

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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March // April 2014



Red-shouldered Hawk

Image by Royce Craig

Audubon Land Steward to be Annual Meeting Speaker

WHAS will welcome Paul Engelmeyer as keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting, Dinner, & Program on Saturday, March 29th. Paul has been managing the Audubon parcel located on Ten Mile Creek, south of Yachats since 1990. This effort includes not only watershed restoration and protection strategies but a marine conservation effort as well.

The Ten Mile Creek Conservation Program includes education, land stewardship, acquisition and advocacy. In the early '90s ODFW, Audubon, the local community and the Siuslaw National Forest developed a partnership that grew into a basin-wide protection and restoration program which eventually led to a national award in 2005.

In 2012, the 80,000 acres from Heceta Head through Rock Creek Wilderness, Ten Mile and Cummins Creek Wilderness to north of Yachats River basin was designated a Globally Significant Important Bird Area (IBA) for the Marbled Murrelet. As the statewide conservation representative on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) Paul has worked on formation of marine reserves in Oregon's Territorial Sea which includes five sites including the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Seabird Protection Area just off-shore of the Murrelet IBA.

Engelmeyer will be discussing a range of issues including land-sea conservation strategies, marine reserves and protected areas, forage fish issues as well as recovery efforts for the Marbled Murrelet.

The program **at the Longview Woman's Club, 835 21st Ave. in Longview** is at 7:00 PM and free and open to the public.

Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting coming March 29

Come celebrate with us. The annual membership dinner meeting and program will be held **on Saturday, March 29th at 5:30 at the Longview Woman's Club. The address is 835 21st Ave. in Longview**, on the Kessler side of the lake. This year will be a potluck, once again. WHAS will supply meat and vegetarian pizza, coffee, tea and water. Members should bring a potluck dish they would like to share: salad, dessert, casserole, bread, appetizer, or something else. We will need to know how many of you plan on attending to plan pizza.

Please call Carol at 360-849-4324 or email carver.exum@gmail.com or contact Gloria at 360-636-3793 or email jgnt@comcast.net. We would like a head count by March 26th.

Please make it a green event and bring your own tableware.

At 7:00 keynote speaker, Paul Engelmeyer, manager of Ten Mile Creek, an Important Bird Area, will begin his presentation (For details see above).

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 bimonthly 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.

Moving Forward

By Charlotte Persons, Acting President

Willapa Hills Audubon Society is going through a period of transition right now as members can tell by reading the enclosed ballot for March 2014. This transitional period actually began when Larry Brandt resigned as President in December 2012.

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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 6 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

Acting President: **Charlotte Persons**
360-431-1174 president@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

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

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

Director at Large: **Larry Turner**
360-423-3556 lturner2@aol.com

Director at Large: **Carol Carver**
360-849-4324 carver.exum@gmail.com

Director at Large: **George Exum**
360-849-4324 gexum@live.com

Director at Large: **John Gross**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation Co-Chairs: **Steve Puddicombe**
503-465-2205 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org

Charlotte Persons
360-431-1174 president@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

Program Chair: **vacant**

Field Trip Chair: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

Membership Chair: **Margaret Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

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

Finance: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

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

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

Indian Jack Slough Stdshp: **Russ & Ann Kastberg**
360-274-7091 nelsoncreek@willapahillsaudubon.org

Wildlife Sightings: **John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com

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

OTHER

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*

Bald Eagle surveyors spy seven

By Darrel Whipplee

The 36th Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey sponsored by WHAS turned up four adults and one immature eagle in the two latitude-longitude blocks along the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers between Toledo and Kalama. Two additional adults were located outside the designated blocks during the survey.

Steve Hemenway and I conducted the survey on January 19, 2014, using a vehicle route that was prescribed in 1979. The survey hours were 7:30 am to 3 pm, with some fog in the early hours.

Three of the eagles were found in the northern block, and two – including the immature – were found in the southern. The extra two were seen near the southern block, on the Oregon side of the Columbia. Each block is about eight by twelve miles in size, and the route covers approximately 120 miles. Thirty-four other species were noted, including one Merlin and 8 Red-tailed Hawks.

Wenas Campout

What: A Memorial Day weekend tradition with Audubon field trips, programs, and fellowship.

