudubon.org/birding/montana-bird-festival/>

## WHAS Sponsors a Nature Library

By Ann Cordero

Willapa Hills Audubon Society has kindly agreed to sponsor the Fallen Leaf Nature Library. It is a collection of approximately 700 used books and 100 VHS videos on natural history and environmental education, which we hope to make available to Longview/Kelso families and teachers for circulation. These general interest books and videos, donated by Ann and David Cordero, Marie Fernandez, Sherry Evans, Lynn Smith, Gloria Nichols and others, would be available to anyone free of charge for a month or longer to stimulate an interest in the natural world and promote literacy. Volunteer staff could provide simple interpretation such as touch tables, exhibits, displays, story times, demonstrations and experiments, homework help, or preparation for the Science Olympiad—any nature activity they choose to lead in the space where the library resides.

That is the key: where will we put this library? Lower Columbia College has approved the use of the McLaughlin Community Resource Center in the Health and Science Building

for the nature library! LCC has been very gracious about this prospect, saying that it is the kind of thing for which the room was intended and that this will be a mutually beneficial relationship to be continued as long as it works for both parties and which can be terminated by either party.

Does this sound like fun? You can help make this happen! We will need volunteers (as much or as little time as you like) and ideas for interpretive activities.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ann at [corderoa@teleport.com](mailto:corderoa@teleport.com) or (360) 577-8626. We will also take donations of books, videos, and natural objects when we have a space—my dad's garage is pretty full right now! And we will need you to tell your friends and family to visit the nature library. Together we can provide a new community resource for children, books to supplement classroom lessons, interaction between people with natural history interests, and better visibility for WHAS.

## 34th Cowlitz Columbia Christmas Bird Count

By Bob Reistroffer

21 field observers and six feeder watchers joined and spent the cool sunny day finding 16,351 birds with 108 species recorded. The temperature ranged from 23° to 45°. Also during count week an additional 2 species were reported.

**We had several high counts:** 23 Wood Ducks, 767 Northern Pintails, 284 Buffleheads, 532 Common Mergansers, 35 Bald Eagles, 26 Belted Kingfishers, 32 Anna's Hummingbirds, 22 Horned Larks, 196 Black-capped Chickadees, 110 Varied Thrushes, 33 Cedar Waxwings, 108 Spotted Towhee,

**Seen during count week:** Cooper's Hawk, Ruffed Grouse.

**New to the count this year:** 1 Black Phoebe

Thank you all for a great job. Hope to see you all next year on Sunday, Jan 1, 2017.

## Volunteers Needed for Earth Day

Come help Willapa Hills Audubon Society at our booth at the annual local celebration of Earth Day at Cowlitz County Exposition Center on Saturday, April 16. You can choose your job: assist kids in making bird-feeders from toilet paper rolls smeared with peanut butter and bird seed; demonstrate to them, with our famous wooden folding wings, how their arm spans compare to birds' wingspans; or talk to their parents about WHAS and upcoming birding events. Work as long as you like – one or two hours or a longer period. To volunteer, contact Charlotte Persons at (360) 431-1174 or [cpeople2u@gmail.com](mailto:cpeople2u@gmail.com) or Pat Reistroffer at [preistrof@aol.com](mailto:preistrof@aol.com).

## Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey turns up record number

By Darrel Whipple

Twenty-four Bald Eagles were recorded in the survey area on Sunday, January 31, 2016!

The northern latitude-longitude block (Toledo to Longview) yielded six -- 4 adults and 2 maturity-undetermined. The southern block (Longview to Kalama) registered eighteen -- 10 adults, 4 sub-adults and 4 maturity-undetermined.

Looking back since we started this fixed-route vehicle survey in 1979, the usual count is between six and twelve eagles altogether. So, why the high count this time?

Fellow observer Steve Hemenway and I theorize that it could be the late date: eagles are likely showing up from other areas of the state to intercept the smelt run. We have also located two apparently new nests, so there could be a net increase in resident eagles – and that would be welcome news.

In addition to the eagles, we saw 38 other avian species, including 24 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Western Meadowlarks, a Spotted Sandpiper and 30 Tundra Swans. We heard a Pileated Woodpecker and a number of singing Red-winged Blackbirds. The day was mostly cloudy, with a high of 45 degrees F.



