



Volume 32, Issue 1

<http://www.willapahillsaudubon.org>

January/February 2006

Great Backyard Bird Count 2006 February 17th-20th

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Adapted by Ann Musche from a National Audubon news release

Here is a count for which you don't have to leave your home! On the weekend of February 17-20, you can join people across North America to look at birds in your backyard and report them over the Internet. If you don't 'do' computers, watch and count the birds, note the numbers with paper and pencil, and then have a friend, neighbor, or local librarian enter the data for you. Or better yet, let a friend or librarian get you started, then encourage you as you enter your own data.

This is the ninth year of the Great Backyard Bird Count, developed and managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited store owners. This count is one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. This count allows people to celebrate their birds, and whether counters are novices or experts, their participation is vital in helping North America's birds.

Great Backyard Bird Count 2005 was a great success thanks to folks like you! In February, 2005, over 50,000 checklists were submitted from across the country, over 600 species were seen, and more than 6 million individual birds were counted. Thank you to everyone who participated! At the website, whose address is above, you can view the results of last year's count.

Remember that you don't HAVE to leave your home, but you can if you want to. Wherever you go - a park, a refuge, a school yard, etc. - can be considered as your 'yard' for this count. Note the highest number you see of each species, and submit that, using the website address above. *(Continued on page 8)*

WHAS Celebrates 30 Years

By Charlotte Persons

Fittingly, the WHAS 30th Anniversary celebration in Skamokawa on December 3, 2005, began with bird-watching. People went for nature walks around the Skamokawa Paddle Center and in the Julia Butler Hanson Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer. The group led by Andrew Emlen found black-shouldered kites, but the others had to settle for "normal birds" like red-tails and song sparrows.

When all 21 re-gathered about 1:00 p.m. in the Paddle Center meeting room, Darrel Whipple was invited to give an impromptu history of how WHAS began back in 1974 and was officially recognized in 1975. He mentioned the names of some of the founding members: Richard and Judy Davis, Harold and Ruth Deery, Phil and Shirley Lutz, and Darrel and Judy Whipple. They were initially helped to organize a chapter at a meeting with the indefatigable Helen Wolfe, famous for organizing Audubon chapters all over the Northwest. "Charter" members from 1975 who were present were Ruth Deery, Gerald Henry, Mary Ellen Covert, and Darrel Whipple. Other long-time members who attended were James and Denise Caldwell, Ann Musche, Alan Richards, and Al Clark.

After Darrel's introduction we enjoyed a truly sumptuous pot luck lunch. Sunrise Fletcher and Andrew Emlen entertained us with lively vocals, accompanied on guitar, of their "bird songs." Many enjoyed singing along with the choruses. Steve Puddicombe gave a poetry reading. Artist Charles Kingsland, who recently moved to this area from Kentucky, displayed several of his bird paintings. Also on display were prints by Audrey Peterson of Skamokawa. Thanks to Steve's arrangements, this afternoon of fellowship was a fine way to celebrate thirty years of joining together with other enthusiasts to enjoy birds and protect their habitat here in the Willapa Hills region, "where the river meets the sea".

Please Join Us!

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

Chapter Membership

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

National Audubon Membership

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

Combination

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

Willapa Whistler Only

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please add me to your Discussion email list

New Y14

Renewal 7XCH

For more information about WHAS, You may call Wayne Nelson at 503-556-9379 or Betty Mayfield at 503-556-6841.

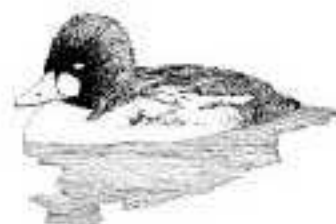
WHAS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

