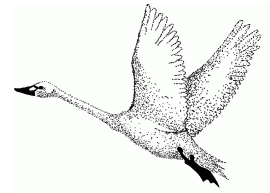


# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*



Volume 35, Issue 3

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

Mai/June 2009



Photo R. Kastberg

More of *Herps Egg-Mass Surveys at Nelson Creek* on page 5

## Willapa Hills Audubon Society's Redesigned Website is Online

We have changed the look and feel of our website, and invite you to explore the many modifications we have made. Many thanks go to Dick Wilson for all his effort in designing and maintaining our old site and to ReachOne, Lacey WA for hosting it for free over the last years.

Our new website will let you know what WHAS is up to and communicate conservation and stewardship issues. We will also provide you with a regularly updated list of many opportunities for volunteer work to support our environment.

Here are some of the new features:

- more content,
- a calendar with all WHAS events and many others events related to our mission,
- a RSS feed to keep you more easily updated,
- the website is search-able,
- more up-to-date information from our chairs about local issues,
- more information about stewardship opportunities.

Please check back at the website often as we plan to add more information in the future. We hope our new website will be a useful tool for you – providing information regarding our organization and upcoming events.

Enjoy our new, redesigned website at the old address:  
<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>.

## Primal Warblings

"...we can penetrate into that region where the air is music, we hear those primal warblings, and attempt to write them down..." (from Ralph Waldo Emerson's *The Poet*)

If you readers have a favorite poem on this topic, we would appreciate your contributions. The poem can be your original work or a poem you like. Don't forget to include your name, phone or e-mail, and a note describing your connection to birds. We will be compiling a file for future reference, so please bear this in mind as you write and enjoy birding.

This is also a good time to thank *Carolyn Norred* for the idea and all the work she invests into this column.

Send your contributions or suggestions to

WHAS - Whistler, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632  
or email [newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org)

A bird came down the walk:

He did not know I saw;  
He bit an angle-worm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew  
From a convenient grass,  
And then hopped sidewise to the wall  
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes  
That hurried all abroad, --  
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;  
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,  
I offered him a crumb,  
And he unrolled his feathers  
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,  
Too silver for a seam,  
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,  
Leap, plashless, as they swim.

*Emily Dickinson*

*Taken from Emily Dickinson: Selected Poems, Dover Thrift Editions, NY; 1990.*

## In this issue of the Whistler:

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- 7 Book Review and Endangered Species Day
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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.

If you are also interested in the membership in the National Audubon Society, please visit <http://www.audubon.org/>.

Please make your check payable to: WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

**WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632**

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

I prefer you contact me by

- ☐ Phone  
☐ Email  
☐ Mail

Please:

- ☐ contact me about volunteer opportunities  
☐ add me to your announcement email list \*  
☐ add me to your discussion email list \*\*

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 allow members to announce and discuss items of general interest.

\* To announce **occasional** reminders and to communicate last minute schedule changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

Clip-----Clip

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Charlotte Persons  
 360-578-3949 president@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Vice President:** Steve Glucoft  
 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net  
**Past Co-President:** Betty Mayfield  
 503-556-6841 finance@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Past Co-President:** Steve Puddicombe  
 360-465-2205 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Secretary:** Ann Musché  
 360-484-7119 secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Treasurer:** Pamela Wright  
 360-560-3772 treasurer@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Director at Large:** Russ Kastberg  
 360-274-7091 director-a@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Director at Large:** Gloria MacKenzie  
 503-556-8253 director-b@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Director at Large:** Russ Koppendrayner  
 306-636-3245

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Programs:** Margaret Green  
 360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com  
**Education:** Darrel Whipple  
 503-556-9838 education@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Newsletter:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
 360-423-7004 newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Field Trips:** John Green  
 360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com  
**Conservation:** Steve Puddicombe  
 503-465-2205 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Publicity:** Steve Glucoft  
 360-577-7720 sglucoft@comcast.net  
**Finance/History:** Betty Mayfield  
 503-556-6841 finance@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Bird Counts:** Alan Richards  
 360-484-7119 birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Willapa Bay Issues:** Miranda Wecker  
 360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org  
**Wildlife Sightings:** John Green  
 360-795-8009 jgreen2317@aol.com  
**Membership:** Gloria Nichols  
 360-636-3793 membership@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Website:** Ludger Wöhrmann  
 360-875-6172 webmaster@willapahillsaudubon.org  
**Nelson Creek Stewardship:** Russ & Ann Kastberg  
 360-274-7091 nelsoncreek@willapahillsaudubon.org

