

WILLAPA WHISTLER

A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Volume 38 // Issue 2

March /April 2012



Get up close and personal with birds of prey on April 3rd. Learn what makes a falcon so fast and an owl such a good night hunter. See the last page for more!

Suzy Whittey 12-17-11

Suzy Whittey and her group saw and photographed one of six peregrine falcons seen at the Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count. This peregrine was banded as a juvenile in Ocean Shores, WA on October 30, 2009. Her name/number is P4. See page 3 for more details.

-- Image Suzy Whittey

Annual WHAS Meeting and Banquet with Program:

"Still Walking: Bigfoot in the Dark Divide and Beyond."

The Annual WHAS meeting and banquet will be held on Saturday March, 10th for members only, followed by a dessert social and program that are open to the public and will feature our special guest. Speaker Dr. Robert Michael Pyle, a renowned naturalist and conservation biologist (and WHAS member), will be talking about his experiences searching for Big Foot in the Washington Cascades in his presentation, "*Still Walking: Bigfoot in the Dark Divide and Beyond.*" Dr. Robert Michael Pyle will also be available for signing books you can obtain after the program. The schedule will be:

- 6:00 PM Dinner, meeting, with silent auction ongoing
- 7:00 PM Dessert, silent auction milling
- 7:15 PM Program "*Still Walking: Bigfoot in the Dark Divide and Beyond.*"

This year's banquet will be catered by *Judy's Restaurant and Catering*. The menu includes: Chicken & Roasted Garlic Fettuccine, Vegetable Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Tossed Green Salad, Focaccia Bread, Dessert Assortment including Fruit, and Beverages. If the food alone doesn't compel you to attend the dinner, the silent auction, and the many door prizes should entice.

Please help us plan the food by confirming your attendance to Gloria Nichols at (360-636-3793) or by email at jgnt@comcast.net. The deadline for your dinner commitment is Saturday, March 3. Also if you are vegetarian-only, please advise Gloria of your preference. A recommended \$10 donation will be collected at dinner. We hope you plan to join us for this stellar event at the Cowlitz PUD Auditorium at 961 12th Avenue in Longview WA.

A Message to Our National Members

By Margaret Green

Please join the National Audubon Society (NAS) members who annually send an additional \$20 to support our local chapter, Willapa Hills Audubon (WHAS). Although NAS does provide limited funds to the chapter, this \$20 is a very significant contribution toward conservation work and education programs to benefit our local communities. Recently, we donated funds to the Longview School District to transport students to Wake Robin Nature Training Center.

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.

Silent Auction Items for our Annual Meeting

Do you have any bird- or nature-themed articles that you would like to donate to a Silent Auction? It will be part of the Annual Dinner/Meeting on March 10. Proceeds from the auction will help WHAS in its conservation activities. You can get a tax credit for the value of any items you donate.

To donate an item, call Charlotte Persons at 360-431-1174 or email her at cpersons@yahoo.com.

In this issue of the Whistler:

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Amphibian Surveys Report;
- 8 WHAS Programs and Field Trips;

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.

----- -Clip

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**~~

OFFICERS

Co-President: **Larry Brandt**
360-200-4580 lbrandt@centurytel.net

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

Secretary: **Charlotte Persons**
360-431-1174 secretary@willapahillsaudubon.org

Treasurer: **Pamela Wright**
360-560-3772 treasurer@willapahillsaudubon.org

Director at Large: **Russ Kastberg**
360-430-5541 director-a@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

Director at Large: **Alan Richards**
360-484-7119 birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

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

Program Chair: **Bob Arnsdorf**
360-414-2728 programs@willapahillsaudubon.org

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/History Chair: **Betty Mayfield**
503-556-6841 finance@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

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

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

Bird Counts: **Alan Richards**
360-484-7119 birdcounts@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OTHER

WHAS Board Meeting

The next WHAS Board Meeting will be held on February 28, 2012. Please check the website or contact one of our Co-Presidents for more information.