OFFICERS

- Co-President: Betty Mayfield**
503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com
- Co-President: Steve Puddicombe**
360-465-2205 pudfella@willapabay.org
- Immediate Past President: Wayne Nelson**
503-556-9379 gusdog1@msn.com
- Secretary: Charlotte Persons**
360-578-3949 cpersons@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: John Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
- Director at Large: Dick Wilson**
360-875-6172 bcfarms@willapabay.org
- Director at Large: Shirley Bartholomew**
503-556-0978 hankb@opusnet.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Programs: Margaret Green**
360-575-9238 jgreen2317@aol.com
- Education: Vacant**
- Publishing/Newsletter: Alan and Diane Clark**
360-795-3905 alan_c_clark@hotmail.com
PO Box 102, Cathlamet, WA 98612
- Field Trip Co-chairs:**
Anne Musche
360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org
- Pamela Wright**
360-560-3772 audubon@zygops.com
- Conservation: Steve Puddicombe**
- Publicity: Marsha Woods**
360-484-3744 newsnews@willapabay.org
- Finance/History: Betty Mayfield**
503-556-6841 bmayfield@opusnet.com
- Bird Counts: Alan Richards**
360-484-7119 mrm@willapabay.org
- Willapa Bay Issues: Miranda Wecker**
360-484-7128 mwecker@willapabay.org
- Wildlife Sightings: Andrew Emlen**
360-795-8009 aceasp@pacifier.com
- Membership: Gloria Nichols**
360-636-3793 johngloriaromeo@earthlink.net



Drawing Courtesy of Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife

JOIN US FOR THESE OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS

Return of Ancient Wings

Wednesday, January 18, 2006, 7:00 PM
Cowlitz PUD Auditorium, 961 12th Avenue,
Longview

Condors were part of the fauna seen by Lewis and Clark, 200 years ago, but have since left our skies. Shawn St. Michael, Condor Curator with the Portland Zoo, will tell of the efforts to bring this species back from the brink of extinction. St. Michael has been at the Portland Zoo for over 20 years, and has worked with a multitude of animals, from elephants to fish. He has a special love of birds and a particular enthusiasm for this project.

Proposed Mine Near Mt. St. Helens

Monday, February 6, 2006, 7:00 PM
Lower Columbia College Student Center
There will be a presentation on the mine proposed for the Green Mountain area on the edge of the National Monument. Ryan Hunter, Gifford Pinchot Task Force, will be present, and possibly Matt Russell, Vice President of Operations, Idaho General Mines, Inc.

Dragonflies – the Jewels of our Wetlands
Saturday, February 25, 2006, Reception 2:30,
Program 3:00

Lower Columbia College Student Center (STC),
1600 Maple St., Longview, WA
For a map see <http://lcc.ctc.edu/maps/>

We will host Dennis Paulson, Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound. Dr. Paulson is author of many books including "Dragonflies of Washington", "The Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest" and his newly published "Shorebirds of North America, The Photographic Guide." He is responsible, individually and with others, for multitudes of technical papers, publications, and articles on the subject of dragonflies. His photography is outstanding. This will be a wonderful and rare opportunity to hear from one of the world's most revered ornithologists and dragonfly specialists, and to see the view through the eyes of an expert naturalist. Paulson will share his great knowledge of the tiny creatures we often overlook and offer us a glimpse of their secrets and wonders.

A Visit to Bhutan, a Buddhist Kingdom in the Himalayas

Thursday, March 16, 2006, 7:00 PM
Cowlitz PUD Auditorium, 961 12th Avenue,
Longview

By choice this country is preserving their natural heritage, a rich one indeed. The eastern Himalayas boast extraordinary biodiversity, both plants and birds. Naturalists Andy and Ellen Stepniewski visited this kingdom, the size of Switzerland, in April 2005. They will share their experiences of the culture and natural history of this country, which hosts more than 800 species of birds. We will expand our horizons with the Stepniewskis!

George Divoky's Arctic Research

Thursday, April 13, 2006, 7:00 PM, venue to be announced

George Divoky will return! This world-renowned arctic scientist will come back to Longview to provide an update of his research on Cooper Island. This is sure to be a wonderfully entertaining and informative presentation.

Eugene Kozloff

May – date, time, and place to be announced

Dr. Eugene Kozloff, professor emeritus and wildlife author will be giving lectures on a variety of subjects. This will be an opportunity to hear Dr. Kozloff speak in many areas of expertise.

don't forget

LOBBY DAY

January 26, 2006

**meet fellow conservationists
and your legislators**

more info 360-465-2205

Field Trip Schedule

Winter Birds at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and Vancouver Lake

Sunday January 22, 2006

Join Alan Richards and Andrew Emlen to explore winter avian hotspots of Clark County. Suited to beginning and expert birders alike. Alan and Andrew are both experienced guides who have been watching and studying the birds of Washington for many years and will help participants learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Ridgefield NWR requires visitors to stay within vehicles during the winter months except at designated locations, thus vehicles serve as blinds that allow for up-close and personal observation of birds. The trip will include some slow, quiet walking in potentially muddy, wet conditions; dress appropriately! Carpools will leave from Kelso at 7:30 am and return at approximately 4 pm. Please contact Alan Richards (360-484-7119), Andrew Emlen (360-795-8009) or Pam Wright (360-560-3772) to register for this trip. Space is limited to 16 people.

