

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

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Osprey in Nest

Image: USFWS

WHAS Annual Bird-A-Thon

By Larry Brandt, Co-President

Get your lifetime bird list out! Put on some good walking shoes and pack a hardy lunch! Contact the Bird-A-Thon team or go out alone. Collect pledges from friends, co-workers (those who always hit you up with cookies or candy for their kids fundraiser), neighbors and relatives to help raise funds for our yearly project.

WHAS Bird-A-Thon will happen from sunrise to sunset on May 15th or you can pick your own date and go out alone. If you prefer not to go on the bird count you can still collect donations and help fund this year's project.

Count as many bird species as you can and fill out the form -- see page 5 or check the Willapa Hills Audubon web site at <http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org> -- or create your own form and mail or hand deliver to us with your donations.

This year is an important fundraiser. All collected donations will go toward a native plant demonstration project, which we hope will be located at Lake Sacajewea in Longview.

So, how many species will the team count? 50? 75? 100? More? Donations can be per species or just an amount representing the team's effort. What a great way to get out and experience nature, add to your lifetime bird list and help with an important conservation project.

Contact the Bird-A-Thon coordinator, Larry Brandt, phone 360.200.4580 or e-mail lbrandt@centurytel.net, for information and to sign onto the project. Space will be limited on the dawn-to-dusk team so collect your pledges early and get signed on.

Leadership Change of WHAS Board

By Steve Puddicombe

Readers of the Whistler will note this month a changing of the guard in the leadership of WHAS. Board president Charlotte Persons, in her second two-year term, reluctantly stepped down at a board meeting held after the annual banquet, due to increasing constraints in her position as a professor of English at Lower Columbia College. Steve Glucoft and Larry Brandt have stepped up and been approved by the board to share responsibilities as co-presidents until the regular election process begins early next year. Steve has been on the board for nearly ten years, most recently as vice-president and also handling our numerous media notices of WHAS events, and is also a member of the conservation and finance committees; Larry came to the board fairly recently as an at-large director, first, and then as secretary. Both have also ably represented WHAS by giving testimony at hearings and with their consistent good sense concerning policy, and principled support for birds and other wildlife.

Thanks, Charlotte

The board wishes to acknowledge and express its gratitude to Charlotte for her energetic dedication as president over the last few years. These have been hallmark years for the chapter as many faces on the board have changed and our charter constitution and policies have been adapted to better suit the times.

Continued on page 4 : Leadership...

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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 schedule changes due to weather or other issues for WHAS programs and field trips.

) **Not active at this time -- To allow members to announce and discuss items of general interest.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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*
- ☐ ~~Add me to your discussion email list**~~

WHAS Board Meeting

The last WHAS board meeting was held on March 19th. Here are some issues discussed at the meeting:

Science & Stewardship Committee

Adopting this committee will remove task chairs from the Board of Directors. Therefore, Alan Richards has become a Director-at-Large. Members discussed the Board structure after change to Constitution and Bylaws. Major tasks for the new committee are budgeting and coordination. This proposed change was voted on by membership at the Annual Meeting.

The **treasurer report** was accepted.

Board discussed possible ways to use **Green Innovation funding** for education, conservation, community awareness, etc. Green Innovation Grants are partnership participation mandatory. Several discussions suggested work at Wake Robin in conjunction with Longview Public schools or grade school conservation education programs. A task force was appointed to investigate. Contact the Larry Brandt if you would like to participate.

Board discussed conservation elements that might be inserted into the **Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan**.

Board discussed the **WHAS Birdathon** on May 15th (one-day only). See page one for more info.

Receive the *Whistler* by email

Willapa Hills Audubon Society now offers delivery of the *Willapa Whistler* newsletter by email. The "*eWhistler*" offers enhanced viewing with color photos and graphics as well as live links to referenced websites and emails. You will receive an email announcing the availability of the *Whistler* on the WHAS website with a link to the webpage that will open in your default web browser. You can read the *Whistler* online or save it to your computer for later browsing. Archived *Whistlers* are available on the WHAS website. Send your full name and e-mail address to our Membership Chair, Gloria Nichols at jgnt@comcast.net.

A Father's Day message

The following was downloaded from USFWS publication "Friends Newswire".

ANIMAL DADS OF NOTE

Good dads make the going easier. So with Father's Day being celebrated on June 19, it's a great time to look at the animal kingdom, where some dads' flair for parenting can make the difference between life and death. Here are a few devoted animal dads and some National Wildlife Refuges where they live.

RED FOX (VULPES VULPES)

The male of the species makes an attentive father, especially in the first month after birth. While females nurse the cubs, the fathers carry hunting duties and bring food to the den every four to six hours. But fathers do more than deliver the bacon, they play with their pups, too. As they get older and stronger he teaches them to hunt and hide from predators. Meal service ends when the pups reach three months in age.

Some refuges where you may spot him: Seatuck Refuge, NY; Innoko Refuge Alaska; Missisquoi Refuge, Vermont; Stewart B. McKinney Refuge, Connecticut.