## Whas Board Retreat

By Steve Puddicombe

The WHAS board held a special retreat after its final quarter regular board meeting, in late December in Skamokawa. President George Exum invited all WHAS membership to help revision our chapter's future as active membership has declined and dissolution of the chapter has been contemplated. Several regular members joined the board.

First, we acknowledged that volunteer groups have natural cycles of membership activity and that in fact WHAS continues to accomplish much for a small group. Kay Beck, a former WHAS president, facilitated the discussion and led a brainstorming session to see what might invigorate the group. Ideas ranged from hiring a director to paring back and partnering more on conservation issues, and all agreed we need to focus on

shoring up the fun activities that draw the public, such as programs and field trips.

This is a discussion that will continue with the new board and in the meantime attending members shared out the duties of planning several spring field trips and programs. WHAS members and readers of the Whistler can help by reaching out to the public for new members and especially folks who would be willing to help at the board level or on one of our committees.

We all want Audubon in SW Washington to thrive in the future and offer our communities the citizen science and passion for nature we all share.

## Fare Thee Well

By Steve Puddicombe

A great, heartfelt thank you to John and Margaret Green who leave WHAS after many years of dedicated service. A move to the coast means they will no longer be in our territory. There is no way to catalog in one Whistler issue all that they have done, not only for our chapter, but for the community as well, for birding, for conservation.

Board members for some 14 years, Margaret has chaired the Programs and Membership committees and John has been Treasurer and chair of Finance, Programs and Field Trips, and both have been Conservation Committee

members.....among many other things. Many a meeting has been held at their commodious home in Longview, often with a hearty bowl of soup at the dining table. Their yearly December bird walk at Lake Sacajawea was a local favorite.

But apart from their skills and energy, the Greens have made many friends. Board meetings won't be the same without John's irascible good humor and Margaret's kindly attempts to keep us on task. Not too far away, John has offered to lead a field trip here and there, so we expect to see them around. Good luck and good birding, John and Margaret!

## Birds of the Lower Columbia River

### February's Program is Close to Members on the Coast; Carpool for Longview Members

The life histories of a number of Lower Columbia River birds will be the theme of a program offered on Saturday, February 27th at the River Life Interpretive Center (Redmen Hall) in Skamokawa. The address is: 1394 W State Road 4 Skamokawa, WA 98647. Andrew Emlen is the presenter and will be talking about bird species that have special stories connected with the Columbia River.

The program will begin at 1 pm. Co-sponsored by Willapa Hills Audubon Society(WHAS) and Friends of Skamokawa, there will be no charge for admission, although donations to the building upkeep will be appreciated.

Following Mr. Emlen's program, Keith Hoofnagle, National Park Service, Retired, will read from his book "The Story of Linda Lookout" originally published in 1965 and re-published recently. Copies will be available for sale after the program, and Mr. Hoofnagle will be signing books.

Mr. Emlen has a MS degree in Environmental Studies from the New Jersey School of Conservation- Montclair State



University, and has taught environmental science labs at Clatsop Community College and for Field Biology of Oregon.

Since starting the Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count circle in 1998 sponsored by WHAS, Mr. Emlen has been the organizer and compiler for this count. He has monitored endangered streaked horned larks on Columbia River islands, conducted shorebird census for US Fish and Wildlife, helping to establish the Lower Columbia as a national Important Bird Area, and leads field

trips for WHAS, Washington Ornithological Society, and the American Birding Association. He is currently co-owner and guide for Columbia River Kayaking. For parking and accessibility information and directions to the River Life Interpretive Center in Skamokawa's National Historic District, please call 795-3007.

**Residents of Longview/Kelso who would like to carpool to Skamokawa, which is 20 miles from Longview, please contact Charlotte Persons, [cpeople2u@gmail.com](mailto:cpeople2u@gmail.com) or (360) 431-1174.**

## Action Alert -- Exploratory Mining Proposal for Mount St. Helens

By Charlotte Parsons

**Deadline extended: Write your comments by March 18!** Due to letters from twenty organizations, numerous people, and Patty Murray's office, the BLM re-issued the same Environmental Assessment for this proposal, with a new 30-day comments period.