When: May 24-26, 2014

Enjoy spring birding and wildflowers at their best over Memorial Day weekend! There will be field trips, programs for all ages, and campfire social gatherings. More at <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>

Bird Festivals

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 28-30, 2014 <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

Olympic Peninsula BirdFest

April 2-6, 2014, Sequim, WA <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 25-27, 2014 <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com>

Leavenworth Spring BirdFest

May 15-18, 2014 <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/>

... continued from page one: Moving Forward

Board members agreed to take turns running meetings until the next regular election, but in September 2013 the board asked me to become acting president because I was already often representing WHAS at the state level. At that time Carol Carver took over my previous duties as Secretary.

When I agreed to become acting president, I planned to run for president in this election. However, I want to retire from full-time teaching and to find a position working for a non-profit corporation, preferably one with an environmental mission. To make that transition I am going to begin a master's degree program. One thing is certain—I can't attend graduate school, work, and be president of WHAS all at the same time. I deeply regret that I will not be able to continue being president.

But WHAS will keep going strong after my departure. George Exum has been a Director-at-Large for two years on the WHAS board. Despite being very busy opposing the LNG and coal export terminals proposed for our region, he has agreed to run for President. To help him, Steve Puddicombe, who was Co-President from 2005 to 2007, and who has been an energetic Conservation Co-Chair, has volunteered to run to be Vice President.

Steve Glucoft, currently Vice President, has agreed to continue on the board as a Director-at-Large, and to continue his work as Publicity Chair. The other elected offices will continue to be filled by incumbents – Carol Carver as Secretary, Linda Jennings as Treasurer, and John Gross as Director-at-Large.

So WHAS will be in capable hands. However, the board has shrunk and needs new board members and committee chairs. The biggest hole is Programs Chair. WHAS needs programs to continue to interest and attract members. Since Bob Arnsdorf resigned last summer, WHAS has participated in only two programs--Amphibian Egg Mass Survey training, and the

joint birding groups' open house in Long Beach. Darrel Whipple volunteered to organize what promises to be a very interesting program for the Annual Dinner on March 29, but this is a one-time project for him. We must find a person who can dedicate energy to the task of organizing a program at least once a quarter from September to June. Board members can contribute lots of suggestions for speakers and venues, and the rewards are many, not the least of which is the opportunity to socialize with authors and scientists.

We also need new Directors-at-Large and other committee chairs. Our Constitution and Bylaws allow up to seven Directors-at-Large, and we have always had at least three. With this election we will be down to two. Larry Turner has resigned as Director-at-Large, and with his departure we will also need a Stewardship/Citizen Science Chair. He has promoted and organized the Backyard Bird Count in February—who will continue that wonderful project to introduce casual birders to citizen science? I hope to be able to keep doing the job of Conservation Co-Chair, but frankly I may find that work, graduate school, and commuting are just too time-consuming.

Over its almost forty-year history WHAS has reached these transition points before, and each time we have found people to fill crucial roles—and to contribute their new energy and ideas. Please consider whether you are one of these people, or whether you know someone who could make such a contribution to our board.

I have greatly enjoyed my time with WHAS during the last twelve years and thank you all for the trust you have put in me when I fulfilled different roles, most recently as acting president. I will miss you all—but definitely expect to bump into you often at birding hot spots in the Pacific Northwest.

Longview's Coal Fight Update

By Margaret Green

The public process for voicing concerns on the proposed coal terminal for Longview was completed in September 2013. During this public comment or “scoping” period, regulators collected over 200,000 comments, most asking for a broad scope Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) including health, traffic, pollution and economic studies with a wide range. Recently it was announced that 2 of the reviewing agencies, Washington Dept of Ecology and Cowlitz County Planning Dept agreed the scope should be a broad one.

The study will also look at economic benefits and impacts on public service and utilities. The 3rd reviewing agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, announced the scope of its environmental review for the proposed Millennium terminal would be a more specific, and less broad review of the project, limited to the project site, as opposed to including emissions and mining and transportation from Montana through the region to Asia.

There will be another public comment period once the EIS is released. The county planner expects that the study will take 13 months to complete.

