



WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 33, Issue 6

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

November/December 2007

WHAS Board of Directors Call For Nominations

By: Co-President Steve Puddicombe

It is once again time to elect a Board of Directors. The new Bylaws, approved last June, hold that our annual meeting will now be held in March, with officers installed and serving two- year terms from that date. It is hoped that the bi-yearly terms will provide more stability to our organization and improve upon the time-consuming yearly election process. This election is important, as it will select the leadership and set the tone and direction of WHAS for the next two years.

Offices without incumbents include President, Vice-President, Secretary and one Director-at-large. Please consider yourself or another for one of these positions.

Inserted in this issue you will find a nominations sheet that can be cut out and mailed back. In addition, nominations can be made electronically to Nominations Chair Shirley Lutz at shirleyhlutz@comcast.net and inquiries to Shirley at 360-425-2637, or to Secretary Charlotte Persons at 360-578-3949.

FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Introduction to Winter Waterfowl at Lake Sacajawea

Join us December 1 for the second annual urban winter bird walk around a portion of Lake Sacajawea. This short birding jaunt is designed for those who like to mix comfort with birding. We will observe birds at the Lake for about an hour and a half and then retreat to the warmth of John and Margaret

Green's home a block away where we can watch the well-fed backyard birds with a warm drink in hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to jump start your identification skills and get tips on how to attract a diversity of birds to your own yard. We will meet at 8:30am and finish up about 10:30am. Group size is limited, so please RSVP for meeting location details. Contact John or Margaret Green at jgreen2317@aol.com or call 360.575.9238.

Please Join Us!

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

Chapter Membership

- \$20 for annual membership dues.
 \$15 for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

National Audubon Membership

- \$20 for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

Combination

- Yes, you can do both options above, if you like. *Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).*

Willapa Whistler Only

- \$5 for six issues (one year). No membership is included with this option. *Make check payable to WHAS.*

For any of the options above, clip this form and mail it with your check to:

Willapa Hills Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 399
 Longview, WA 98632

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please add me to your Discussion email list

New

Renewal

Y14

7XCH

WHAS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**OFFICERS**

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360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org

Wildlife Sightings: **Andrew Emlen**

360-795-8009 aceasp@pacifier.com

Membership: **Gloria Nichols**

360-636-3793 johnqloriaromeo@earthlink.net

WHAS Web Site: **Dick Wilson**

360-875-6172 bcfarms@willapabay.org

Nelson Creek Stewardship: **Jim and Bea Harrison**

Jimharrison2@peoplepc.com

Conservation Action

Proposed LNG Terminal at Bradwood, Oregon

Gloria G. MacKenzie has been keeping WHAS abreast of all the activities involving the proposed LNG Terminal. On August 28th, the Clatsop County Planning Commission Recommended Approval of the terminal with Conditions.

Now that the Oct 22nd public hearings are over, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners have satisfied the local county procedures, and the next step will

be for the proposal to be reviewed and processed through numerous state and federal agencies such as Oregon Water Resources; Department of Land Conservation and Development; Division of State Lands; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; US Fish & Wildlife, etc.

For more information see Oregonian and Daily Astorian archives.

Kalama Power Plant

Darrel Whipple has been taking the lead on the proposed Kalama power plant. Charlotte Persons, Steve Glucoft and others have been attending meetings and public hearings

In September WHAS board voted to join as interveners in the adjudication process with Columbia Riverkeeper.

Besides issues about wetland protection, the big problem is that there is no real plan to sequester CO2.

Future public comments on behalf of WHAS will be coordinated with Columbia Riverkeeper

Mount Saint Helens Copper Mine

On September 13 Ryan Hunter of Gifford Pinchot Task Force and Bob Russell of Idaho General Mines Inc. presented an informational session to the Longview City Council. The council voted to take no action until more is known.

When Idaho General Mine Inc. completes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the next permit application to begin exploration of the area, WHAS members will be asked to comment.

Gifford Pinchot Task Force expects this DEIS to be filed in December or January. The BLM reports that they received over 33,000 comments on the mine lease Environmental Assessment, which is taking considerable time to review. They now expect to have a final decision on the lease mid to late January.



December Program and Holiday Social

Jon Schmidt – “The Birds of Cape Disappointment: 1900”

**Tuesday, Dec. 4,
Holiday Cheer 6:15
Program: 6:45**

Join us for some light refreshments and friendly chatter before this great program.