Elk Meadows Wildlife Area, Jewell, Oregon

Families with children are welcome!

February 11, 2006, Saturday

If you are looking for a close encounter of the elk kind, this trip will be just right for you. Every morning during midwinter, staff at this elk reserve near Jewell feed hay to a herd of hungry elk. We will ride on the hay wagon with wildlife managers for a close look at the elk herd. We will also have a chance to learn more about the elk and (for those who want to) a chance to help feed them. Because we and the staff and wagon will go out to feed the elk no matter what the weather, you are encouraged to dress very warmly. The group will leave Longview at 7:15 a.m. and be done by noon. This trip was planned with children and families in mind. For details about the meeting place, carpooling, and to sign up, call Ann at 360.484.7119 or Pam at 360.560.3772.

Ellsworth Creek Preserve

March 12, 2006, Sunday

Would you like an early spring walk in the Willapa Hills? Have you longed to see the wonderful Ellsworth Creek watershed on the edge of the bay? Here is a chance to visit this area with Tom Kollasch, Ellsworth Forest Manager for The Nature Conservancy of Washington, who knows the ins and outs of this grand landscape. Comprising 7000 acres, including the 5000 acre Ellsworth Creek watershed, it is the largest Nature Conservancy land holding in Southwest Washington and has at its center 300 acres of very old forest. This area has the highest amphibian species diversity in the state. They've found six millipede species new to science! Marbled murrelets nest here and chum and coho salmon abound. This trip will include some walking, mostly on gravel roads but some on steep uneven paths. Please call Ann Musché at 360.484.7119 or Pam Wright at 360.560.3772 to sign up for the trip.

Also coming are a shorebird identification class and field trip in April and a Sequest to Mount St. Helens birding hike on May 13.

About WHAS Fieldtrips

Field trips are free.

Field trips are open to anyone interested in birding, wildlife and conservation. Bring your friends - they don't have to be Audubon members to participate.

Dress for the weather - warm clothing in layers, rain gear or sun protection and water proof footwear are advisable. Avoid wearing white.

Bring birding gear if you have it - binoculars, scope, field guides, 2-way radios.

Bring lunch, drinks and snacks for trips scheduled beyond midday.

Willapa Hills Audubon Society
Official Ballot, January 2006

Proposed Change in the WHAS Bylaws

Now that we have co-presidents instead of a president and vice-president, a flaw in the existing bylaws has become apparent. The Board of Directors feels a change in the bylaws is necessary to expedite the paying of bills. The proposed change is as follows (proposed additions to the existing bylaws are shown in underlined capital letters):

All checks and drafts of the Society may be signed by the Treasurer, the President/S or Vice President OR ONE ADDITIONAL BOARD-DESIGNATED BOARD MEMBER. THIS DESIGNATION SHALL BE REVISED AT LEAST ANNUALLY. Two signatures shall be required unless exception to this rule is authorized by the board of directors.

Please indicate your vote below by checking the appropriate box.

Yes, I approve this change in the WHAS bylaws

No, I do not approve this change in the WHAS bylaws

Signature _____ *Your ballot must be signed for the membership chair to verify membership. Unsigned ballots are invalid and will not be counted.*

Ballot instructions: Mark your choice and sign on the signature line. Cut the ballot at the page fold to free it from the adjoining pages. Fold your ballot in thirds, exposing the mailer panel on the back. Seal with staple or tape. Fill in your name and return address. Affix 37-cent stamp. Mail.

Ballots are due in WHAS's mail box by Friday, February 10, 2006.

Member's name and address:

Affix stamp
here

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

President's Message

By Steve Puddicombe

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.....

It has been several weeks since Willapa Hills members celebrated the 30th anniversary of our founding. A full account of that gathering exists elsewhere in these pages, but the event has nested on my mind and hatched out as reflections of the genesis of this particular outfit, and of volunteerism in general. And it is fitting now to briefly contemplate the future of our chapter even as we honor the past.

