

# WILLAPA WHISTLER

*A Publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society*

**Volume 51 // Issue 4**

**Winter 2025**



*American Bittern – Image provided by John Green*

## Flocking Together

**By Steve Puddicombe**

### Willapa Hills 50 Anniversary

In September WHAS celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of our chapter. We had a wonderful gathering of people at the Skamokawa Grange: past and present members of WHAS, and even two folks who heard about the event and joined up. We had a field trip hosted by Russ Koppendrayner and Becky Kent; a concert of “birdy” songs with Andrew Emlen and Kyleen Austin and capped off with a talk by writer and naturalist Bob Pyle.

Most important, we were able to honor several original founders and others that made a big difference in making WHAS a real player in conservation, citizen science, and promoting birding in the lower Columbia region (see summer issue of the Whistler). Special thanks to board members Gloria Nichols, Sherry Hawkins and Ann Cordero for their vital help.

### Election Next Year

2026 is our biennial election year. We need to elect all our officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and

Treasurer) and a full board. Currently, we have vacancies to fill at Vice-President and Secretary, and we always welcome folks ready to volunteer on the board. Elsewhere in this issue you’ll find information for submitting nominations (including for yourself!). For more information email: [president@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:president@willapahillsaudubon.org).

Our 50-year gathering was a reminder of how respected and valued WHAS is in the region, as conservationists and in science. We currently have several requests for assistance, including one to help identify and then monitor wetlands for the rail and heron species that hunt fish and frogs. And we lend our good name to environmental initiatives, besides spearheading our own.

We are also reminded that to maintain our chapter we must have a dedicated board and keep up enough activities to be viable. As the smallest chapter in Washington state, we are fortunate to have an endowment that frees us from endless fundraising and allows us to focus on activities, but we **still** need new folks and vital energy to propel us forward the next 50 years.

## Christmas Bird Counts 2025

This is a fun event for seasoned and new-be birders alike.

- **Leadbetter (Pacific County)** –  
Saturday, December 20th  
The count circle is centered in Willapa Bay 2 miles E-NE from Oysterville and includes most of the Long Beach peninsula north of about the middle of Loomis Lake, and also the east side of the bay from Bay Center south to around the middle fork of the Nemah River. The count has been held (almost) continuously since 1978.  
Contact Robert Sudar at [fallcreek734@gmail.com](mailto:fallcreek734@gmail.com) for more info
- **Wahkiakum** –  
Monday, December 29th  
Contact Andrew Emlen at 360-795-8009 to learn more
- **Cowlitz-Columbia**  
Sunday, December 28th

*...continued on page two*

So, this is a call for people to step up where they can and volunteer to help WHAS move forward. Please contact us at [president@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:president@willapahillsaudubon.org)

### Also in this issue of the Whistler:

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- Conservation Field-work Opportunity Coming Soon!
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- WHAS Officer Nominations 2026
- Indian Jack Slough, Memories and Update
- Suzanne Louise Whittey Obituary
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## Support our mission, join WHAS today!

**Membership renewals are due March 1** of each year. If you prefer to pay by credit or debit card use our online form on our website at <https://www.willapahillsaudubon.org/join-renew-donate>

Membership includes 4 issues of our newsletter *WILLAPA WHISTLER* annually. Gift Memberships are available online.

### Check type of Membership:

- ☐ Individual Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$25 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Family Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$35 check for annual membership)
- ☐ Lifetime Chapter Membership **WHAS** (\$750 check for lifetime membership)

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

Please make your check payable to:

WILLAPA HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY or WHAS and mail to:

**WHAS-Membership, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Thank you for supporting your local Audubon chapter -- Willapa Hills Audubon Society!