Olympic BirdFest 2012

Sequim, Washington, March 30-April 1, 2012

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2012 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, March 30 through April 1. The stage is set for quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready: Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a gala banquet. More info: <http://olympicbirdfest.org/festival.php>

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Grays Harbor, Washington, May 4 - 6, 2012

The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is timed to match the annual migration of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds as they pause at the Grays Harbor estuary to feed and rest before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic. Enjoy Field Trips, Lectures, a Birder's Bazaar, Keynote Speaker Richard Crossley, a Banquet Dinner and Auction and other.

More info: <http://shorebirdfestival.com/>

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Othello Washington, March 23-25, 2012

13th Annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

More info: <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

2011 Christmas Bird Count Results



One of two Snowy Owls found by the Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count. Image: Shawn Schmelzer

Leadbetter Point CBC Results

By Larry Brandt

Many thanks to everyone that participated in the 2011 Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count on December 17. For those of you not familiar with Leadbetter Point, it is a 15-mile radius circle generally in the area around Willapa Bay. This year, we had a total of 34 participants working in five sectors and two participants monitoring feeders.

We had good weather with temperatures ranging from freezing to about 50-degrees. Winds were not a factor. This sounds like perfect birding weather, right? It was!

In total, we identified 110 species with about half being water fowl and shore birds and the other half upland species. The least found group was owls with only 2 snowy owls being spotted. The most common species was Dunlin with 29,950 spotted. Second was Northern Pintail duck at 16,141. No rare species were seen but species unusual to the Willapa Bay area in December included Western Scrub Jay (5), Brown Pelican (1) and Orange-Crowned Warbler (30).

Most participants were from the Longview-Kelso-Castle Rock area with a few from Long Beach-Ilwaco. Others came from Seattle, Portland and Alaska to be day-long participants. We had four new people turn out and we hope they make the CBC an annual event.

Wahkiakum CBC Results

By Andrew Emlen

The fourteenth annual Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count was held Dec 30, 2011. The 21 participants found 115 count day species, equalling our highest number, plus three additional count week species: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Swamp Sparrow. American Bittern was a species new to the count.

New high counts were set for several water bird species: Cackling Goose 8302, Mallard 1423, White Winged Scoter 154 (previous high was 23), Common Loon 12, and Horned Grebe 32. We also set new high marks for Bald Eagle 59, and Wilson's Snipe 65. We have also documented the appearance, spread and establishment of Eurasian Collared Doves over the last three years, from 10 on Puget Island in 2009 to 72 found in many locations throughout the circle in 2011.

For the first time in the history of this count circle, Greater Scaup was not the most abundant bird. Last year we had more Greater Scaup than any other North American count with over 22,000, and our high is 27,165. In 2011 we counted 6615, making it less abundant than Cackling Goose. Hopefully the storms just pushed some of the big flocks up the river.

30th Cowlitz Columbia Christmas Bird Count

By Bob Reistroffer

On January 1, 2012 the 30th 3CBC was held as part of Audubon's 112th Christmas Bird Count. Twenty-Two field observers and 3 feeder watchers joined and spent the sunny day finding 17,771 birds and a record 105 species. The temperature ranged from 36° to 48°. This was the nicest day we have had in many years.

We had several high counts: 139 Great Blue Heron, 558 Tundra Swan, 60 Trumpeter Swan, 165 Mourning Dove, 105 Eurasian Collared-Dove, 3 Barn Owl, 2 Short-eared Owl, 21 Anna's Hummingbird, 16 Northern Harrier, 47 Red-tailed Hawk, 20 Bald Eagle, 33 American kestrel, 60 Northern Flicker, 123 Western Scrub Jay, 8 Brown Creeper, 19 Marsh Wren, 18 Bewick's Wren, 472 American Robin, 15 Lincoln's Sparrow, 6



"Watchers" Mike Kaufman, left, and Tom Finn
Image: Shawn Schmelzer

White-throated Sparrow, and 71 American Gold Finch.

Seen during count week: 3 Ruddy Duck, 1 Brown Pelican, 1 Oregon Dark-eyed Junco (Pied), and 1 Evening Grosbeak. New to the count this year: 21 Black-bellied Plover and 3 Thayer's Gull.

Thank you all for a great job and a great potluck. Hope to see you all next year on Tuesday, Jan 1, 2013.