There is something about celebrating the past which renews our enthusiasm for the possibilities of tomorrow. Part of the lore of our chapter is that Hazel Wolf, long time Washington social activist, conservationist and celebrated arm-twister, had a central role in our founding: Recognizing an interest in this area she rode the bus to Longview (she had no car), met with Ruth Deery, Shirley Lutz and Darrel Whipple, and helped to form Willapa Hills, originally as a satellite of Seattle Audubon.

A funny thing about volunteer groups is the anemia which constantly requires infusions of new people and fresh energy. A cycle, much like sleeping and waking, takes hold as the creative flux waxes and wanes. It can seem chaotic, yet it's been my experience that folks tend to slip in where needed, like the fledging of a young bird. All that's needed is the urge to grow.

Metaphors aside, the urge is there. The board's main goal this year is to "expand and retain active membership." The idea is to bring forward new people as others recede, with the notion that everyone takes their turn at the helm. In subsequent issues of the Whistler we'll showcase various volunteer opportunities for you to choose from and you might even get a phone call one of these wintry evenings, or a gentle squeeze at a program or field trip. It isn't such a great leap to become an active volunteer, and never fear—we are not desperate and our meetings are conducted in an "ego-free zone." Mostly we want to go outside and watch birds.

When a small group of people came together 30 years ago to form Willapa Hills they really attended the birth of a living organism which has been sustained and nurtured by them and others until today. Now it's our turn to reinvigorate it and urge it a little farther on.

Wildlife Sightings

By Andrew Emlen

Margaret Green sent this message Nov 14:

I had an exciting day looking out the back window. A sharp-shinned hawk was poised at the edge of our pond surveying the surroundings. He then waded in and began splashing around. He was making so much commotion, I thought he may have caught his foot in the net we have placed over the top. When I opened the door to investigate and possibly attempt a rescue, he lifted his wings, flew into the rhodies and then beyond sight. I was dismayed I had disturbed him. However, not two minutes later he returned to the edge, and again hopped in. He spent about ten minutes splashing and preening. Upon completing his bathing ritual, he flew to a nearby perch. This may solve the mystery of the scarcity of birds in the Green back yard these days. Within the last week the Bufflehead have returned to Lake Sacajawea.

George Exum spotted the rarity of the year for our area on Puget Island when an **Ovenbird** appeared Nov 29. It remains as of this writing (Dec 14) and has been photographed by several birders. This is the ninth documented sighting of an Ovenbird in the state, and the first winter record. Normally Ovenbirds breed in eastern North America and winter in Florida, the Gulf coast of Mexico and points south.

David Miller's trip to the J.B.Hansen Refuge Nov 16 yielded many species, the most surprising of which was a lone Snow Goose. Other species seen were a 4-point white-tailed buck and 6 does, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, N. Harrier & Am. Kestrel. Additional species at Willow Grove included C. Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Tundra Swan, Black-capped Chickadee, Steller's Jay, W. Scrub Jay, N. Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, & Mallard.

Gray's Bay has been teeming with birds over the last weeks. The bulk of the thousands of waterfowl on the bay are Greater Scaup, Northern Pintail, Mallard, & American Wigeon, but the crowds also include White-winged & Surf Scoters, Ruddy Ducks and dozens of Tundra Swans. Two Long-tailed Ducks were a surprise. It's also a good year for grebes, with Western, Red-necked, Horned and even Eared Grebe being seen on the bay. A paddle around the bay Dec 9 turned up many wintering shorebirds as well, including 100+ Dunlin, 40+ Black-bellied Plover, 14 Greater Yellowlegs and 14 Sanderling.

Make Rainier the next Tree City USA in Oregon

By Shirley Bartholomew

As one of Willapa Hills Audubon Society's directors-at-large, I have chosen as my project to make Rainier, Oregon, a Tree City USA (TCUSA). I ask your support in facilitating the steps outlined below to realize that goal.

The TCUSA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF), headquartered in Nebraska City, Nebraska. NADF works closely with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service. To obtain certification as a Tree City a city must meet four standards set by the sponsors. They are:

1. Have or enact an ordinance that prescribes a suitable community forestry program.
2. Designate an individual or body of citizens to oversee the community forestry program.
3. Show evidence that in the preceding year the city applied resources equivalent to two dollars per capita to its community forest program.
4. Show that the city formally recognized and celebrated Arbor Day during the year.