Ascot Resources—a Canadian mining company—is once again seeking federal approval to conduct mining exploration in the Green River valley—on the very border of the Mt. Saint Helens National Monument. On January 5, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service released a modified environmental assessment (EA) for the Goat Mountain exploratory drilling project. You can read the EA at [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/52147/66795/72638/Goat\\_Mountain\\_MEA\\_20151217\\_FINAL.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/52147/66795/72638/Goat_Mountain_MEA_20151217_FINAL.pdf)

Conservation groups and Sen. Murray have asked for a 60-day extension, but there is no way of knowing whether this request will be granted. Get help for writing your comments from the suggested talking points at our website at [www.willapahillsaudubon.org](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org)

Your letter counts! The receipt of over 30,000 public comments was instrumental in the BLM and USFWS refusing the exploratory drilling permit in 2008—the first time a mining company applied for this permit. The last application by Ascot Resources was defeated in court in 2014. Let's see if we can defeat this one with our own voices!

This Goat Mountain project proposal is identical to the last one. It would include extensive industrial mineral operations

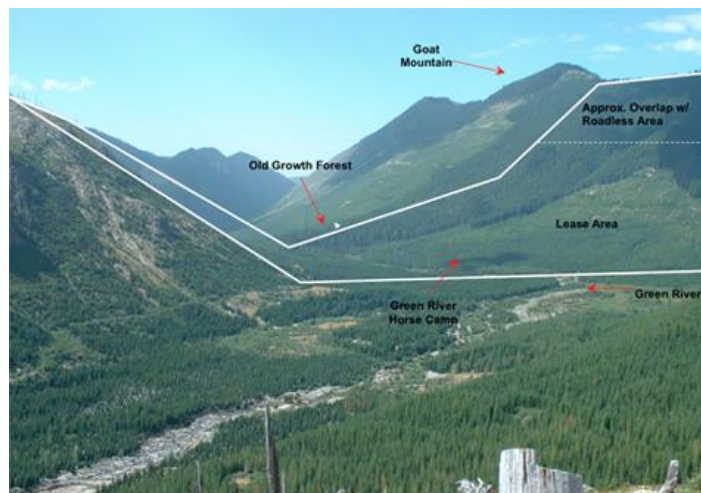


Image courtesy of Gifford Pinchot Task Force

on roughly 900 acres of public lands near the headwaters of the Green River. The permit would allow drilling 63 holes 24/7 from May to October, rebuilding some closed roads, constructing buildings and pipelines, logging around drill areas, and pumping 5,000 gallons of groundwater each day.

The exploratory mining will make this area off-limits for recreational use for six months. The Green River valley is a very popular area for bird watching, hiking, fishing, hunting, backcountry horse riding, mountain biking, and paddling. Many WHAS members have enjoyed this area for birding and hiking.

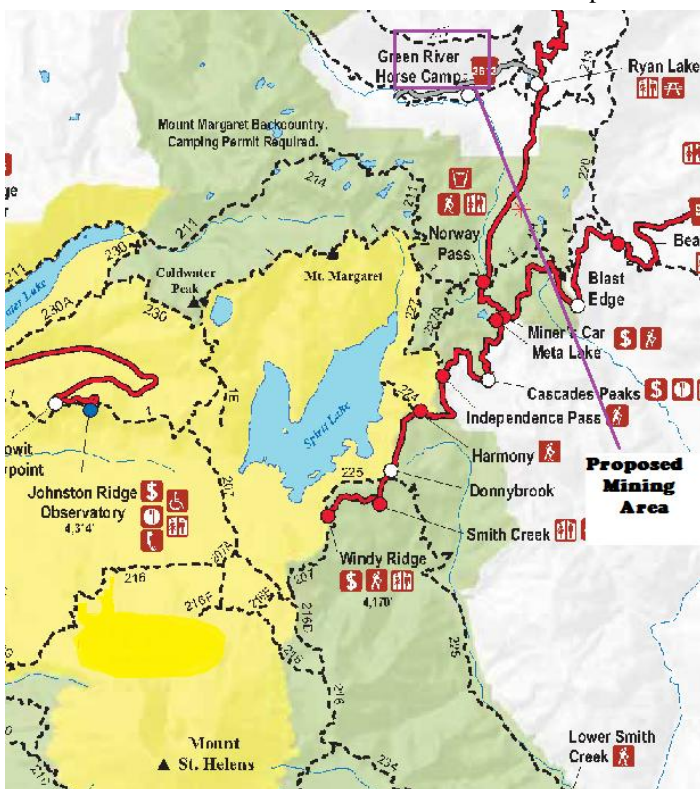
Approving this EA would set terrible legal precedents. The area borders a national monument, and the land was bought with Land and Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars for outdoor recreation and conservation.