### WHAS Board News

Excerpt from the WHAS Board Meeting on March 1 in Cathlamet:

**Nelson Creek:** Russ Kastberg asked if we want Nelson Creek buildings/property to include a field laboratory and/or educational center. The entire habitat restoration project and especially this aspect will need additional volunteers if project is to move forward. The board M/S/P to support concept of some buildings and building materials retained and maintained for potential development of such facilities.

**WSACC Conservation:** Steve Puddicombe attended Lobby Day in Olympia and reported his impressions.

Steve also showed the recently unveiled birding trail map *Sun and Sage Loop* covering Columbia Basin, Yakima Valley, western Walla Walla, and Klickitat county. For more information about this map and the previously published maps go to:  
[http://wa.audubon.org/birds\\_GreatWABirdingTrail.html](http://wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html)

**Documentary about the Bradwood LNG project:** Carol Carver and George Exum showed the documentary *Crossroads on the Columbia*.

The next **WHAS Board meeting** is on June 7, 2009 in Cathlamet, for time and location check the calendar at our website.

### Do you have time to help?

We need **new** folks to support with different WHAS activities.

The **Conservation Committee** needs members to attend state and local meetings, work on conservation legislation, or write letters to the editor. The **Education Committee** can use people to give presentations and offer classes or just to act as an extra pair of hands at an outreach booth.

Margaret Green will be retiring as **Program Committee Chair** and would love to work side-by-side through the spring with someone who can take her place in arranging for programs.

The **Snowy Plover / Horned Lark** project needs a coordinator. See page 3 for more information.

If you would like to help **contact** a committee chair or Charlotte Persons at 360-578-3949 or email president@willapahillsaudubon.org.

## Updates

**Let's Not Guess with LNG April, 2009****By Gloria MacKenzie**

May 17, 2009 will mark a milestone for NorthernStar, LLC, when repayment of a loan of \$100 million from Matlin Patterson comes due. The parent company of Bradwood Landing has missed the target dates for initial public offerings, which could incur substantial interest penalties. The outcome will be closely watched.

**WASHINGTON:**

NorthernStar will pay for a consultant, Parametrix, to review for Cowlitz County the inadequate environmental report produced by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for this proposed pipeline. Assurance was given that the process would be transparent and available to the public.

**OREGON:**

At the Clatskanie city council meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>, a Bradwood Landing representative announced a possible rerouting of the pipeline in Clatsop and Columbia counties, which would affect 6, not 19 property owners. At this same meeting, the Port of St. Helens Commissioner president, stated his support for the proposal.

The Oregon legislature is in the process of hearing HB 2015, the LNG Public Protection Act, which would require the state to conduct a needs assessment prior to issuing any permits.

"Crossroads on the Columbia: Oregon Confronts America's Energy Future", a documentary produced by the talents of Spence Palermo and Donna Quinn, chronicles wide ranging

responses to the proposed LNG terminals. It is getting a lot of play in both states, and is highly recommended.

On May 21 at 7:00pm, Dr. Jerry Havens will give a presentation at *The Loft in the Red Building* in Astoria. Dr. Havens is well known for his expertise on LNG.

**LAWSUITS:**

National Marine Fisheries Service, represented by the US Department of Justice has joined Oregon, Washington, Columbia Riverkeeper and other environmental groups in appealing the conditional approval by FERC of Bradwood. It is rare for a federal agency to challenge a federal commission.

**GAS SUPPLY & DEMAND:**

Gazprom, 51% owned by the Kremlin, has just announced shipments from Sakhalin II to the West Coast via Costa Azul LNG terminal in Baja

California. The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States warns this could have a devastating effect on gas producers in the Western U.S., who can supply 27% of the 20% needed to power electricity generated by natural gas.