Backyard Birding Notes

Article compiled by **Larry Turner** with information from the *Washington Fish and Wildlife newsletter*

Winter bird feeding makes us feel good

When the weather outside is frightful, many of us find feeding birds quite delightful. But does it help the birds? Studies show that only small pockets of bird populations occasionally benefit from supplemental feeding under extreme and persistent weather conditions. Most birds do not depend solely on feeders in their foraging, many obtaining only up to one-fifth of their nutrition at feeders. Feeding can't replace natural habitat needed for winter cover and spring nesting and rearing.

The best way to help any wild birds survive a severe winter is to maintain high-quality habitat plantings year-round. Even in well-functioning natural ecosystems, however, some animals succumb during winter months. The winter season has always kept wildlife populations in balance with available habitat.

Another way to help wild animals in winter is to avoid disturbing them. Animals must conserve their energy to survive winter conditions, and human disturbance causes them to move about.

The main benefit of wildlife feeding is that it provides a direct, intimate view of wild animals for more than 50 million Americans who provide backyard feeding stations of some kind.

Most bird feeding does neither significant good nor significant damage. It's something we do for ourselves, they say, and because it has a lot of educational value. Especially for children, up close and personal encounters with birds can and do trigger lifelong interest in and compassion for them, a desire to learn more, and ultimately the "bigger picture" understanding of the need to maintain and enhance year-round wildlife habitat.

WDFW recommends that if you choose to feed birds, please keep the following in mind:

- Use tube feeders for birds to reduce accumulations of droppings that can spread disease; if you use platform feeders, provide only a day's worth of seed at a time.
- Clean and disinfect feeders at least once a month with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts warm water; rinse and dry disinfected feeders thoroughly before re-filling.
- Pick up spilled food or waste from the ground at least once a week.
- Discard feed that is wet, looks or smells moldy, has fungus on it or has been contaminated by rodents.
- Locate feeders where there is no immediate cover for cats to wait in ambush, but close enough to cover to allow birds to escape natural predators like hawks.



It's in the Air



The Environmental Protection Agency is poised to take a bite out of carbon pollution through proposed standards for new coal-fired power plants. With the unlovely name of New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), this draft rule is nevertheless our next best shot at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing climate change.

Leading scientists warn that climate change poses a grave threat to the world's biodiversity. With legislative climate solutions mired in bipartisan gridlock in Congress, this new draft standard offers a way to make progress on one of the biggest polluters of carbon pollution - coal-fired power plants. If this rule goes well, dirty, older plants are next in line for pollution reductions.

Getting comments in to EPA to support this standard is a top priority for Audubon. You can help by contacting the EPA. We will have some postcards at our annual dinner. Let's get an avalanche of support into EPA to reduce carbon pollution!

Great Backyard Bird Count 2012

By now the 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count is over, although the results are not available in time to include them here. Stay tuned for the next Whistler. We hope you participated and that you enjoyed it. The information collected is valuable for assessing bird populations over time. If you participated and reported results, whether at home or out in the field, please let me know at Lturner2@aol.com. We would like to get an idea of how many people in WHAS are helping with this worthy and fun endeavor.

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 21 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.

We need 2 people at the booth: one to help with the bird feeders and another one to talk with the adults and share information. There will be some handouts and possibly some of our mounted birds. I will set everything up and be working at the booth most of day but **NEED HELP!!!**

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 or email preistrof@aol.com

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

By Darrel Whipple

The 34th annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey sponsored by WHAS turned up a total of 8 Bald Eagles –5 adults and 3 sub-adults – on a rainy January 21st. The total includes 2 sub-adult individuals that were seen with an adult performing aerial antics over an object of interest on the ground near the Cowlitz River.

Delighted observers were David Miller, Rachel Perry and Darrel Whipple. Darrel has led this January survey for WHAS since 1979. The vehicle route that is followed roughly covers the Cowlitz River corridor downstream of the I-5 bridge,

and the Columbia River between Longview and the Kalama marina.