Even worse, millions spent in exploratory drilling would put pressure on the federal government to approve an open pit mine for molybdenum with some copper, silver, and gold. This mine would destroy Goat Mountain, contaminate and reduce groundwater levels, and potentially dewater popular lakes and streams in the area.

Like us on Facebook at:

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

Mining development could result in acid mine drainage, leaching sulfuric acid and other highly toxic substances into surrounding water bodies for generations. The Green River is upstream of the Cowlitz River, which serves as a source of clean drinking water for Kelso and Castle Rock. The Green River is also a state-designated wild steelhead gene bank that provides important habitat for salmon and steelhead populations. It is proposed for national protection as a Wild and Scenic River.



## Crossing Path with Washington's Wildlife - Get nest boxes ready for new occupants

### From the WDFW website

Spring may officially be several weeks off, but now is the time to get your bird nest boxes cleaned out and ready for new, incoming occupants. If you don't already have nest boxes up, this is the time to either build or buy and place them, following our specs at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/index.html>

Many backyard birding enthusiasts who use nest boxes leave them up year-round and leave nesting materials in them through the winter, when some birds will use them as nighttime roost sites.

But migrating birds that use cavities for nesting, like bluebirds, swallows and wrens, will be returning next month and they prefer clean quarters to follow their instincts to build their own nests.

All nest boxes attract insects – mites, lice, fleas, flies, hornets, spiders and more. In small numbers they are relatively harmless to birds, but in larger numbers they can cause injuries and even fatalities to young birds.

Inspect all nest boxes to clean out insects and also to remove the old nesting material. Although some diligent and industrious birds will remove old nesting material before building their own particular nest, many more will just build on top of an old nest. That kind of layering can raise the nest dangerously close to the entrance hole where predators might reach eggs or young.

Your inspection may turn up dead nestlings or infertile eggs, which of course should also be removed. Be sure to use protective gloves, maybe even a dust mask, and dispose of everything you find in nest boxes away from the site to avoid smells that can attract predators.

Nest box maintenance includes tightening screws, loosening lag bolts, unblocking drainage holes, and generally making sure everything is secure and working right.

If you find a nest box in your collection that year after year goes unused, consider relocating it. It might not be in the appropriate habitat or suitable height location for the species it's

built for, or perhaps it's in the right place but is not built correctly. Check the entrance hole size, overall size dimensions, and other factors that are important to, and different for, various species of nest-box-using birds. Details are available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/index.html>



If the same nest box turns up dead nestlings or infertile eggs more than once, consider relocation to avoid competitors or predators, or remodeling to protect the species using the box. A predator block – just a one-inch thick piece of wood drilled with the appropriate size hole – mounted over the entrance

hole to create a short tunnel into the nest, can deter starlings, raccoons, or squirrels that have chewed the original hole bigger.

Another improvement is to remove any perch post projecting out from the front of a nest box. Our native cavity-nesting birds don't need these perches but they are used by more aggressive non-native birds to harass nesting birds.

If you often have earlier-arriving starlings or English house sparrows dominating your nest box site, you may want to plug the entrance hole until later this spring when martins or swallows or other native species arrive. Small paper cups and other such plugs work well. Remember to remove the plug as soon as you see your "target" species return to the area, or when you otherwise learn of its return to your area. (Online birding chat groups can be a good source of news about migratory bird movements.)

If you watch a nest box closely enough this spring to know when birds have finished raising a brood, you can clean out the box again to encourage another pair to use it or the same pair to nest again. Just don't bother an obviously

occupied nest box.

If you don't already have nest boxes up, this is the time to either build or buy and place them. See below for more...



## Nesting and Roosting Boxes for Birds

### From the WDFW website

As you can see in Snags, dead and dying trees present a myriad of natural nests and roosts for wild animals. However, as we cut down these snags, we destroy the homes of these animals. Although we cannot mitigate all the consequences brought about by eliminating snags in our environment, we can provide some replacements for a few of those animals, and at the same time gain a way to watch and appreciate wildlife.

