

# WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Winter 2020



Barred Owl -- Image by John Green, seen near Olympia, Washington

## Christmas Bird Counts 2020

The Christmas Bird Count is on! See page 3 for details on how it will be run to stay safe during Covid-19, come prepared for weather and an extended tour: raingear, field glasses, water, and lunch.

WHAS sponsors the following counts:

Leadbetter: December 19, 2020

Wahkiakum: December 29, 2020

Cowlitz Columbia: January 1, 2021

And thanks be to our brethren,  
those in our community who share with us a  
commonality  
that runs deep in our souls,  
and because they put up with us and otherwise  
“see” us and know us.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

A special “thanks be” to the Swainson’s  
Thrush  
whose music can lift us out of ourselves  
and place us at the threshold of all that “is”.

whose song embeds me in this place  
yet frees me to fly into the great  
unknown.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

And another special “thanks be” to the  
swallows  
who set up shop each Spring  
and work their hearts out building their nests,  
and,  
best of all,  
sweep the skies of flies and other bugs.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

and thanks be for the flies and mosquitoes and  
other bugs  
that feed the beloved swallows.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

And finally,  
thanks be to those who love us  
and to those we love,  
for love is the true affection for life and all its  
wonder.....

*Thanks be for all that. For all that, thanks be.*

## Blessing - A Chant at Solstice Wintergreen Farm, Grays River, Wash. June 21, 1997

By President Steve Puddicombe

In lieu of the regular president's message,  
here's something I have written for a  
solstice celebration at my small farm in  
1997. Hopefully this will inspire further  
our concern for the natural world.

Thanks be to the spark that created us and  
Thanks be to the sun and the moon and the  
heavens above.....

*(Chorus chant:) Thanks be for that*

Thanks be to the wind, and especially  
thanks be to the rain

(for which we here have no recourse  
anyway, so, Thanks) .....

*Thanks be for that.....*

Thanks be for the force of life that runs  
through us

and for the magnificent experience of life  
that is both powerful  
and extraordinarily beautiful.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

Thanks be for those who came before us,  
not only for inventing the wheel,  
but for connecting us with eternal life and

Thanks be to those who follow us  
and who shall issue from us  
and for that blessing of creation.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

Thanks be for the food and drink that  
nourishes us  
and sustains us  
and for the feasts that fill us with joy.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

Thanks be for the creatures that lie down  
for us,  
and for the plants that grow strong for us  
to eat,  
and for gardens everywhere.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

And thanks be for good, clean water,  
which here we have aplenty  
and which slakes our thirst as nothing else  
can.....

*Thanks be for that.....*

**Support our mission, join WHAS today!**

**Membership renewals are due March 1** of each year. If you prefer to pay by credit card use our online form on our website. 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. For membership in National Audubon Society visit <https://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 \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # Y14

**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.

✂-----Clip

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.

**Olympic BirdFest 2021**

Olympic Birdfest 2021 will tentatively take place April 15-18, 2021.

Please check their website to confirm and for more info at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

**Winter Wings Festival 2021**

The Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival, scheduled for February 11-14, 2021, has been canceled.

To learn more visit [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org).



Image by Royce Craig

## A quarter-million swifts roosted in Rainier!

Hats off to Carolyn Norred and her crew of volunteers!

They documented 270,052 Vaux's Swift "roostings" at Riverside Community Church in Rainier during the southbound migration.

The only roost site to beat Rainier was the McNear Brickyard in San Rafael, CA.

Details are below in Larry Schwitters's summary of the count.

"112 Observers made 622 observations at 48 active sites documenting

Here's the top 14 sites based on total swifts Southbound 2020.

Roost Site	Total Swifts	O OBS.	Average	High
1 McNear's Brickyard	310,062	41	7,562	21,967
2 Rainier Riverside Church	270,052	38	7,106	20,990
3 Rio Lindo	131,200	33	3,975	10,440
4 Portland Chapman	118,200	26	4,546	13,300
5 JBLM	68,199	44	1,550	3,987

<https://www.vauxhappening.org/na-sb-rank-2020.html>

If you would like to see a video of the Vaux's Swift entering the chimney go to our website at:

<https://willapahillsaudubon.org/current-issue/other-issues/news/546-video-of-vaux-s-swift-in-rainier-ore>

### Children's Discovery Museum: Discovering a Wonderful World

By Ann Cordero

The Children's Discovery Museum in Longview, <http://childrensdiscovery360.org/>, is currently closed due to COVID-19, but it is maintaining a presence in the community by offering daily links to websites of interest to kids on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cowlitzcountychildrensmuseum/>

These include short presentations, many of them videos, on birds, plants, animals, chemistry, astronomy, and other science as well as stories, songs, experiments and activities, and travel destinations.

For every link that is posted there are many more sites of interest on similar topics. We are putting a link on our WHAS website to these offerings and encourage you to explore further. Happy surfing!

### Ongoing Citizen Science at home "Project Feeder Watch"

Here is a fun opportunity to participate in bird related research, from the comfort of your home.

The **Project Feeder Watch with Cornell Bird Laboratory** will go from November until April, but one can sign up until the end of February. It runs for 21 weeks and involves counting birds at one's feeders or just in a bird-friendly habitat that one has provided. This is usually done in backyards. Birds are counted for two days every week or two (at least 5 days between a pair of counting days), and the results are submitted to the Laboratory for research and analysis. There is a \$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 <http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

### Cowlitz-Columbia Christmas Bird Count NEW YEARS DAY 2021

Friday, January 1, 2021

Cowlitz -Columbia Christmas Bird Count (3CBC) is the first of the New Year. We have enough people interested in going out alone or with a family member that we will be able to run this count this year.

All the details aren't worked out but as of now we are going to give it a try.

Contact Bob Reistroffer 360-751-5595 or email [breistrof@aol.com](mailto:breistrof@aol.com).

This count will be different because of COVID-19. The guidelines are:

- **NO** in-person compilation gatherings.
- Social distancing and/or masking are **required** at all times in the field.
- Carpooling may **only** occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
- Activities **must** comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

### Wahkiakum CBC

The Wahkiakum CBC is still on, **December 29, 2020.**

There are some national standards for the Christmas Bird Count this year due to Covid-19, which we will follow. Participants should not carpool with people other than their own family group or social pod.

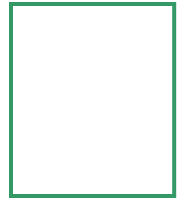
There will be no gathering at the end of the day - participants should submit their data via email.

As the Wahkiakum count is generally birding outdoors in a sparsely populated area, the chance of transmitting the virus will be low as long as participants mask up and wash hands for purchasing fuel or food or are otherwise interacting with others.

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



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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).



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.

### **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 February. The Spring Whistler will have the details.**

**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/index.php/member-services>**