We will not share your contact information with anyone. For membership in National Audubon Society visit <https://www.audubon.org/> Chapter# Y14

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



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### OFFICERS

**President:** Steve Puddicombe  
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**Vice-President:** vacant

**Secretary:** Cathy Kendall  
 408- 205-3058 clkendall95@comcast.net  
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**Director at Large:** John Gross  
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**Director at Large:** Darrel Whipple  
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**Director at Large:** Ann Cordero  
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**Director at Large:** Robert Sudar  
 360-423-1780 fallcreek734@gmail.com

**Director at Large:** Carolyn Norred  
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**Conservation:** Larry Brandt  
 360-200-4580 conservation@willapahillsaudubon.org

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

**Program:** vacant  
 for questions contact President Steve Puddicombe

**Field Trip:** vacant

**Membership:** vacant

**Finance:** vacant

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

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

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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### OTHER

Please indicate any **new** information:

I prefer you contact me by:

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Mail

**Other options:**(Add your email below)

- ☐ I prefer to receive the *WHISTLER* by email
- ☐ Contact me about volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Add me to your announcement email list\*
- ☐ **I would like to support the work of Willapa Hills Audubon Society. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### ...continued from page one: Cowlitz Columbia CBC

Our count is centered just south of Rainier, OR in the Columbia River and includes the cities of Longview, Kelso, Rainier, and the old Trojan Nuclear Power Plant. We will have 8 or 9 areas within the circle that will be counted. We can always use Feeder Watchers who live within the count circle. Contact Becky Kent 360-560-0001 or [beckykt@comcast.net](mailto:beckykt@comcast.net) if you are interested.

### Othello Sandhill Crane Festival 2026

The 2026 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival is scheduled to be held for **March 20-22, 2026**. Celebrate their return and discover why nearly 35,000 sandhill cranes choose Othello.

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

### Olympic BirdFest 2026

**April 16-19, 2026**

The North Olympic Peninsula, a strip of prairie and forest between million-acre Olympic National Park and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, is widely known as a great place for bird watching.

The April dates of Olympic BirdFest are timed to overlap wintering birds such as Harlequin and Long tailed ducks, songbirds, and seabirds with spring migration.

More info and BirdFest registration at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

## WHAS 50th Anniversary Celebration

By Charlotte Persons



On a warm and sunny Saturday, September 13, 2025, WHAS held a celebration of our 50th anniversary at Skamokawa Grange. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and catch up with old friends while consuming the tasty sandwiches supplied by Skamakowa's Duck Inn--and the huge 50th anniversary cake. Many attendees came early to take advantage of local attractions, such as birding at Vista Park or visiting the weekly flea market and the museum exhibits at Redmen Hall.

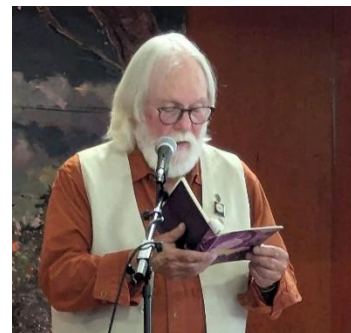
However, the three star events were provided by WHAS members: bird and nature songs played and sung by Andrew Emlen and Kyleen Austin; reflections by naturalist Dr. Robert Michael Pyle on WHAS' conservation history; and a field trip to Julia Butler Hanson Wildlife Refuge led by Becky Kent and Russ Koppendrayner. On the field trip we saw a total of 22 bird species--raptors, passerines



new watery habitat is the result of the decision about 13 years ago to abandon part of the former loop road to incursions by the Columbia River.

About 40 people attended the anniversary celebration, some coming from as far away as the San Juan Islands, Seattle, Moses Lake, and Portland. Our current president Steve Puddicombe welcomed attendees and highlighted many attendees who now or in the past have been important in the work of the chapter. Four original officers attended: Rick Davis (first president), Bill Smith (first vice president), Darrel Whipple (first secretary) and Judy Davis (first newsletter editor). Other attendees important to the early days of the chapter were Bob Pyle, Susan Saul, Katharine Tellgvin, Stephen Bachhuber, Catherine and Martin Seybold, and Tom and Jillian Johnson.

Darrel Whipple was kind enough to send his recollection of some important participants in WHAS in its early years: Leaders of the fledgling group were Phil and Shirley Lutz, at whose home the group often met, and Harold and Ruth Deery. Sarah (Deatherine) Koss was on the board in the first several years. Susan Saul joined at the first membership meeting and served as president a few years later. Steve and Irene Bachhuber and Bob Pyle joined sometime in the 70s.



For a summary of the chapter's history, see page 4 of the Summer 2025 Issue of The Whistler.

*Images provided by Steve Puddicombe and Ludger Woehrmann*



and water birds. Especially interesting to many field trip attendees was walking to a part of the refuge that a decade ago was dry fields and is now wetlands filled with water birds. This

## Cool Adaptations of Pacific Northwest Winter Ducks

By David Slater

Northwest winter ducks survive and thrive through a suite of morphological, physiological, and behavioral adaptations that allow them to exploit cold, turbulent, and highly productive coastal ecosystems.