When one thinks of a forest, they may envision a large area, dense with trees, possibly in a National Forest or a tree farm. In such forests trees greatly outnumber people, and you can often hear yourself breathe. In these forests people are visitors. There is another type of forest that we may overlook perhaps because we are so close to it—the trees in our yards, along city streets, or in community parks. These trees and shrubs, interspersed with buildings and roads, yet home to squirrels and birds, constitute an urban forest. People are not visitors here; this is where most of us live.

In the United States, four of every five persons live within the boundaries of a city or town; thus, close to 80 percent of Americans live in urban forests. How important are these urban forests? Research scientists have proven that trees in cities and towns provide extensive environmental benefits such as CO₂ exchange, decreased energy use, reduced air pollution, and improved water quality. Increased property values, attractive business districts that draw more shoppers, and higher occupancy rates in tree-shaded office parks reflect some of their economic benefits.

Social scientists have demonstrated that interactions with trees and plants in urban settings help reduce

stress and anxiety, improve medical recovery and convalescence, contribute to greater job satisfaction and productivity, and generally enhance the quality of community life. Thoughtful people will recognize that trees can make life more pleasant. Trees can provide an environment that gives vitality and character to a community which, in turn, can attract and retain residents and desirable businesses and promote higher property values. A community's trees, whether located along city roads and streets, in parks, or elsewhere, are part of its community forest.

The TCUSA program helps communities of all sizes better manage their urban forests. The program is about nurturing community forests and assisting the people responsible for them. Trees not only bring beauty, they also contribute to a healthier environment and economic well-being. Proper selection of species, routine inspection, knowledgeable pruning and maintenance, control of insects and diseases, and the timely removal of dangerous or dead limbs and trees are some of the ways the city can help assure public safety and protect property from falling limbs or trees.

The program helps cities develop and maintain a systematic approach to community forest management. A robust tree inventory and scheduled maintenance are preferable to costly crisis management. In the end trees will live longer and more resources will be available for tree planting and maintenance because less will be needed for tree removal.

Flying the TCUSA flag and displaying the TCUSA sign at the city's portals is a symbol of good urban forestry and of a community that cares.

Great Backyard Bird Count (Continued From Page 1)

Tally Sheets Are Available Now: You can download printable tally sheets to familiarize yourself with the birds in your area, then fill them out when the event begins. Send your data online starting February 18.

Other interesting and useful information is available on the site as well:

- Tricky bird identification tips
- Bird irruption (such as Snowy Owls coming south to Washington) details
- House Finch disease descriptions

JOIN THE FLOCK! DO YOUR PART IN THE
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!
FEBRUARY 17TH-20TH, 2006

Conservation Committee Volunteers Needed

The Conservation Committee is in need of four or five volunteers from throughout its territory to enhance its coverage of conservation and other environmental issues in the area. Willapa Hills is the only local voice for conservation in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

Anyone with an interest in monitoring land use or zoning, letter writing, reviewing environmental impact statements or helping formulate chapter positions on issues relating to conservation is encouraged to join. There are numerous potential threats to the environment which deserve proper oversight, such as the gas-fired electrical generation plants proposed for Longview and Kalama, or the LNG terminals proposed for the lower Columbia, and the group would welcome anyone with an interest there. State Audubon has a small staff and is well connected with conservation groups around Washington, so networking support is available and effective.

The idea is to form and maintain a group of at least six people, with a rotating chairmanship. Current Chair Steve Puddicombe would like the committee to meet by February or March for a strategy session. If conservation is a passion of yours or you want to help in any way, contact Steve at 360-465-2205 or by email at pudfella@willapabay.org.

WHAS Board Meeting Summaries

By Charlotte Persons

The October 29 meeting included accepting the resignation of Director at Large Carlo Abbruzzese, whose family obligations forced him to give up the position. We will miss his energy and expertise, but he may still be able to offer a birding class. We need a volunteer to fill that Director at Large position. Now that Audubon Washington's web site allows folks to order SW WA Loop of the Birding Trail maps on-line, we can begin publicizing and distributing them. Because this year we have co-presidents instead of a president and vice president, we need a new check-signing procedure—see the ballot enclosed in this *Whistler*. Steve Puddicombe will be the lead for comments from WHAS on the Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminals proposed for the lower Columbia River. John and Margaret Green are proposing a

WENAS-like camp out for WHAS members—stay tuned for more details! The last part of the meeting was devoted to creating the annual plan. Three goals were adopted for our annual plan: expanding and retaining active membership; creating a working Conservation Committee, and revising the WHAS bylaws.