Earth Day

By Pat Reistroffer

Yes, it is fast approaching. Once again will we be hosting a booth at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds on **Saturday, April 19** to bring awareness to Earth Day. In the past we have made bird feeders out of TP rolls, peanut butter, and bird seed. They are extremely popular with the kids and their families. If anyone has a different idea please come forward and let me know.

We need 2 people at the booth: one to help with the bird feeders (or whatever project we have for kids) and another one to talk with the adults and share information. There will be some handouts.

I will set everything up and be working at the booth most of day but **NEED HELP!!! I'm also involved in two other groups that have booths at this event. So PLEASE consider volunteering** to work in the booth for one or two hours on Saturday. Just let me know what times (am or pm) and how much time you could donate to the day. Contact Pat Reistroffer at 360-636-5125 [email- preistrof@aol.com](mailto:preistrof@aol.com)

A Birding Day in Belize

By Larry Turner

Joanne and I went on a January Caribbean cruise with a large group, and also a daughter and grandchildren. As is typical with cruises, there were stops at four ports where there was an opportunity to participate in various shore excursions, which could include any number of things from snorkeling and lying on a beach to zip-lining or ATV rides. We looked at some of them well before the cruise. In Belize, formerly British Honduras, we saw none of the standard excursions that had much interest for us. So we contacted the Belize Audubon Society to ask them if they knew anyone with whom we could go out and see some birds. They said that they could lead us around for a day of birding. So we made arrangements to do so; their office was just a short walk from the cruise dock. Nobody else in our group was interested so it was just the two of us.

We arrived about 9 AM; it was a drizzly day, and they wondered if we would want to cancel because of the rain. We assured them that we were well used to rain. A nice young man named Derek Hendry was our guide. He normally works on their Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, and that is the place they would typically take birders. But the rainy season had extended and the sanctuary was flooded, thus making it inaccessible and at the same time, freeing up Derek to lead us around.

After buying the Birds of Belize in the Audubon gift shop, we started on their grounds, which while in Belize City, were well wooded and full of birds. There we saw Cinnamon and Rufous-tailed hummingbirds, Clay-colored thrushes (formerly "robin"), several doves, and other birds. As we drove out of Belize City, we went along the coast and along rain-flooded fields, seeing the Magnificent Frigatebird, Anhinga, various familiar willets, yellowlegs, herons and egrets, getting especially good looks at Green Herons.

We then drove along the north highway, paralleling the coast, but seldom near it. Derek certainly knew the places to stop. He has done the Christmas Bird Count for a few years

along many parts of this highway, and we were able to get on private lands and ranches because of his familiarity. Continuing to see many water birds, we were fortunate to see a Jabiru, an exceedingly large all-white stork, except for its black, ufeathered head, with an almost 12 foot wing-span. A Bare-throated Tiger Heron was another interesting bird; it looks somewhat like an over-sized bittern, but holds its bill more like a heron than a bittern. The Northern Jacana was a common, somewhat small, cute water bird with a bright yellow forehead in adults.

Turkey and Black Vultures were common, but we also saw several Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures. There were familiar raptors, such as Osprey and Peregrine Falcons, along with exotic (to us) ones such as the Great Black Hawk, Roadside Hawk (its real name and often habitat), and the aptly named Laughing Falcon. With all of the insects, flycatchers were varied and especially abundant in the fields of ranches.

They included the Scissor-tailed, Fork-tailed, Social, Vermilion and Dusky-capped flycatchers along with the Great Kiskadee. Once we got into the trees, warblers were frequent, but we saw

none that are not in the U.S. Most of the orioles we saw also occur in the U.S., but one, the Orange Oriole does not occur here. Tropical Mockingbirds and the very large Brown Jays were also abundant among the trees. We did get to see a few White-fronted and Yellow-naped Parrots. But the most striking, colorful bird we saw was the Blue-gray Tanager that had brilliantly blue, almost luminescent wings; the bird book picture did not come close to doing him justice.

We returned to the cruise dock after 6½ hours of wonderful bird watching. In all, we identified 72 different species in Belize. Of these, 19 do not occur in the U.S., and 12 more occur only in extreme southern Arizona and the Texas Rio Grande valley. If you take a cruise, you might consider birding at one of your ports; it was well worth it for us.

WHAS Board Elections

This *Whistler* issue contains the ballot for our bi-annual board officers' elections.