**Waterproofing and Thermal Regulation.** Ducks wintering in the Pacific Northwest must withstand cold rain, strong winds, and near-freezing seawater. Their most essential adaptation is plumage architecture. A dense layer of down traps insulating air, while the outer contour feathers interlock to form a hydrophobic shield. These feathers are coated with preen-gland oils that maintain waterproofing despite constant rainfall—an advantage I wish I had on some CBC bird counts.

Diving ducks such as scoters and scaup show more specialized feather structure. Their plumage traps less air than that of dabbling ducks, which limits buoyancy and allows deeper, more efficient dives. Combined with high metabolic rates and excellent vasoconstriction control, diving ducks maintain stable core temperatures even when repeatedly submerged in 44°F water. A countercurrent heat-exchange system in the legs further enhances cold tolerance. Warm arterial blood traveling toward the feet transfers heat to cooler venous blood returning to the body. This maintains foot tissues above freezing while minimizing heat loss. Ducks may look like they are calmly loafing on ice, but they are executing a complex thermodynamic trick.

**Bill Specialization and Feeding.** Winter ducks exhibit remarkable variation in bill structure, each form representing a feeding niche.

Dabbling ducks—including Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Mallard, and Green-winged Teal—employ lamellae: fine, comb-like structures that filter seeds, algae, and small invertebrates from water and soft sediment. Their feeding resembles a biological sieve mechanism more than a bite-and-chew system. The Northern Shoveler represents the extreme of this design, possessing a broadened spatulate bill with a very high density of lamellae. This allows efficient exploitation of zooplankton and suspended particles. Flocks frequently engage in cooperative circling behavior (“pinwheeling”), which increases local particle density, though the ducks do not appear to patent the technique.

Fish-eating mergansers exhibit the opposite strategy: narrow, elongated bills armed with sharp, keratinized serrations that grip slippery prey underwater. Red-breasted Mergansers in particular, are adapted for high-speed pursuit in marine environments, combining streamlined bodies with rapid foot-propelled acceleration.

Sea ducks such as Surf, Black, and White-winged Scoters show further specialization. Their bills are heavily reinforced, and they rely on exceptionally muscular gizzards to crush intact clams and mussels.

**Diving Performance.** Diving ducks display structural modifications that enhance underwater foraging efficiency. Legs positioned far back on the body enable powerful rear-driven propulsion, albeit at the cost of awkward mobility on land. The center of mass, streamlined torso, and dense feathering contribute to reduced drag.

Scaup commonly dive to 20 feet, and scoters often exceed 30 feet, especially when targeting benthic mollusk beds. These species regulate buoyancy by compressing plumage and exhaling before descent.

**Vision Adaptations.** Ducks have evolved visual systems that cope effectively with the low-light conditions, high turbidity, and fog that we have in the Pacific Northwest. Their eyes contain flexible lenses and corneas capable of shifting curvature for clear focusing in both air and water, an unusual ability among birds.

Mergansers possess particularly acute underwater vision, with high densities of retinal photoreceptors tuned to detect motion in dim environments. When diving, a translucent nictitating membrane acts as a protective lens, slightly altering refractive properties while still permitting adequate visual resolution.

Color perception is also advanced. Ducks are tetrachromatic and can detect ultraviolet wavelengths. UV reflectance in wintering populations may aid in flock cohesion and species recognition in low-contrast coastal light. Species such as goldeneyes produce distinctive wing-whistle sounds in flight, which may help maintain group structure during flock movements. The sound is produced aerodynamically by modified primary feathers, rather than through vocalization.

**Navigation.** Wintering ducks in the Pacific Northwest demonstrate strong navigational abilities despite highly variable weather. Their orientation systems incorporate geomagnetic reception, celestial cues, polarized light patterns, and (in some species) olfactory information. Evidence from banding data shows remarkable site fidelity: Surf Scoters, for instance, often return to the same foraging reefs in successive winters, even when alternative habitat is available nearby.