GREAT HORNED OWL (BUBO VIRGINIANUS)

While his mate warms their clutch of eggs, the male owl catches small rodents to feed both him and her. Once the eggs hatch, he hunts for and feeds the whole family.

Some refuges where you can look for him: Ridgefield, Julia Butler, Nisqually Refuges all in WA, Target Refuge, NY; Pea Island Refuge, NC; Bosque Refuge, NM; Aransas Refuge, TX; Tallahatchie Refuge, MS.

RUDDY DUCK (OXYURA JAMAICENSIS)

Unlike many of his duck buddies who spend their time courting and playing the field, the male ruddy duck shares responsibility for his young.

Some refuges where you may spot him: Ridgefield and Nisqually Refuges in Washington, Malheur Refuge, Oregon; San Pablo Bay Refuge, California; Pea Island Refuge, North Carolina; Montezuma Refuge, New York; Muleshoe Refuge, Texas.

GREATER FLAMINGO (PHOENICOPTERUS ROSEUS)

Flamingos tend to mate for life and the male helps feather his mate's nest. He then takes turns with her sitting on the egg. When their single egg hatches he shares childrearing duties.

Some refuges where you may spot him: Aransas Refuge, Texas; Archie Carr Refuge, Florida; Arthur M. Loxahatchee Refuge, Florida; Cedar Keys Refuge, Florida; Caloosahatchee Refuge, Florida.

BARKING TREE FROG (HYLA GRATIOSA)

The male makes a distinctive contribution to parenting. He sticks close by until the eggs are hatched preventing them from drying out by dousing them with urine.

Some refuges where you may spot him: Carolina Sandhills Refuge, South Carolina; Pocosin Lakes Refuge, North Carolina; Santee Refuge, South Carolina.

For more information on any listed refuge, visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.

(Editor note: Thanks to Bea Harrison for submitting the article. Local refuges added.)



Great Horned Owl

Image: USFWS

WHAS Backyard Bird Calendar

The WHAS Backyard Bird Calendar committee is looking for good quality photos for our 2012 Backyard Bird Calendar. After last year's successful first attempt, this year we want to print more and sell them at larger venues. If you are a bird photographer or know a bird photographer we are looking for photos of birds to include either in the larger photo that will go above each month or smaller photos that we'll include in the calendar portion.

Please contact Carlo Abbruzzese at puffbird@juno.com if you'd like to contribute photos or would like to help distribute and sell calendars.

WENAS Campout

You are invited to the **2011** Wenas campout from **May 27-30**. For 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 now been assured of protective status by WA Dept. of Natural Resources. The "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. More info at:

<http://www.wenasaudubon.org>

WHAS Backyard Bird Committee Update

By Larry Turner

The 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count said that over 92,000 reports were submitted nationwide, from more than 60,000 participants. 596 species were identified. European starlings (alas) were the most abundant, followed by American robins. A surprising increase in Evening grosbeaks was reported, and American crows increased for the first time in many years.

This was my first participation, so I cannot compare with previous years, but I certainly did notice more Evening grosbeaks in Rose Valley than I had expected. Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more details.

We are still looking for more backyard bird lists to put on the WHAS website. Please submit to lturner2@aol.com or email with questions.

Leadership Change... Continued from page one

By Steve Puddicombe

Charlotte's tenure has also seen a quantitative uptick of conservation issues within our territory—LNG, proposed mining near Mt. St. Helens, coal-fired power generation and export proposals, to name just a few—and she has been at the forefront of nearly all of them. Willapa Hills Audubon now has a well-deserved reputation among conservation groups throughout the state as an active organization whose effectiveness belies its relatively small membership.

While no one individual can ever be said to represent our outfit—and we have a chapter and board filled by dedicated people with a wide array of knowledge and expertise—it can be said that Charlotte attended nearly all of the state Audubon conventions and functions, as well as numerous state conservation committee meetings, issue hearings, work parties and other functions, always offering to car-pool with her fuel-efficient Prius. Fearless by phone or forum, she never hesitated to call the membership in search of someone to fill a board vacancy, or to testify at a hearing. She also managed to negotiate her way through labyrinthine and often impassioned discussions with a characteristically firm and fair insistence, and always with courtesy and aplomb. She is now a certified cat herder.

The inner-workings of board business isn't exactly scintillating activity, but there is the satisfaction of progress and a job well-done. We thank Charlotte for her role in that progress, for her hard work and enthusiasm in behalf of WHAS.

Charlotte will continue on the board as secretary, the position she held before becoming president, and as co-chair of the conservation committee.