Thirty-three avian species besides Bald Eagles were noted incidentally during the six-hour outing, including a pair of Peregrine Falcons chasing Rock Pigeons at the Kalama industrial area mitigation site. Robins numbered 131, Common Goldeneyes 20, and Red-tailed Hawks 7. One Great Egret made the tally and – surprise! – only one Great Blue Heron was observed. A bonus to the count was a herd of fifteen elk.

This outing was rescheduled from its original date of January 15th due to inclement weather.

Lake Sacajawea Native Plant Project

By Jody Wiltfong

Editors Note: Jody Wiltfong is currently a junior at Mark Morris High School and has been an active scout for 8 years as a member of troop 516. He enjoys his involvement in band, swim team and water polo and is supported in this project by his family, fellow scouts, as well as the WHAS volunteers. Jody (orange cap) is leading the efforts and shares his thoughts on the project so far:

Last year at about this time I started looking for an Eagle Scout project, and through a few phone calls I got into contact with John Green who was looking to do a project that fit perfectly with what I had in mind. After meeting with him a couple of times we chose an area at the lake that had great potential and started to plan the project in such a way that it would not only help the environment at Lake Sacajawea but also help our community.

Little did we know at that time that planning would be one of the easiest steps. After we came up with what we thought was a great plan, we presented it to the Parks Department and they approved it right off the bat. However, since the Lake is an historic site, we needed approval from the Historic Preservation Commission, and this is when things got tougher.

For the sake of those reading this I will skip all of the



Image provided by Jodi Wiltfong

boring details; the hours of working and reworking with our great team, and the frustrations. We had to meet with the Commission 4 times, and since they only met once a month it took us over 4 months to get their approval.

We did finally get it with a spruced up presentation, a long process of discussion and sharing ideas between our team and the board members, for a final plan that supported the Commission's vision for the Lake. We have just recently finished stage one of the beautification project and the site already looks so much better.

Thank you to all of the donors who helped fund this project among them Home Depot and Swanson's Lawn and Bark. A huge special thanks goes to Scott Edwards of Watershed Garden Works for his help with the design and all the plant donations, and WHAS members John and Margaret Green, Carlo Abbruzzese, Louis LaPierre, Pam Wright, my family and all of the volunteers and supporters who have helped me with this project so far.

I have had so much support and help that even when I felt like giving it up and when the going got tough our team got going and I cannot wait to see the project when it is all accomplished and hope our example drives others to follow in our footsteps.

The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can read the *Willapa Whistler* online on our website? To see the **pictures in color** or in case you missed a previous issue go to <http://willapahillsaudubon.org> and just click on the *Whistler* in the top menu. If you own a smart phone just scan the QR code on the right. It takes you directly to our newsletter website.



Get the Lead Out: Lead Poisoning of a Loon

Based on information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Editor's Note: While this article comes from Minnesota, this same issue threatens loons and swans in our own state. Common Loons are very much at risk as are Trumpeter Swans throughout Washington and Oregon.

It started when the DNR received a report on a loon that had not migrated. It was the day after Thanksgiving, and the lake was freezing. The loon was keeping a small hole open in the ice on Big Jay Gould Lake near Cohasset in Itasca County. Members of the Cohasset Fire Department used the "ice angel" air boat and wet suits to retrieve the loon. Early the next morning, the loon was taken to the Garrison Animal Hospital and was diagnosed with lead poisoning. An x-ray showed that a lead jig-head was in its stomach, and blood tests indicated a blood lead level of 2.28 parts per million (ppm). By the time the lead jig was removed, it was too late. The lead had already poisoned the bird. It died. Lead poisoning occurs in birds of blood levels greater than 0.2 ppm and birds usually die with levels greater than 1.2 ppm.

One lead sinker can poison a loon.

A loon with lead poisoning behaves strangely. It may fly poorly, have crash landings or stagger onto the ground. The loon begins to gasp, tremble, and its wings droop as lead is carried through its blood stream. As the poisoning worsens, it eats very little and hides among aquatic vegetation, staying behind when other birds migrate. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two or three weeks after eating the lead. It takes only one lead sinker or jig to poison a loon.

How poisoning happens.