All members are encouraged to cast their votes and mail their ballot to show their support for the board candidates.

Ballots are due by Wednesday March 12

Site Cleanup - Public Process Longview Aluminum Smelter Site

By Sandy Davis and Margaret Green

Most of you are aware that Longview's proposed coal terminal is planned for the shuttered Reynolds Aluminum smelter plant. The plant provided hundreds of jobs to the local community but left us with a heavily contaminated property. After years of waiting and multiple ownerships, the cleanup plan is on the way. The current property owners, Alcoa and Millennium have signed an Agreed Order, which requires public involvement in developing the final cleanup plan. This cleanup will be implemented and financed by the property owners with Department of Ecology oversight.

Public involvement means we will have an opportunity to voice our concerns about contamination and our visions for cleanup. In the next few months, Alcoa and Millennium will complete the RI/FS (Remedial Investigation (soil, water, site testing and study) and Feasibility Study (investigation of various

cleanup options)). After review, Ecology will issue the RI/FS for public comment and schedule a public hearing. And after that phase is completed, a CAP (Cleanup Action Plan) will be issued and a final 30-day public comment period on that document will be held. Public comments will be reviewed by Ecology and the cleanup option (level) will be chosen; then cleanup begins.

The 60-day RI/FS public comment period, informational meeting, and hearing is expected in early summer 2014. This will be our final chance to protect our water, the river and the community from any migration of existing toxins from that site. The level of cleanup should allow the site's highest and best use for maximum job potential. This property will be in our community forever, no matter what business is planned in the future. To access the first draft of the RI/FS go to Ecology's web site at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=11796>

Book Review

The Devil's Cormorant: A Natural History

Richard J. King

Univ. of NH Press; Lebanon, NH, 2013

Richard J. King's new book, *The Devil's Cormorant: A Natural History*, is comprehensive, multi-faceted, and thorough. Whether you are interested in the bird management experiment currently being conducted on East Sand Island in the lower Columbia River, or just enjoy watching the big black beauties as they soar in to their night roost on an island in Longview's Lake Sacajawea, King's work will give you fresh insights and puzzling complexities to consider concerning these birds.

If you like to watch the birds, cormorants will always catch your attention for the way they sometimes perch, holding their wings open. King suggests there are differing opinions on why they do this: to dry the wings, to cool their bodies, or some other yet unknown reason. And this objective look at the various perspectives on his topic is one of the main strengths of King's work. He looks at his subject from a variety of views and tends to give equal airtime to the ideas he presents. For example, he explains how folks have used cormorants to help them fish for at least fourteen hundred years in China, Japan, India, Korea, Peru, and possibly ancient Egypt. Current Japanese have refined this partnership into an art and currently entertain tourists with their work. On the other hand, King discusses

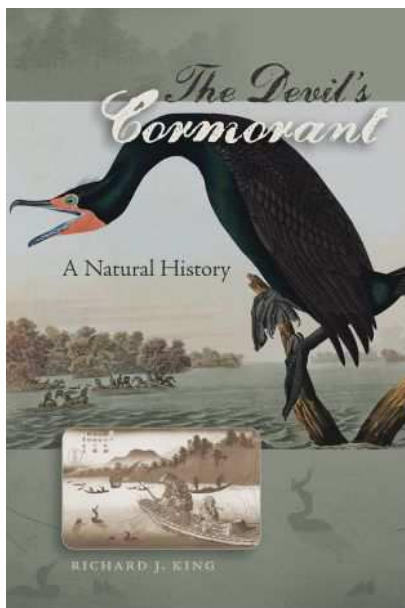
By Carolyn Norred

how fisherman on Little Galloo Island, New York, went out one dark night and slaughtered thousands of these birds because they felt competition for the fish. King reports on these varying views of the cormorant without a call to judgment.

Traveling the world to research his subject, King covers a surprising variety of roles cormorants play in such projects as catfish farming on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River, guano mining on the Peruvian coastline, and "dissuasion areas" on the lower Columbia River.

Another aspect of King's study is the thoroughness of his information. Inexpert as I am about the birds, I was struck by the fact that just listing species can be such a complicated undertaking. King clarifies this problem as it pertains to cormorants and leaves us with the idea that, "...The truth is that you can only be comfortable saying vaguely that there are somewhere between twenty-four and thirty-nine extant cormorant species across the globe"(120).