Some dabbling ducks, particularly Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintail, undertake long-distance migrations that can involve nonstop flights of more than 1,000 miles prior to reaching Puget Sound or Willapa Bay. These movements require efficient fuel deposition, aerodynamic flight adaptations, and the capacity to exploit seasonal tailwinds. The arrival of large mixed flocks in December reflects synchronized timing influenced by continental weather systems, photoperiod, and wetland hydrology.

**Foraging Ecology.** The winter ecology of Pacific Northwest ducks is shaped by estuarine productivity, tidal cycles, and storm-driven disturbance. Dabbling ducks often exploit shallow flood zones, eelgrass edges, and tidal flats exposed during low tides. Many species show flexibility in diet: for example, American Wigeon supplement plant material with invertebrates during winter, despite their grazing reputation. Sea ducks concentrate in nearshore zones with abundant benthic prey. Surf Scoters track seasonal pulses of mussel and clam availability, shifting locations when storm activity alters substrate structure.

**Conclusion.** The combination of waterproofing, thermoregulation, specialized feeding structures, diving capacity, sensory tuning, and navigational precision makes Northwest wintering ducks among the most capable wintering birds in the region.

## Breeding Bird Survey

By Robert Sudar

The Abernathy Route of the Breeding Bird Survey was completed this year on June 8th. The survey consists of 50 three-minute stops along a 24.5-mile course. The route starts 5 miles up Abernathy Road (west of Longview) and proceeds back down the road to Ocean Beach Highway, west about one mile to Oak Point Road, then north to connect with the Old Cathlamet Highway. It follows the Old Highway over the foothills and eventually into the Elochoman River valley near the lower fish hatchery. From there it proceeds west to Foster Road, then north and west across Nelson Creek and onto Risk Road, until again reaching Ocean Beach Highway. It goes north a short distance and then onto Brooks Slough Road and eventually reaches the final count station across from the boat launch east of Skamokawa.

The count is managed by the US Geological Survey. This particular route was started in the 1970s and was completed each year by Darrell Whipple until about 10 years ago, when it was "gifted" to Lisa Sudar. It begins at 4:50 AM and should be completed within 5 hours, though it usually takes a little longer. If it starts to rain during the count it needs to stop and restarted (at 4:50AM!) again another day. At each three-minute stop, the "counter" listens and looks for as many species as possible, and the number of each species. The data is recorded at each stop by the "assistant", which has been me for about the last 20 years. My note-taking is much more dependable than

my bird identification by songs and calls, though I can help Lisa spot species during what can be a hectic three minutes. Weather is also recorded at the start and the finish of the survey.

This year was a fairly typical count, with decent weather and not too much traffic to interfere with listening and looking. The count at each stop this year ranged from as few as 2 species to as many as 9, but in the past, there has been the rare zero and the less rare 10 or more. We heard and saw a total of 54 species, which is fairly typical but very good considering we didn't see any ducks along the way. There aren't a lot of wetland areas, but mallards and a few other species have been noted in the past. And there is always some variation from year to year. It's an intimidating count at 4:50 in the morning but it really goes quite smoothly and it's a good contrast to Christmas Bird Counts, focusing instead on migratory species that winter elsewhere and is a good reason to learn their songs.

There was some concern that the surveys wouldn't be held in 2025 because of layoffs and budget cuts throughout governmental agencies that focus on wildlife and the environment, but the information packets eventually did show up. However, there is still uncertainty about the future of this program. Hopefully the funding will be found to continue it. As an excellent example of citizen science and a source of important data on bird populations, it deserves support. Please do so if you get the chance!

### Breeding Bird Survey Species List, 2025

Belted Kingfisher	Black-headed Grosbeak
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Barn Swallow
Common Raven	Canada Jay
Steller's Jay	Townsend's Warbler
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Hermit Warbler
Violet-green Swallow	Mourning Dove
Pacific Wren	Willow Flycatcher
Swainson's Thrush	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Robin	European Starling
Song Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow
Spotted Towhee	Eurasian-collared Dove
Macgillivray's Warbler	Bald Eagle
Western Tanager	American Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-winged Blackbird
American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Tree Swallow	Common Yellowthroat
Cedar Waxwing	Yellow Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler	Turkey Vulture
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Scrub Jay
Band-tailed Pigeon	Purple Martin
Warbling Vireo	Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Black Phoebe
Wilson's Warbler	Downy Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Rufous Hummingbird
Osprey	Great Blue Heron
Red-shafted Flicker	Red-breasted Sapsucker
Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown Creeper	