In the last six months the price of gas was almost double the current \$3.50+/- per dekatherm. With costs to produce liquefied natural gas, shipping, regasifying, etc. ranging from \$2.00 to \$3.70, and with the current glut of natural gas on the market, the final analysis should seem obvious.

**More about the Whistler**

Did you know that you can read the Whistler online at our website? To see the pictures in color or in case you missed a previous issue just go to <http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org> and look for the *Whistler*.

**Deery Memorial Signage****By Margaret Green**

Good News! Upon recommendation from the Longview Parks and Recreation Board, the Longview City Council approved a matching funds grant for up to \$3495 to support the placing of TWO avian interpretive signs at Lake Sacajawea Park in Longview.

Sign committee members Russ Koppendrayer, Pamela Wright, and Margaret Green have been busy selecting the featured birds, drafting text, and working with local artists Lorena Birk and Debby Neely to plan the signs. The signs are sure to be beautiful pieces of art as well as educational inspirations and a fitting memorial to Ruth Deery a founding member of WHAS. The signs should be installed in early fall, 2009.

Any gap in funding will come from the WHAS general fund as approved by the board. Donations are still welcome and can be sent to WHAS at PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632. Thanks to all of you who have contributed.

**Snowy Plover / Horned Lark Project****By Alan Richards**

The two year period covered by our joint chapter grant (with Grays Harbor Audubon) which supported Leadbetter Point habitat restoration volunteer efforts, has ended. But in a last-minute surprise, Lynn Tennefoss of National Audubon generously intervened on our behalf and arranged that we may continue the project. Funding will continue, perhaps for as long as another two years.

Now we need to find someone to coordinate the volunteer contribution to this project. The work will run for one or two years, includes a stipend, and involves organizing (seeing that volunteers are trained and also reimbursed for travel) and taking part in volunteer work on the Long Beach peninsula. It involves handling equipment, as well as typing and submitting survey forms, writing newsletter articles and a final report each year.

Contact Alan at 360-484-7119 or [birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org) if you would like to contribute to this project.



## What is happening at Mount St. Helens?

By Charlotte Persons, *President*

Three issues regarding our beloved mountain have been making the news lately. Here is a quick update on how things stood at mid-April—and actions you can take to influence decisions.

### No Fishing at Spirit Lake – For This Year

Forty lakes in the National Monument are open to sport fishing, but Spirit Lake is not. There are paths to it for hikers. However, fishing is not allowed so that scientific research can continue about the recovery of the ecosystem from the 1980 eruption. Nevertheless, rainbow trout were illegally introduced in the 1980's. These fish have grown to enormous size because there are no predators. For years fishing organizations have pressured the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to open the site to fishing before the population of trout increases and they become normal-sized.

This year the sport fishermen came close to succeeding. Ed Orcutt, R- 19<sup>th</sup> District, and Brian Blake, D – 18<sup>th</sup> District, sponsored a bill that would have allowed fishermen to compete in a lottery for limited fishing slots at the lake. Despite testimony against House Bill 1838 from scientists and environmentalists, it passed 56 to 2, partly because of the allure of the lottery money. Fortunately, Sen. Ken Jacobsen, D-46<sup>th</sup> District in Seattle, chairman of the Senate's Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee, did not let the Senate version out of committee. Jacobsen said he weighed science and recreation in his decision, and science came out ahead. *As this issue is bound to come up again, contact your state representatives to express your opinion.*

### National Monument or Park?

Last year Congressman Brian Baird appointed a task force to consider whether Mt. St. Helens National Monument should become a National Park and to make its recommendations to Congress. On March 2 the Mt. St. Helens Advisory Committee issued draft recommendations—see <http://www.skamaniacounty.org/SHAC/Press/SHACPress030309.pdf>. Their decision was for the Monument to stay under the management of the U.S. Forest Service but to ask that it receive increased funding from Congress in a special budget line item. This solution is still questioned by some citizens. The problem with a budget line item is that it must be renewed each year. Also, national parks enjoy international status and development protections that national monuments do not.

Positive recommendations from the committee were:

- to maintain the restricted areas for natural recovery from the 1980 eruption;
- to support scientific study of those areas;
- to dedicate the Monument's scientist position to science;
- to expand science funding;
- to encourage partnerships with volunteer organizations;
- to build no new roads within the monument; and
- to protect habit.