**Longview library
Downstairs auditorium
1400 Louisiana, Longview**

Over the last five years, Jon Schmidt has had the pleasure of wandering up, down and around Cape Disappointment State Park. As an Interpretive Specialist, he has been responsible for researching and sharing the many stories that find their setting on the headland at the mouth of the Columbia River. While pouring through multiple journals, newspapers, and the Internet, Jon stumbled across another wanderer to whom he could relate. William Kobe was the son of the commanding officer at Fort Canby during the turn of the 19th century.



Kobe's ramblings near the fort on the cape were driven by his interest in the birds he found, and he recorded their behaviors and habitats. The result of Kobe's work was two articles written for "The Auk" magazine, a quarterly ornithological publication. Jon uses slides, old maps, and historic photos to illustrate the discoveries of William Kobe interjecting his own modern observations.



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Nelson Creek Restoration Project Update

By Jim Harrison

A lot of work and enjoyment have taken place at the Nelson Creek project since our last newsletter. On September 5th, a group of WHAS members and Columbia Land Trust personnel met at the old barns at Nelson Creek for a workday. The group hit the ground running, and in a few hours had the area looking great! The main reason for the workday was to clean up around the area in anticipation of the September 14th First Annual Owl Prowl and Potluck dinner.

We had a great people turnout at the Owl Prowl and Potluck dinner, although the owls were not in attendance. We had about 18 people for the dinner and a number of the folks camped overnight. From all the positive comments it seems that everyone really enjoyed themselves. It is always fun to sit around a campfire and visit with friends.

The following morning we had our official Nelson Creek meeting. A number of items were discussed. One agenda item was a review of the Memorandum of Agreement between WHAS and the Columbia Land Trust. This document tries to clearly define the particulars of the WHAS/Columbia Land Trust relationship in this project. Since the Sept. 14 NC meeting, the WHAS board has approved this document. The Nelson Creek committee also continues to work on the surveys, project timeline and the setting of goals by the various subcommittees. Our next meeting will be on Nov. 2nd. A personal thanks for all the committee's efforts. We have a great group and a great conservation project.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

By Margaret Green

I have been fortunate to have "WHAS connections" at The Longview Library, and when a "birdy" book shows up in the new stacks, it somehow turns up in my "on hold" docket. Thank you, book fairy! Hooray! Two good ones have recently come my way. "The Race to Save the Lord God Bird" by Phillip Hoose is a very readable history of the ivory-billed woodpecker, beginning with man's obsession in the 1800's for collecting specimens, through the plume wars, the struggle to save habitat, and to the present day resignation that the species has succumbed to the same fate as the passenger pigeon – extinction. Interestingly, the book, published in 2004, is absent the most recent rediscovery of the ivory-billed in the hardwood bottomlands of Arkansas.

Though falling short of the latest events, it is still chock full of fascinating personalities, great photos of collected specimens and live subjects, as well as really cool maps. It is a quick and enjoyable read that I would recommend to anyone.

The second book, also a really good one, again, deals with the sad tale of man's negative impact on the natural world. Bridget Stutchbury's "Silence of the Songbirds" tells about habitat loss, pesticide poisoning, and other such disasters causing the downward spiral of songbird numbers. As an ornithologist, she sticks with the science, but also gives us many recommended personal actions and behaviors for positive change, such as simply purchasing shade grown coffee and organic bananas. It is these hopeful thoughts that help to buffer the realities. This compelling book is a "must read" for all bird lovers. It will kindle deeper knowledge of and understanding for the struggles of each individual creature we hold dear.

2007 Christmas Bird Counts

By: Alan Richards

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is citizen-science at its best. You can help with this effort, whether you have ever gone birdwatching or not. More eyes are needed for that day. You can point out where you see birds and experts in your group can do the identifying. If you do know some of the birds in your area, so much the better.... This is your chance to help collect the information which will direct decisions in future, decisions which will affect how much natural beauty, including birds, remains for future generations.

If you happen to live within a Count circle you can count birds at your feeder on count day. For the Leadbetter Point CBC, that includes the Long Beach peninsula north of about 180th Street, as well as Nemah and Palix River areas along the bay. For the Wahkiakum CBC, that includes portions of the Skamokawa, Puget Island, Cathlamet, and Brownsmead areas. For the Cowlitz-Ceweeman-Columbia CBC, that includes portions of Kelso-Longview and the surrounding area. Contact the Count leader for more exact boundary descriptions, and to advise them that you wish to take part.

In the field you have chances to socialize with your fellow counters, and when the counting is through, all counters (feeder watchers included) are invited to the Count-In Supper (a no host dinner) and compilation of everyone's results. For the Leadbetter count this joyous event begins at 5 p.m. at the Hunters' Inn, Highway 4 at the east end of Naselle, on the evening of the Count.