Spring Plant Sale

Cowlitz County Master Gardeners will host their spring plant sale on Saturday, May 7, in the Floral Building at the Cowlitz County Fair Grounds. Ornamental and garden plants will be available, as well as native plants for attracting wildlife. The sale will be held from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Western Field Ornithologists Conference:

Besides a program of speakers and workshops, it will offer field trips to southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org

Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival

Discover the natural beauty of North Central Washington state on May 12-15, 2011 (Third weekend in May, annually.) All the field trips are led by experts and professionals in their field. Learn about the wide variety of migratory birds that come there for a brief, but important part of their year: the breeding season. For more details go to <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com>

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. Contact Carolyn Norred or send your contributions or suggestions to

WHAS – Poems, PO Box 399, Longview WA 98632 or email newsletter@willapahillsaudubon.org

Littlefoot, 19, [This is the bird hour]
by Charles Wright

19

This is the bird hour,
peony blossoms falling bigger than wren hearts
On the cutting border's railroad ties,
Sparrows and other feathery things
Homing from one hedge to the next,
late May, gnat-floating evening.

Is love stronger than unlove?

Only the unloved know.
And the mockingbird, whose heart is cloned and colorless.

And who's this tiny chirper,
lost in the loose leaves of the weeping cherry tree?

His song is not more than three feet off the ground, and
singular,
And going nowhere.
Listen. It sounds a lot like you, hermane.
It sounds like me.

Annual Willapa Hills Audubon Society Bird-A-Thon

Your Name: _____

May 15, 2011

Pledge Name <small>Business Sponsors are named and thanked in the July or September 2011 issue of Whistler, reaching 200 households.</small>	Business	Phone/E-mail <small>Optional if they pay on the spot.</small>	PLEDGE		Amount collected
			per species	lump sum	

Bird-A-Thon form – check page one for the full story.

Tid Bits

By John Green

"The Oldest Known Bird"

The oldest known U.S. wild bird is a conservative 60 years of age. The bird, a Laysan albatross named Wisdom, was spotted a many weeks ago with a chick, by a US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

The Bird has sported and worn out 5 bird bands since she was first banded by a US Geological Survey scientist in 1956 as she incubated an egg. In 1956, Wisdom was estimated to be at least 5 years old then since this is the earliest age at which these birds breed, though they more typically breed at 8 or 9 after an involved courtship lasting several years. This means, of course, that Wisdom is likely to be in her early sixties.

Albatross are remarkable fliers who travel thousands of miles on wind currents without ever flapping their wings. They do this by angling their 6-foot wings to adjust for wind currents and varying air speeds above the water. In the non-breeding part of the year, albatross do not touch land - the birds, scientists believe, often even sleep while flying over the ocean.

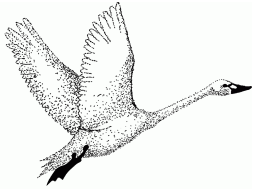
After the recent tsunami, Midway Atoll was inundated, killing thousands of nesting seabirds and their chicks. Wisdom survived the devastation.

How to receive the WHAS Alert/Announcement e-mails

Willapa Hills Audubon has set up an email list to facilitate occasional communications with members. The purpose of this list is to announce or send reminders about programs, field trips and mission-related actions that may interest members. It is also used to help communicate last minute schedule changes for programs or activities due to weather closures or other issues.

This email list is designed to convey information only, and will not permit discussion, as the goal will be to keep communications brief and occasional.

If you are not receiving these occasional emails yet and would like to be included, please send an email to whasalert@gmail.com with "subscribe" in the subject line and we will add your email address. Of course, we will not share your contact information with anyone.



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
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Longview, WA 98632

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

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

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

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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.

Tuesday, May 10-7:00pm:

Willapa Hills Audubon Society and the Lower Columbia College Biology Society welcome noted outdoor author Craig Romano to LCC's Wollenberg Auditorium. He'll be talking about "Day Hiking in the Columbia Gorge", his newest book, and the observations he's made while hiking extensively throughout the Gorge. The program is free and all are welcome.

Sunday May 22: 8:00am to 12:00pm:

Join Willapa Hills Audubon for a birding trip through Coal Creek Slough via watercraft. We plan for a 1/2 day trip beginning at 8:00 AM and finishing around 12:00. Participants should dress for all possible weather conditions and bring snacks and water. You must provide your own water transportation and personal flotation device. Pre-trip sign up is required by emailing (jgreen2317@aol.com) or calling (360-575-9238).

Saturday May 14 and May 21:

Taxidermy workshop at Lower Columbia College; Bob Stone, retired taxidermist, has graciously offered to lead a taxidermy workshop. Participants will learn how to prepare study skins and parts of birds and mammals. Bob will share the finer points of taxidermy as it applies to more technical mounts. The May 14 workshop will last two hours (1-3 pm) and consist of Bob discussing the meaty details of the taxidermy process. The following Saturday will be a hands-on workshop lasting 4+ hours (10-2) where participants will have the opportunity to prepare a specimen. Requirement for the second workshop is attending the first. Both events will take place at LCC in the Biology Lab, room Main 202. Contact Louis LaPierre llapierre@lowercolumbia.edu or Bob Arnsdorf at 360.414.2728 for more info.

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