Other recommendations were not so positive for protection of habitat:

- to expand roads around the monument and
- to increase development in and around the monument.

*You can email your comments on the draft recommendations before May 7, 2009, to [SHACComments@co.skamania.wa.us](mailto:SHACComments@co.skamania.wa.us)*

### High Lakes – Still Up for Sale

The last issue of the *Whistler* described a number of initiatives to preserve public access for hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping in this beautiful area on the northwest border of Mt. St. Helens. Weyerhaeuser sold the 4,100 acre property in 2007 to a developer who has since sold about a quarter of it. The group of sportsmen and environmentalists who wish to preserve public access to Mount St. Helens is still looking for funds to buy the remaining property. However, both state and non-profit funds are scarce this year because of the recession. Our best bet for protecting the High Lakes is to have the area incorporated into the Mt. St. Helens National Monument. This would not require an act of Congress, but would mean a special funding request. You can contact representatives and senators to ask for this consideration. *The most important action you can take RIGHT NOW is to ask that incorporation of the High Lakes into the monument be part of the recommendations of the Mt. St. Helens Advisory Committee to Congress. Send your comments to the committee before May 7, 2009, to [SHACComments@co.skamania.wa.us](mailto:SHACComments@co.skamania.wa.us)*

*Donations needed...*

Gifford Pinchot Task Force has set up a separate budget line for public donations—these show community support and move to the top of the pile all grant applications for funding to buy the property. WHAS was the first organization to donate to this fund. *Please consider sending a few dollars.* Many small donations will add up to a clear demonstration of local citizens' wish to preserve this land. Your donation will be tax-deductible. Also, if you designate your donation for the High Lakes, it will be returned if there is no purchase of the property. *You can send your donation to: The Gifford Pinchot Task Force, 917 SW Oak Street, Suite 410, Portland, OR 97205.*

*Of special interest to Cowlitz County residents...*

On March 31 at a Cowlitz County Commissioners' town meeting in Toutle, the county's lawyer said that the county would be open to lawsuits if it adopted a proposed moratorium on building permits on all land outside fire protection districts. This moratorium would have protected the High Lakes area as well as other areas of good wildlife habitat. However, moratoriums require that the county show that it is making progress in decisions about land use. Unfortunately, the county has not yet begun revising its Comprehensive Plan and consequent planning for zoning outside of cities' limits.

The good news is that the commissioners said that this year the county will hold community forums on revising the Comprehensive Plan, the first revision in thirty years. Also, the county is still recruiting for a person to guide the Comprehensive Plan revision, despite pressure on the budget from the recession. Sixty percent of the land in Cowlitz County is commercial forest timberland, but it is being converted to development a piece at a time, and there is no zoning to promote good planning. *Contact commissioners to support the Comprehensive Plan process, and plan to attend the community forums as they are announced.*

## Recent Activities

**Herps Egg-Mass Surveys at Nelson Creek**

By Ann Kastberg

On March 15 ten brave volunteers battled the elements in search of amphibian egg masses. Despite the rain, wind and even hail, 296 red-legged frog egg masses were found, as well as four NW salamander egg masses and over 20 each chorus frog and long-toed salamander egg masses. The survey had been scheduled for March 8; however, it was postponed to March 15 due to the cold, snowy weather on March 8. Even though March 15 was cold and damp, the survey could not be delayed because many of the egg masses were hatching out.

**Thanks to the local canoe club, the entirety of Jack's Slough was surveyed. A hearty group in waders surveyed the east end of Section 4 behind the barns. Columbia Land Trust and Audubon are extremely grateful to these folks.**

The prior year egg mass survey had eight volunteers, who found 299 red-legged frog egg masses, 33 NW salamander, 319 chorus frog and 25 long-toed salamander egg masses. In 2008 we also surveyed the ditches, where 73 red-legged frog and 12 NW salamander egg masses were located.

We had about the same number of red-legged frog egg masses each year. The difference in the NW salamanders is likely due to the poor visibility into the water this year. The egg masses were probably there; we just couldn't see them. The decrease in chorus frog egg masses is surprising. It will be interesting to see if the numbers are up next year. Did we just miss them? Was the breeding late because of the cold weather? There were lots of reports of chorus frogs singing.