Bring your binoculars if you have some, boots, warm clothes and a lunch, and join us for a day outside, looking closely at some of Nature's most interesting creatures, sharing the day with people with similar interests.

Leadbetter Pt. Christmas Bird Count

Sponsored by Willapa Hills and Discovery Coast Audubon chapters

Saturday, December 15th, 2007 Dawn to Dusk
To be placed in a group for the day, or to volunteer to count at your feeder, contact: Alan Richards, 360-484-7119.

Willapa Hills Audubon Society chapter generously supports two additional Christmas Bird Counts:

Wahkiakum CBC on December 28,

contact: Andrew Emlen (360-795-8009);

Cowlitz-Columbia CBC on January 1.

[See below] contact: Bob Reistroffer
360-636-5125

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By: Bob Reistroffer

Want to get 2008 off to a great start by being a part of this years 3CBC (Cowlitz-Ceweeman-Columbia Bird Count)? This will be our 24th official year and we hope there will be good weather. Last year we spotted 82 species and 10,140 individual birds.

Our count will be a part of the 2007 International Christmas Bird Count. We will be out for an 8 hour period covering a 15- mile-diameter area looking for any birds that will let us see them. We hope to have very cooperative birds this year.

Please plan to join us this year. If you are new to birding this is a great way to discover the thrill. To sign up, call Bob Reistroffer 360-636-5125. I'll form teams in mid-December and get contact information to all participants then. We will plan to have the compilation potluck at our house 146 Scenic View Dr., Longview. I will get a map and driving directions to all participants.

Hope to see you on 01-01-08.

Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayer

A trip to the Gray's Harbor area in mid-September in conjunction with the annual conference of the Washington Ornithological Society generated a variety of birding pleasures. One day was spent going 35 nautical miles into the Pacific Ocean in search of pelagic species. Another day found me with a group of like-minded avid birders seeking birds of the forest around Lake Quinault. One evening at dark, I joined a field trip for a few hours of owling. But the highlights for me were the shorebirds. I had the good fortune to have a number of up close encounters with some of the harder-to-find migrants of the Pacific Northwest.

The first of these opportunities occurred at Midway Beach between Tokeland and Wespert. As we pulled to a stop at the end of the access road, we saw a flock of shorebirds fly into a nearby low spot behind the fore dunes. Closer inspection revealed six buff-breasted sandpipers mixed in with similar numbers of the more common pectoral sandpipers and Baird's sandpipers. Buff-breasted sandpipers nest in the northern reaches of Canada and Alaska, but they primarily use the central flyway as a migration route. We were able to get quite close to these birds and had excellent studies of the overall buffy appearance of this slender, short-billed sandpiper. Their bright yellow legs also stood out as I had all three species in one scope view for dramatic comparison.

With these memories fresh in our minds, we set off for a spit near the Westport Marina. A bar-tailed godwit had been reported roosting here at high tide for the past few days. While there have been increasing reports of this species in Washington in recent years, it is still a treat to find this primarily old world species. As we started our hike, we could see the gulls and brown pelicans at the tip of this spit, but needed to get much closer and beyond a small rise to search for our target bird. Finally, we came to a good spot to set up our scopes and start scanning. There were many large shorebirds roosting on the sand or foraging in the shallow water. Then, there it was; gray-bellied, brown patterned back, long upturned bill, our bar-tailed godwit, foraging with some noticeably larger and much buffier looking marbled godwits. We enjoyed watching this bird going about its business, for some time.

After the conference was over, I was off to Ocean Shores on my own for more birding. My first stop was the Oyhut Wildlife Area (known as the Game Range). Field trips to this spot during the conference had good success at finding a ruff during high tides. Since I

arrived in town a couple hours before high tide here, I was wandering around this vast saltwater marsh looking for a needle in a haystack. Although I saw a couple of Lapland longspurs, and two Pacific golden plovers besides numbers of more common birds, after a couple hours, I was leaving to find a shower, dinner, and bed for the night. A single unfamiliar shorebird flew overhead and settled into the marsh grass. Of course I turned around to work my way around the deeper channels to see if I could locate this bird. When I got there, the marsh grasses were much shorter creating a sort of valley that was being used by a flock of least sandpipers, but the mid-sized flyby bird eluded me. After much searching, I began to go around this area to avoid flushing the flock on my way out. Suddenly out of the corner of my eye, I noticed something cringing away from me, in the longer grass. I backed away until the bird calmed down. I enjoyed this buffy, green-yellow legged juvenile ruff to my heart's content for some time. The second Eurasian species of the trip made dinner late but very enjoyable.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Bird Counts.