This is one of the birding packs that WHAS has been distributing to local libraries for budding birders. Ann Cordero, Sherry Hawkins, Gloria Nichols and Larry Brandt have spearheaded this educational outreach program. —  
Image by Sherry Hawkins



## Conservation Field-work Opportunity Coming Soon!

By Steve Puddicombe

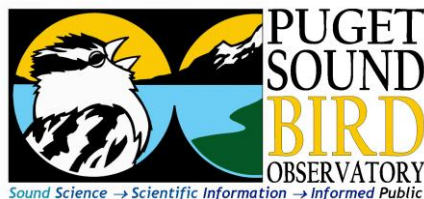
### Partnership With Puget Sound Bird Observatory to Monitor Marsh Birds

Cynthia Easterson, with the Puget Sound Bird Observatory, has contacted WHAS in hopes of extending their current program monitoring elusive marsh birds like the Sora and American Bittern. Stay tuned via alert list or at our website for an on-line meeting to learn more. In the meantime, here is more information and an introductory invitation to participate from the PSBO president Cynthia Easterson:



**What's hiding in the cattails?** The Puget Sound Bird Observatory (PSBO) invites you to step into the quiet mystery of our marshes and help monitor elusive wading bird species.

Back in 2016, inspired by conversations at a Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture meeting, PSBO launched a bold regional monitoring project to solve a puzzle: Why were some of our most iconic marsh birds—like the American Bittern, Sora, and Virginia Rail—so rarely recorded in traditional bird surveys? Were they truly scarce, or simply overlooked?



To find out, PSBO began surveying a handful of wetlands. Today, this effort has grown into one of the largest volunteer-driven monitoring programs in the Pacific Northwest, spanning 200+ wetlands across 11 counties. At the heart of this success is a dedicated community of volunteer field surveyors—people like you who bring curiosity, patience, and a love of nature to the marsh. Now, we are expanding into Southwest Washington and would love your help in joining our monitoring team.

### Why Your Role Matters

- These elusive birds are indicators of wetland health.
- Because they are so hard to detect, they often slip through the cracks of large-scale surveys like the Breeding Bird Survey or Christmas Bird Count.
- PSBO's habitat-specific approach is filling critical data gaps, and the growing dataset is already shaping management strategies for these species.

**How You Can Get Involved** – Watch for additional information regarding the program date or reach out to [c\\_easterson@pugetsoundbirds.org](mailto:c_easterson@pugetsoundbirds.org) for additional information.

Whether you are a seasoned birder or simply marsh-curious, volunteering as a wetland bird surveyor is a chance to:

- Contribute to cutting-edge conservation science.
- Explore hidden corners of the Pacific Northwest.
- Join a welcoming community of bird enthusiasts and conservationists.

Every survey adds a vital piece to the puzzle of wetland conservation. By lending your eyes and ears, you help ensure these secretive species are not overlooked—and that these elusive wetland species thrive across our landscapes.

### Ongoing Citizen Science at home "Project Feeder Watch"

Here is a fun opportunity to participate in bird related research, from the comfort of your home.

The **Project Feeder Watch with Cornell Bird Laboratory** will go from November until April, but one can sign up until the end of February. It runs for 21 weeks and involves counting birds at one's feeders or just in a bird-friendly habitat that one has provided. This is usually done in backyards. Birds are counted for two days every week or two (at least 5 days between a pair of counting days), and the results are submitted to the Laboratory for research and analysis. There is a \$18 participation fee which covers some materials.

You do not have to spend a lot of time watching; some people do it before and after work, or 5 minutes each hour, or whatever structure works for you.

For more information and to sign up, visit <https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

### WHAS Officer Nominations 2026

Would you enjoy having a direct voice in running Willapa Hills Audubon Society? WHAS has begun the nominations process for the March 2026 election for members of its volunteer board of directors. The next two-year term for elected officers will begin after elections and the annual meeting, in late March. Besides their particular tasks and projects, board members attend four quarterly board meetings each year—other board business is conducted by email. We welcome members to run for any position or to nominate other members. Director-at-Large are particularly good positions for newcomers to the board. The board would benefit from any number of talents and interests, and we hope you will contribute yours.