Here's a chart comparing the same survey areas:

		Red-Legged Frog	NW Salamander	Chorus Frog	Long-toed Salamander
2008, Mar 12	Slough	226	20	1	19
	Section 4	46	1	315	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>25</b>
2009, Mar 15	Slough	159	2	5	0
	Section 4	137	2	28	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>

**May 2010 have better weather!**



Pictures provided by Ann and Russ Kastberg



## Volunteer Activities

**NELSON CREEK RESTORATION**

There are two volunteer activities coming up at the Nelson Creek Restoration Project in May:

**Building Demolition: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 9am.**

Columbia Land Trust (CLT), Miller Hull (architectural firm in Seattle), and WHAS will be deconstructing some of the old, unsafe buildings at the Nelson Creek property. Lunch will be provided by CLT. Call Russ Kastberg at 360-274-7051 or 360-430-5541, or e-mail at [rkastberg@cni.net](mailto:rkastberg@cni.net) to let him know you are coming. More details as to what to bring (tools, etc) will be provided. This should be a fun time working with a group of people that annually take on a volunteer project with CLT as a team building activity.

**Plant Identification Survey: Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10am.**

We will be conducting plant identification surveys at the Nelson Creek property. The surveys include locating sample plots, identifying plants, taking photos, etc. The goal is to establish a base line plant census on the site to be used to document vegetation changes as future restoration activities are accomplished. Contact Russ Kastberg at 360-274-7091 or 360-430-5541, or e-mail at [rkastberg@cni.net](mailto:rkastberg@cni.net) to let him know you are coming.



## Birding Bits

By Russ Koppendrayner

While the phrase “good birding day” seems redundant and the phrase “bad birding day” sounds like an oxymoron, some birding days can be special to the point of seeming magical. I spent one such day on Valentines Day of this year, on the Waterville Plateau, which lies just to the east of Chelan, Washington. Fellow WHAS members Tom Finn, Ann Kahle, and myself had driven to Wenatchee Friday after work, in order to get a dawn start in search of the Northern Hawk Owl that was being reported near Mansfield, as well as other winter specialties from this area. Saturday morning, we came atop the plateau in the early morning with a light snow falling. This weather would continue throughout most of the day. Stopping to check out a couple of hovering Rough-legged Hawks slowed us a little, but the intersection where the hawk owl was last seen remained our clear objective and we were soon there. The abandoned farmstead with its trees and other perches available for this day light hunting owl had no birds that we could find. Leaving this spot, we began to search the nearby grid of roads in this flat sagebrush and wheat country, paying special attention to power lines and poles or anything else that could be used as a perch for a rodent-hunting owl. We soon came across a number of other birders all having the same success as ourselves.

Giving up for the time, we went into the community of Mansfield to check the trees for any birds they attracted. In



no time, we'd found a home with a bird feeding system with lots of action which we were enjoying, when suddenly a Cooper's Hawk flew in and drove everything else to cover, but we enjoyed the great looks of the hawk. A later return to the same spot was rewarded with views of an American Tree Sparrow, our first winter specialty of eastern

Washington. Heading back out of town, we chose to do a little more checking for the Northern Hawk Owl before going down the Bridgeport Hill to the Chief Joseph Dam area. As we approached the deserted farm, we saw a blob in the limbs of a leafless deciduous tree. Pay dirt!!! A cell phone call to friends we'd met in Mansfield and soon there were twenty plus birders enjoying this magnificent sixteen inch owl with long pointed tail and a surprisingly

distinctive black and white pattern on the sides of the head. The bird totally ignored our group as it alertly watched for prey while we “oohed and aahed” and went from scope to scope looking for the best views.

## Spring 2009 ACOW -- Bird Conservation along the Pacific Flyway

The spring ACOW, this year organized by Audubon Spokane, will take place between May 1 and May 3 2009 in Leavenworth WA.