Loons routinely swallow small pieces of gravel on the bottom of lakes. The gravel passes to their stomach and helps in digestion, like grit in the stomach of a chicken. When fishing sinkers are lost during fishing and drop to the bottom of the lake, they can be picked up by loons, or waterfowl like ducks and Trumpeter Swans. Some loons also swallow fishing jigs when they mistake them for minnows. As the lead sinker or jig is exposed to the acids of the stomach and to other pebbles, lead enters the bird's system and slowly poisons the bird.

You can help.

Give nontoxic sinkers a try. The less lead we release into the environment, the better off our wildlife will be. Next time you clean out your tackle box and make a list of replacement tackle to purchase for the upcoming fishing season, be sure to include

nontoxic fishing sinkers. Currently there are many non-toxic sinker alternatives on the market made out of bismuth, tin, stainless steel, tungsten, ceramic, recycled glass and natural granite. Because weights of the different materials vary, you'll have to experiment to find what works best for your type of fishing. Ask your local bait and tackle store to stock environmentally friendly unleaded sinkers. Two examples are

Gremlin Green and Bullet Weights. Some stores have made a special effort to increase the variety and supply of non-lead sinkers. Never throw old tackle into the water or on shore. Consider lead sinkers and jigs as toxic material and dispose of them at proper household hazardous waste collection sites. To insure that future generations hear the call of the loon we need to do more to safeguard their environment. **Even if you don't fish, share this information with**

family and friends who do. Just tell them to "Get the lead out!"

A conservation dilemma

In 2003 Minnesota's loon population was about 12,000 birds, and the numbers appear stable. There are, however, some potential threats to the long-term survival and status of loon populations. One of those is the threat posed by lead fishing sinkers and jigs. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency did a study to examine loons for high mercury concentrations. The mercury study incidentally discovered that loons are dying from lead poisoning. Out of 101 dead loons that were analyzed, a total of seven died of lead poisoning and an equal number died of fish line entanglement. The fish line problem is fairly straightforward and can be reduced by urging anglers to avoid disposing of waste fish line in our lakes. The lead poisoning problem is more complex.

Biologists have studied the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on water birds and birds of prey since the 1970s. In areas where loons breed, lead poisoning from sinkers or jigs may account for up to 50 percent of the dead adult loons found by researchers. Between 1980 and 1996, the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota reported lead poisoning in 138 of 650 eagles they treated. From 1996-99, 43

additional eagles were affected by lead toxicity. Most times the source of the lead cannot be detected, as the birds have cast the material out of their system. The Raptor Center reports there has been no reduction in lead poisoning of bald eagles despite recent restrictions on lead gunshot for hunting waterfowl.



Common Loon - Image: WDFW

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.

Our board will be stronger if many of you endorse the volunteers running for the WHAS board.

Ballots are due in the WHAS mailbox by Thursday March 1.

Book Review

By Carolyn Norred

The Poets Guide To The Birds;

Edited by Judith Kitchen & Ted Kooser;
Anhinga Press; 2009

Sometimes it's not the thing itself but the view we take of it that interests us. Poets, Judith Kitchen and Ted Kooser, have combined their insights to edit an anthology of bird poems that provide us with a multitude of views on the birds. *The Poets Guide To The Birds* is a delightful collection of contemporary, mostly American, poets who hail from every state of the union, with a Canadian and a Greek included for good measure. Kitchen and Kooser have included in this work an Habitat and Range guide that lists by region the poet's latest addresses. The index includes, however, the caveat that poets, like birds, can be migratory creatures.

As I understand it, the Audubon Society, itself, is the result of a way of seeing birds that was quite changed from how Audubon himself looked at them. In this collection we read of the woodpecker as



“...Mafioso in a tweed vest/ red-crested whale of the sky.” (Sandra Alcosser); the phoebe “...Postcard with the message crossed out/all picture...” (Pamela Alexander); the cardinal “...one more version of come/as you are, perched on/an owl-faced parking meter.”; the hummingbird “...like the bulb/ when its light goes out,/ he left a blush/on the air he had occupied.” (Rick Barot) and starlings that “...mottled and spread like hysterical vines./ Flashed and wished themselves into the sky.” (David Biespiel).