MY BIG HOUR OF BIRDING

By:Ann Musch 

Written Saturday, September 08, 2007

Observation Time 9:00-10:00 a.m. Naselle,
Washington

Almost two weeks ago, Alan and I enjoyed a magnificent morning at home, watching a multitude of bird migrants feeding in our yard. I thought that earlier date, August 26th, had marked the height of migration and that the small numbers of birds I had seen since then (granted, I was busy, and even away for some whole days) meant that the big rush was over for the year. This morning I learned how WRONG I was!

The dominant birds were, as usual, the robins, cedar waxwings and western tanagers in the cascara trees, and the black-throated gray and Wilson's warblers in the alders, maples, and willows. When there are over 100 birds actively feeding in a small space, it is so exciting to focus on one after another. Their darts and forays, slow and fast, are a merry challenge to follow.

When I could see that the number of birds was so high and their activity going on and on, I pulled up my chaise longue, rested my neck, and went on contentedly watching. One surprising joy was seeing an adult Dark-eyed junco feed one of its young as they both perched in our purple plum tree only 15 feet from me.

Whew, this was surely an hour to remember!

COMPLETE BIRD LIST:

- 1 Downy woodpecker
- 1 Northern Flicker
- 1 Hutton's vireo
- 2 Warbling vireos
- 40 American robins
- 16 Western tanagers
- 20 Cedar waxwings
- 1 Evening grosbeak (young one)
- 2 Rufous hummingbirds
- 10 Black-throated gray warblers
- 8 Wilson's warblers
- 2 Townsend's warblers
- 2 Orange-crowned warblers
- 8 Steller's jays
- 1 Spotted towhee
- 1 Swainson's thrush
- 6 Chestnut-backed chickadees
- 4 Dark-eye juncos

Flying over: 1 Great blue heron (right over the center of our yard)

1 B. kingfisher

Calling in distance: C. raven

Calling or singing in yard: Song sparrow, House finch



Evening Grosbeak
Photo by John Green

Volunteers Work for Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration

Willapa Hills Audubon, in a cooperative agreement with Grays Harbor Audubon, worked on improving snowy plover habitat at Leadbetter Point in July and September. Volunteers joined Department of Fish and Wildlife staff to measure vegetation at the Habitat Restoration research site on the Longbeach Peninsula. Volunteers from Willapa Hills included John and Margaret Green and Ann Much .

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CAPITAL—CLIMATE CHANGE Ann Musché

As we see from reading the news, where our national leaders have denied or avoided the issue, local and regional groups have been taking action. Citizens of Wahkiakum County held a Climate Change Convergence this fall in Skamokawa. (Read about it on page 10.)

Leaders and citizens of Olympia, Washington, also care a good deal about our planet and the rate at which it is heating. They sponsored in October free presentations by 3 knowledgeable, articulate writers on the topic and what we can do about it. Youth and adults were invited to take part; 1000 of us heard the evening talks.

SOME IDEAS:

Walk or ride your bike for some errands or events

Buy food and other items made/grown locally

Encourage leaders to make non-auto travel more convenient and cheaper.

Buy from the chapter (at cost) paper for your printer or copier which is 100% recycled*

Bring your own cup to meetings

Drink shade-grown coffee at home, just as we do at WHAS meetings

Where things in your life are concerned: make less, use less and use longer!

Consult these Internet websites:

www.climatesolutions.org

www.audubon.org/globalWarming/BePartSolution.php

- *Producing paper from recycled fiber uses 60% less energy than making it from virgin pulp.

Talk is not all the city does. Over the past 20 years they have increased recycling to 50% of their waste, have installed sidewalks to encourage walking, have developed programs to make it easy for citizens, especially students and seniors, to ride city buses, have planted trees and bought park land. Over the past 3 years they have reduced the fuel consumption of the city's vehicle fleet by 25%!

How can we as a club, and we as individuals become part of the solution to the problem of climate heating?

- Each pound of garbage recycled or composted saves 3 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- The earth's average surface temperature has increased 1.2 –1.4 degrees F. since 1990.

Data from *Climate Change: Olympia's Call to Action* - October, 2007

CALCIUM FOR BAND-TAILED PIGEONS – Ann Musché

Oregon Birds reported recently that a woman in rural Linn County (SE of Salem) offers, along with bird seed, broken oyster shell in her garden. The oyster shell is used by Band-tailed Pigeons (of which she has hosted up to 400!) The OB editor made this comment:

"Band-tailed Pigeons need minerals, and are dependent on mineral springs at which they congregate in large numbers. These springs are limited, and expose the pigeons to hunting and disturbance. If providing calcium in the form of oyster shell in gardens can supplant the need to

visit mineral springs, the practice could provide considerable benefit to the species."