For further information check the Spokane Audubon website at <http://www.spokaneaudubon.org>



### Wenas Campout, May 22-25, 2009

For over three decades Audubon families have been camping over Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Campground. Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an important Bird Area and has been assured of protective status. The free, primitive campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

There are wonderful field trips scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our new approved firepit device each evening. We do singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Please visit Webmaster Michael Hobbs Wenas Website to see Hazel Wolf's familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout: <http://www.wenasaudubon.org>.

There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos. For people who don't do websites, contact Helen and she'll send you printed information. Bring friends, family, and join Audubon at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days as you want to stay - May 23-26, 2009! If you need more info contact Helen Engle, [hengle@iinet.com](mailto:hengle@iinet.com), 253-564-3112.

Finally continuing toward the pool behind Chief Joseph Dam, we'd just started down the Bridgeport Hill, when Tom called out that he'd seen two large birds perched in a roadside brushy area. Turning around, we were rewarded with stellar looks at a couple of Sharp-tailed Grouse before they flew off down the slope. Upon reaching the dam, we proceeded to a parking lot/fishing spot above the dam to check out the waterfowl assembled there, hoping to find a Yellow-billed Loon that had been foraging there. We soon found two Common Loons and a third loon that appeared lighter in color and the bill looked yellow. But they were far out on the reservoir and it was snowing harder so we couldn't be positive. Patience was rewarded when the birds came closer and the snow let up so we could see all the field marks of the Yellow-billed Loon.

During the afternoon, we went to the Bridgeport Bar. While there, we found Western Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Shrike, and hundreds of flyover Bohemian Waxwings. Returning to the Waterville Plateau via Central Ferry Road, we found Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee. Searching Horned Lark flocks for Snow Bunting or Lapland Longspur proved fruitless on the return to the top, but we did get a second helping of Northern Hawk Owl, including having it fly right at us to perch on a telephone pole above our heads. What an experience! We finished the day with sightings of a couple Prairie Falcons. With less than fifty species seen, it was amazing how many of them were special, making it feel like a magical day.

Some great birding to you.

## Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

**Mark Obmascik's *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, Free Press; NY, NY, 2004**, is both fun and funny. With the mastery developed from his years writing for the *Denver Post*, he turns this story of three men, competing for the highest number of species sighted in a single year into a bird-watching Odyssey. Other than allowing their obsession with birds to consume their lives for a solid year, these three characters have nearly nothing in common. The Colorado corporate CEO was exploring retirement. The newly divorced Ohio nuclear power computer expert was hoping to heal a broken heart. The hard-hitting New Jersey industrial contractor looked to break his own earlier record by going over the 700 mark.

Like any good mystery, it grips this reader and tempts her to cheat, by turning to the end before it's time. Don't. The fun is in the storytelling. Obmascik weaves this wild, unreasonable competition together with bird history, science, and a wry, engaging humor:

*He parked at the Wild Coyote Bar and Grill and walked south toward the roar of jets just across the water at Vancouver International Airport. At the Arthur Laing Highway Bridge, rush-hour traffic streamed up and over the causeway.*

*Komito ducked beneath the bridge. He was in the last lair of the crested myna.*

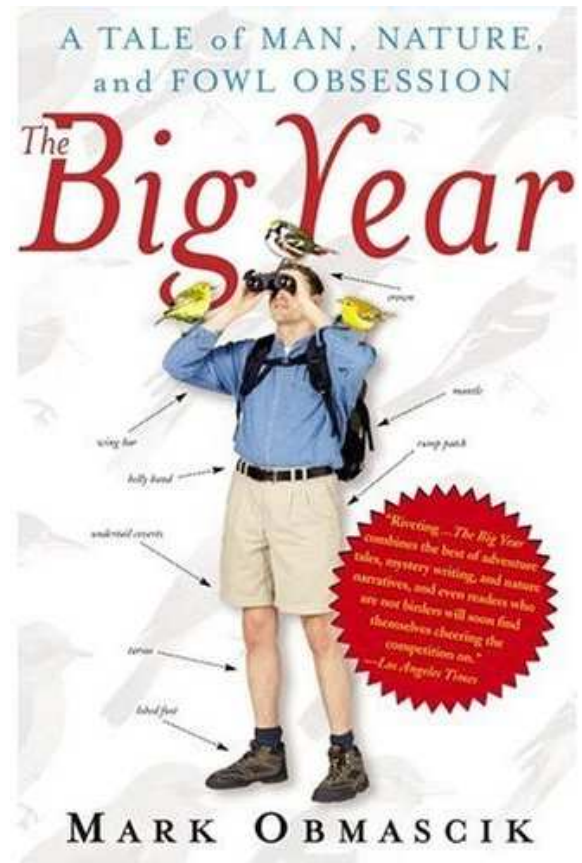
*One hundred and one years earlier, legend had it, a careless sailor or customs official had opened the cage of some captive crested mynas from South China and set them free on a dock in Vancouver. The birds went forth and multiplied. And multiplied.*

.....