This collection contains roughly 200 poems with both figurative and literal descriptions of these sky-creatures. Currently, my Peterson Field Guide of Western Birds is one of the most tattered, and treasured, books on my shelf (just the facts, Mam), but *The Poets Guide To The Birds* is such a delight that it will now have a place of honor on that shelf right beside Peterson's.

2012 Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys Kick Off

By Russ and Ann Kastberg

On January 28th, the WHAS-sponsored citizen science amphibian egg-mass survey project kicked-off its third season. After 25 people participated in training at Lower Columbia College,

seven volunteers surveyed Indian Jack Slough (IJS) near Cathlamet, finding 269 red-legged frog and 17 long-toed salamander egg masses. Russ and Ann Kastberg first surveyed IJS under the Clark County Citizen Science Amphibian Survey Project in 2008. Surveys focus on three pond areas this year. The “Red Barn” site, our baseline survey site, consists of an old creek channel and an open wetland. In addition, we

are surveying two new areas the landowner, Columbia Land Trust, has restored and re-shaped into ponds. It was a successful and fun day, and a good start to a promising season!!

Repeat surveys at IJS as well as Germany Creek, the Mint Farm, Walt's Pond (Kalama), Willow Grove, Castle Rock Sports Complex Ponds and the Structured Learning Center pond provide very valuable data on amphibian breeding locations and

how the populations change over years. If a grant application submitted by Dr. Marc Hayes is approved, our data and survey sites will become part of a larger study called, “Maintaining

Stillwater-Breeding

Amphibians in Urbanizing Landscapes.”

WHAS gives a huge thank you to returning survey leaders: Tom Finn, Dan Friesz, Lynn Simpson, Maxine Nieman, Mara McGrath, and Russ Kastberg; and partners: City of Longview, Longview School District, 4-H Youth projects, City of Castle Rock, and Columbia Land Trust, who support surveys, many on their properties.

We need your help, as we conduct a

minimum of three surveys at each site each year. You are welcome to join us whether you made the training or not, as more eyes help us find the masses more easily. You can train in the field!

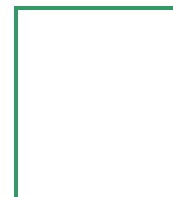
Please join us. Give Ann Kastberg a call at 360-431-1129 or email her at acwikman@cni.net.



WHAS Citizen-Science Volunteers survey the old creek channel of the “Red Barn” site at Indian Jack Slough (IJS). Inset: Red-legged frog egg mass found at IJS



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 10: Take part in our popular *BI-MONTHLY Lake Sacajawea Bird Walk:*

Lake Sacajawea Park has a species list of 130 birds and is featured on The Great Washington Birding Trail. The Longview Parks and Recreation Department is joining Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS) in sponsoring a bi-monthly bird walk in 2012. The walk will be held the second Saturday of odd months. Participants should meet at Hemlock Square near the playground at 8:00 AM. No prior signup necessary. Bring binoculars for better viewing, though the leader will provide views through a spotting scope, and be sure to dress for the weather. The walks will last approx. 1 to 1 ½ hour.

Saturday, March 10: Annual Dinner Meeting at Cowlitz PUD Auditorium in Longview; Check the front page for more details. The Willapa Hills Audubon Society welcomes naturalist and author **Robert Pyle** for its annual dinner meeting. The title of his talk will be "**Still Walking: Bigfoot in the Dark Divide and Beyond.**" This will be a discussion of his book on the search for Sasquatch in Washington and some exciting developments that have occurred since its publication.

Tuesday, April 3: Lower Columbia College, Longview, Student Center, 6:30pm.

Please join Willapa Hills Audubon Society and the Lower Columbia College Biological Society at the live educational bird presentation by the Portland Audubon Society. You'll have a chance to see an owl, falcons, a turkey vulture and a raven up close and personal and learn all about them, the important role of birds in our environment and how we can all help conserve them.

May/June Programs

Check the website and the *Whistler* for some exiting programs coming in May and June, including our popular kids program.

May/June Field Trips

We will be having a spring field trip to look for song birds. Date and time to be announced. Check the website and the next *Whistler*.

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