For those of us lucky enough to attract these native pigeons to our yards, this is an additional resource we could offer And by the way, I learned from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website that Band-tailed Pigeon hunting in Washington, which did not occur for a ten-year period, recommenced in the fall of 2002. Hunting did occur this year, in September...

West Coast Convergence for Climate Change

By: Carol Carver

During August, before Al Gore and the UN Commission were awarded their well-deserved Nobel Peace Prizes, an energetic group of climate change activists and local people participated in a climate change convergence in Skamokawa. Participants came from all over the West Coast as well as many areas of the US including Maine, there were also many from Canada. Rising Tide Cascadia, an action activist organization, organized the event. Skamokawa was chosen due to its proximity to the proposed Bradwood, Oregon LNG facility. In fact on Monday, August 13th, local anti-LNG groups along with Convergence attendees demonstrated on the beach at the Bradwood site and on the west side of Puget Island.

The Convergence was a fantastic mix of knowledge, enthusiasm, organizing, networking, music, dance, and food. The scope of the topics at the multitude of daily workshops was impressive. Although too many to list, here are a few examples of the workshop topics: Columbia River Ground Zero for Fossil Fuel Development, Culture & Lifestyle for a Post Carbon World, Health Effects of Climate Change, Targeting the Climate Change Bankers, & many more. The 6-day event occurred off the grid with power supplied by solar panels; food (it was free and fantastic) for all attendees was cooked on rocket stoves by the collective Seeds for Peace.

For photos and other links, go to nolng.Wahkiakum.info.

Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge Workday

Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge is seeking volunteers to help plant trees at Gee Creek. Tree planting is scheduled on the following Saturdays between 9am and 12pm: November 17th, December 8th, February 9th and 16th and March 15th. Meet in the Carty Unit parking lot. For more information, contact Josie Finley at (360) 887 - 3883 ext. 18



Wed Oct 6 WHAS Fieldtrip participants (above) were buffeted by 35 mph winds at Benson Bench. The outing was fun, none-the-less. The group enjoyed lunch in Ilwaco and then blew down the beach on a search for bird carcasses.

Columbia Land Trust Stewardship Activities

Friday December 7 10:30am Breaker Lake Planting and Weeding Workday (near Long Beach, WA)

Wednesday January 30, 2008 10am Kandoll Farm Planting (near Rosburg, WA.) Collect & plant willow cuttings.

Friday January 18, 2008 10am Germany Creek Workday (near Stella, WA., about 10 minutes west of Longview) Help restore habitat for salmonids, raptors, waterfowl, and Columbian white-tailed deer

To sign up for any CLT workday or coordinate carpooling, contact Andrea Berkley at aberkley@columbialandtrust.org or call 360-213-1207

4 Members Attend Fall ACOW

Co-Presidents, Betty Mayfield and Steve Puddicombe, as well as Ann Musch  and Bea Harrison attended the Oct 19-21 Audubon Council of Washington meeting in sunny Sequim, Washington.

Speakers included Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council, charged with



cleaning up Puget Sound by 2020; Dr. Jerry Freilich, research scientist involved in the removal of dams on the Elwha River; Dave Shreffler, ecological consultant who helped restore Jimmycomelately Creek to its natural streambed and Tim McNulty, a nature writer and poet.

ACOW attendance never fails to inspire and motivate attendees. Each chapter gave a short report on their accomplishments. Chapter conservation posters were displayed, including our own Nelson Creek exhibit.

The meeting was held at the beautiful S'Klallam Tribal Center in Sequim.

WHAS Officer Nominations Form

Nominations are now open for all offices of the WHAS Board. Terms are for two years with installation occurring at the annual meeting in mid-March, 2008.

Please make your nominations by clipping out the form below and mailing to WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA, 98632 or send electronically to shirleyhlutz@comcast.net. For further information call 360-425-2637.

President _____

Vice-President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Director-at-large _____

Director-at-large _____

Director-at-large _____



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
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Longview, WA 98632

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, information, wildlife sightings and black-and-white artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public. The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

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.

WHAS Field Trips

See Page 1 for Details

December 1 - Lake Sacajawea bird walk

Other Field Trip Opportunities

Columbia Land Trust Workdays

See Page 10

December 7 - Breaker Lake Planting and Weeding

January 18 - Germany Creek Weed Control

January 30 - Kandoll Farm Planting

Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge tree planting

November 17

December 8

February 9, 16th

March 15