Although King's writing is fresh, clear, and sometimes even colorful, he is careful to present his facts in an official and academic style. The book ends with 48 pages of chapter notes and a 15 page selected bibliography for any of us who are motivated to further explore the life and times of this "Devil's Cormorant."



Lower Columbia School Gardens - Successes, Challenges and Opportunities

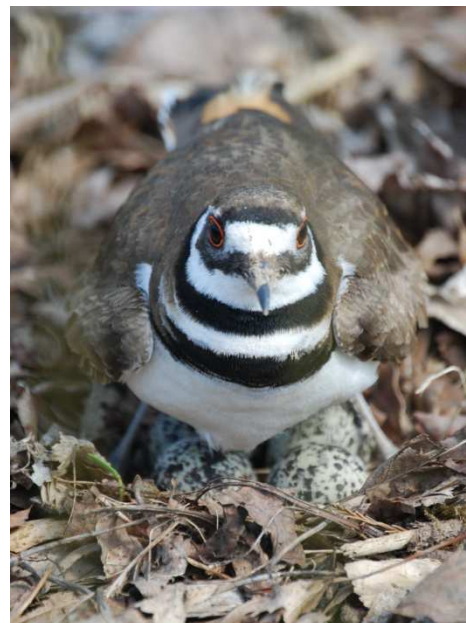
By Pam Wright with photos by Ian Thompson

Willapa Hills Audubon Society welcomes Ian Thompson, Director of Lower Columbia School Gardens, to share successes, challenges and opportunities of developing and sustaining school gardens at local middle and elementary schools. Lower Columbia School Gardens is a local nonprofit (no government or school district funding) that is getting kids OUTSIDE digging in the mud, noticing, observing and learning about critters in the compost, pollinators at the flowers and whatever other natural life presents itself (see photos).

In the past year Lower Columbia School Gardens has engaged nearly 3,000 students in Cowlitz County in garden related activities. Come hear how participating in planning, planting, weeding, watering, composting, harvesting, selling, cooking and eating actual vegetables (and fruit) impacts students and volunteers and fosters connection with nature.

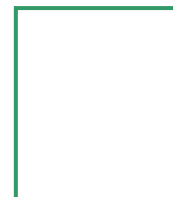
Where: Lower Columbia College Physical Science Building Room 102; Located next to the LCC 15th Ave parking lot in Longview, WA
<http://lcc.ctc.edu/maps/>

When: Thursday, April 17th from 6-7pm





PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632



The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public.

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Send your contributions to:

WHAS Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632

or email them to

newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.



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

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, March 8, April 12, May 10 – Second Saturday monthly Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk.

Meet at 8:00AM at Hemlock and Kessler Blvd. in Longview, in front of the Playground. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. The leader will have a scope for better viewing. This walk will last no more than 1 ½ hours. No reservations required. Carlo Abbruzzese will be guest leader for the walk in April.

Saturday, March 15 – Woodland bottoms

The focus of this trip is cranes and nesting herons, owls, and eagles. Plan 8:00 AM departure and 1:00 PM return to Longview. **

Saturday, March 29

Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting at the Longview Woman's Club. 835 21st Ave. in Longview is at 5:30 PM

See page one for the details.

Audubon Land Steward Presentation at the Longview Woman's Club. 835 21st Ave. in Longview is at 7:00 PM

See page one for the details. This event is open to the public.

Thursday, April 17

WHAS welcomes **Ian Thompson, Director of Lower Columbia School Gardens** at Lower Columbia College Physical Science Building Room 102 from 6-7PM. See page five for the details.

Saturday, May 3 – Sauvie Island

This is a special destination near Portland. We will leave from Longview at 7:30 AM and return between 1:00 and 2:00 PM. This trip will entail walking on flat terrain and looking for spring migrants. **

Impromptu Trips - We are leaving possibilities open throughout spring to take some trips to other spots as the opportunities arise. If you are on our gmail alert list, watch for those announcements.

** These trips require you to reserve a spot as some will be limited in number. Call 360-575-9238 or email jgreen2317@aol.com John Green to make your reservation. Carpooling will be planned

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