Building a box for wildlife simulates these natural homes in which animals can be protected and comfortable, if built and maintained correctly. In the next several pages you will

see plans for many different kinds of nest boxes and roosts, as different species require very different specifications for their homes. The following are some general guidelines on woodworking for wildlife. Please read these first in order to make sure the animals using these homes are safe and secure

This WDFW provides detailed instructions on how to build a bird box: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/>



## Call for Citizen Scientists!

Audubon Washington's new citizen-science project is looking for volunteers! Participate in a regional volunteer monitoring effort, learn about coastal ecology, meet like-minded community members, and spend time near the water !

**WHAT:** Observe intertidal habitat use of waterbirds

**WHO:** Be part of a team of scientists including the University of Washington (UW), NOAA Fisheries (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR)

**WHEN:** Waterbird surveys will be conducted monthly during low tides, recording the abundance and behavior of birds in vegetated and unvegetated patches. Surveys will occur from mid-March through September 2016.

**WHERE:** Shore-based surveys of intertidal habitats will occur at fixed sites around Puget Sound and in Willapa Bay. Sites have been selected to occur where easy shore access is within 300 m of low intertidal habitats including seagrass patches. Currently, these include: north end of Case Inlet, Nisqually delta, Birch Bay, Skokomish River, and Port Gamble Bay.

**WHY:** The study focuses on connections between a variety of waterbirds and intertidal habitats. Although diet and large-scale distribution are known for many bird species, the consequences of local habitat modifications on tideflats are essentially unknown. Many habitat types exist in intertidal zones, but here the focus is on native seagrass and bare mudflat near the lowest low tides. This new project is jointly funded by Washington Sea Grant and Washington Department of Natural Resources. Observers will collect a range of response variables (density, foraging) across multiple waterbird functional groups



(shorebirds, gulls, waterfowl, wading birds, etc.) in structured (seagrass) and unstructured (unvegetated) habitat. This citizen science project builds on others in which birds are recorded at specific times and places, and adds an unusual component of comparison between two habitat types.

**TRAINING:** Participants would preferably have their own binoculars or spotting scope as well as some experience identifying waterbirds. Two-hour training sessions will emphasize demarcation of habitat boundaries and consistency in data collection. Training sessions are planned to coincide with mid-day low tides on February 27, 28 or March 12, 13. To register your interest in participating, please use this link (<http://goo.gl/forms/V5UZBosLis>) or contact Mo Turner ([msturn@uw.edu](mailto:msturn@uw.edu) 757-768-9195).

## 2015 Cowlitz County Bird List

*The Cowlitz County Bird List is maintained by Russ Koppendrayer. Thank you Russ! For other lists please check our website!*

Here is Russ's review of 2015:

What a finish to a record breaking year! We finished with 207 species in 2015 which is four more than our previous high. Capping the final months was a Yellow-throated Warbler that spent two weeks at Lake Sacajawea Park in Longview and was seen by more than 50 birders and well documented with photographs.

As well as a first for Cowlitz, this bird was only the third ever for all of Washington. While searching for the warbler a pair of birders found Cowlitz's first ever Northern Mockingbird a couple blocks from the park. This bird also was also seen by many observers during its twelve day stay.

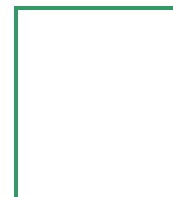
To end our fantastic stretch the county's third record of Rusty Blackbird was found in the Woodland Bottoms just before sunset on December 31. You can download the list here: <http://willapahillsaudubon.org/index.php/wildlife-watching/cowlitz-county-bird-list>

*Image: Rusty Blackbird, courtesy of the US FWS*





PO Box 399  
Longview, WA 98632



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

**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 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

[newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org).

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## **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.

### **Saturday February 27th**

Program: Birds of the Lower Columbia River by Andrew Emlen at Redman Hall Skamokawa, Washington

See page four for all the details

### **Saturday March 26th:**

#### **Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting**

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship. The annual membership dinner meeting and program for members, family, and friends will be held on **Saturday, March 26th** with dinner at 5:30 at the **Women's Club Building on Lake Sacagawea in Longview**

See page one for all the details

**Saturday March 26th at 7:00:** Following the Annual Meeting, keynote speaker Kevin Smeltzlen will present his program on the unique life history of the Marbled Murrelet and efforts to restore the birds in SW Washington

### **Saturday May 21st Field trip**

Save the Date! Andrew Emlen will lead a field trip in Wahkiakum or Pacific County. Watch for details in the May Whistler.

*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](http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org)**