Please make your nominations by January 10 to fulfill the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws and to be included in the March Whistler.

Cut out this form and mail it to WHAS Election, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632 or send your nomination to [election@willapahillsaudubon.org](mailto:election@willapahillsaudubon.org)

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Director-at-Large: \_\_\_\_\_

## Indian Jack Slough, Memories and Update

By Ann Kastberg

Go back a decade or two and you might remember canoeing in the rain on Nelson Creek while looking for amphibian egg masses or maybe installing Purple Martin gourds. We WHAS members from back then had some good times surveying for birds, plants and amphibians, and helping the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) manage and make decisions about the restoration of the land purchased across State Route 4 from Julia Butler Hanson Wildlife Refuge.

Under a grey sky Natural Area Manager, Katie Pierson, greeted us with a friendly smile, despite our 75-pound doodle bounding toward her. Our backs and knees are no longer amenable to wetland planting, Russ and I hadn't registered, requiring self-introductions. We told Katie WHAS and our history with Nelson Creek. Katie shared what's happening at IJS, while a couple dozen volunteers, coming from as far away as Newport and Astoria, buried wapato bulbs in the mud and bullrush on the banks.

The buildings, including the red barn, are all gone. The bat box Andrew Emlen installed is still there, as are the bird boxes and Purple Martin gourds that John Green and Russell Kastberg worked on. CLT manages the boxes, taking them down, cleaning and storing them for winter, and then putting them back up in spring. CLT has done some amphibian egg mass surveys. Red-legged frogs and northwestern salamanders continue to breed in abundance. While there, chorus frogs sang from the wetlands and uplands.



Nothing warms the heart quite like a trudge in a swamp. Oh, excuse me. A visit to a wetland. So, when we heard that CLT was having a volunteer native planting day on Saturday, November 15, Russ and I decided to make a visit to see how the good work started by the joint efforts of WHAS and Columbia Land Trust (CLT) continue. The Nelson Creek property is now called Indian Jack Slough (IJS). The straight ditches have been excavated into curved channels and ponds. There's less reed canary grass; it's being drowned in places. Healthy plantings of willow, wild rose and Sitka spruce will shade out still more reed canary grass.

A couple of long-toed salamanders made appearances, much to our delight.

We can be proud of our start at Nelson Creek and pleased that progress continues at Indian Jack Slough.



## Suzanne Louise Whittey Obituary

By Robert Sudar

Suzy Whittey passed away on October 29th of this year.

She was a Long Beach resident and active participant and occasional leader for a variety of activities supporting wildlife in SW Washington. She helped organize the Leadbetter Point Christmas Bird Count for several years and created several documents and "tools" that have made running the count much easier in the ensuing years. She worked with Willapa Hills Audubon to build informational placards and housing for Purple Martins in the Ilwaco area. She was also an avid nature photographer and took many excellent photos of local wildlife, especially birds.

Her involvement and support were much appreciated. She will be greatly missed.

## 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.

### Leadbetter (Pacific County) Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20

See details on page one

### Cowlitz-Columbia Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

See details on page one

### Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 29th

See details on page one

### The Whistler Online

Did you know that you can subscribe to the Willapa Whistler on our website? All the links are easy to follow.

Go to [whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org](http://whistler.willapahillsaudubon.org) for this and past issues.

Other programs and field trips will appear on our website and will be announced through our email alert system.

More information about the alert system here: <https://willapahillsaudubon.org/get-involved/member-services>

<https://www.facebook.com/willapahillsaudubon/>

Find us on Facebook at:

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or pass it on to a friend.



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

contributions to:  
of February, May, August and November. Send your  
most welcomed. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Articles, information, wildlife sightings and artwork are

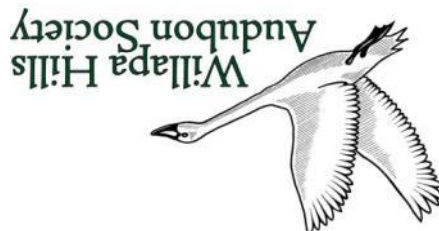
### Send in your stories & photos

public.

Most WHAS activities and programs are open to the

available for free on our website.  
National Audubon Society. Complimentary copies are  
Willapa Hills Audubon Society (WHAS), a chapter of the  
The *Willapa Whistler* is the quarterly publication of the

TEMP -- RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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