*The starling—pushy, pesty, and promiscuous—now ruled the streets. By the time Komito got here, fewer than fifty breeding pairs of crested mynas survived in North America. Vancouver was its Alamo. Though there were steady reports of crested mynas going Dumpster-diving for French fries at local McDonald's, the Arthur Laing Highway Bridge was supposed to be the myna's last, best remaining roost.*

.....

*He checked the girders, the posts, the sign brackets, but the myna was missing. Maybe the Golden Arches were a better bet, after all. He did not relish the thought of chumming for any bird with a Happy Meal.*



I will tell you this: Komito found his bird on the bridge, but I won't tell you the rest of the story — enjoy.

*Carolyn Norred is a retired English instructor who lives in Longview, WA, and enjoys both birds and books.*

## Endangered Species Day

Endangered Species Day is a national celebration of America's commitment to protecting our country's wildlife, fish and plants on the brink of extinction.

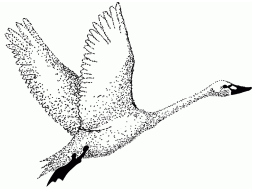
Celebrate Endangered Species Day on Friday, May 15th, 2009!

Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for conservation organizations, community groups, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, parks, wildlife refuges, agencies, schools, libraries, museums, and businesses to educate the public about the importance of protecting endangered species. Millions of Americans across the country will celebrate Endangered Species Day and learn about the everyday actions that people can take to help protect our nation's disappearing wildlife and last remaining wild lands.

Get involved at [www.EndangeredSpeciesDay.org](http://www.EndangeredSpeciesDay.org)

The Endangered Species Coalition has developed the Endangered Species Day toolkit for people planning events and activities, including tips, factsheets, stickers and other materials. Check out the Endangered Species Day toolkit at [http://www.stopextinction.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause\\_dir\\_custom&cause\\_id=1704&page=daykit](http://www.stopextinction.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_custom&cause_id=1704&page=daykit).

Information for teachers and other educators educational materials including lesson plans and handouts are available at [http://www.stopextinction.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause\\_dir\\_custom&cause\\_id=1704&page=educational](http://www.stopextinction.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_custom&cause_id=1704&page=educational).



**Willapa Hills Audubon Society  
PO Box 399  
Longview, WA 98632**

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he *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Spartina surveys in Willapa Bay**

Join Willapa Hill's Audubon member Carlo Abbruzzese (of the Department of Natural Resources) on an annual paddling excursion to survey for invasive Spartina. Surveys, in coordination with Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, will be on the Niawiakum River Saturday May 23rd and on the Bone River June 6th. You can participate either or both days. Surveys will be conducted by canoe and/or kayak. Contact Carlo at 360-575-5056 ([carlo.abbruzzese@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:carlo.abbruzzese@dnr.wa.gov)) or Ken at (360)754-7371 ([odianaken@olywa.net](mailto:odianaken@olywa.net)) for more information.

## **Upcoming WHAS Field Trips**

**Mark Your Calendar**

### **Coal Creek Slough Paddle**

**Sunday, May 17th, 2009.** Willapa Hills Audubon, in conjunction with the Southwest Washington Canoe Club, will float Coal Creek Slough, just west of Longview, in search of birds. We hope to spot returning migrants, waterfowl, and possibly shorebirds. This will be about a 3 hour float with no facility stops available. Last year, we had rain, so dress accordingly. The starting time will depend on tides, so for details and to reserve a spot, please call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email [jgreen2317@aol.com](mailto:jgreen2317@aol.com). Participants will need their own water craft and personal flotation devise (life vest).

*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)**