The December 3 meeting was held at the Skamakowa Paddle Center before the WHAS 30th Anniversary Celebration. Highlights included checking the membership list; we need to re-contact old members who may have accidentally let their membership lapse. New Field Trip Co-chairs Ann Musche and Pamela Wright have wonderful plans for trips all over our area. December's field trips are actually the Christmas Bird Counts, for which there are volunteers signed up and ready to go. Steve Puddicombe and Darrel Whipple have been making presentations to community groups about the SW WA Birding Trail loop. Winter board meetings will be before programs since weather makes meetings in Cathlamet so difficult.

Upcoming WHAS Board Meetings

- January 18, Wed. 5:30—6:30 at Cowlitz PUD, 961 12th Ave., Longview. Ordered-in pizza and planning the 2006 budget.
- February 25, Sat. 11:30—2:00 at Regent Chinese Restaurant, 3353 Washington Way, Longview (former Woodshed restaurant building). Excellent Chinese or American lunch and Audubon Washington initiatives presented by Lisa Remlinger and Nina Carter.



Drawing Courtesy of Darrell Pruett, WDFW

Outreach at Lewis and Clark Celebration

On November 19, Willapa Hills Audubon joined 30 other Longview community organizations in celebrating Lewis and Clark's Bicentennial at Lake Sacagawea. Charlotte Persons put together a booth on "Wild Places Along the Trail" to highlight both Sierra Club's wonderful materials on preserving Western wild lands and Audubon Washington's beautiful birding maps for Southwest Washington. With the help of volunteers Pam Wright, Wayne Nelson, Gloria Nichols, Carlo Abbruzzesse, Ruth Deery, and Mary Ducl, we gave away 3 boxes of Sierra Club materials and 75 Birding Trail maps. (But we were careful to give away paper only to those who would actually use it!)

The Nelsons lent a canopy, and from Lower Columbia College, Louis LaPierre brought us a table, chairs, and some specimens of birds "preserved just like Lewis and Clark's." Because the weather was cold but sunny, over 1,500 people attended the event. The "touchable" specimens and free literature helped attract over 300 people to talk to us face-to-face about Lewis and Clark's work in describing birds new to science, conservation of our remaining wild habitat, and birding in our area.



Charlotte Persons, in period dress, talks with visitors to the WHAS booth at the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration in Longview. *Photo By Pamela Wright*

Birding Trail Signs are Forthcoming

By Christi Norman

A quick note to let you know that Rep. Brian Baird has come through for Audubon - we have been awarded \$51,000 to manufacture and install birding trail site identification signs on the SW Loop. We have three years to get the work done so we can coordinate the signs for the entire state as we work on the SW loop signs. Hooray for all your good work, and for Sharma Clark, our grants writer, who assisted on the funding request.

Come Bird With Us Olympic BirdFest 2006

Sequim, Washington, March 31 - April 2, 2006

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2006 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, March 31 - April 2, 2006.

The stage is set... 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 and kayak tours; a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, and more.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online or calling for a brochure.

Sequim is just a ferry ride and short drive from Seattle... in two hours you'll be in the rain shadow of the Olympics... it's worth the drive.

Program information and registration can be found online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

To contact us by phone, call 360-681-4076, e-mail us at rivercenter@olympus.net, or write to us at: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382.

Mine Proposed Near Mt. St. Helens

By Charlotte Persons

Idaho General Mines, Inc., of Spokane, Washington, has applied for a 3,000 acre lease from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for a mine for copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum. The proposed mine would be 12 miles north of Mt. St. Helen's crater on the edge of the National Monument. It is on the south slope of Green Mountain, which lies in the Green River Valley. There are a number of concerns about developing a mine in this area.

This natural habitat contains abundant wildlife and is a prime area for fishing, hunting, hiking, and birding. Many of our members have enjoyed the Goat Mountain Trail, the Green River Trail, and many other lakes and trails in the vicinity. Enjoyment of this beautiful natural setting would be destroyed by a large mining operation. In addition, currently there are so few roads that the region qualified for protection under the now discontinued President Clinton's "roadless area" designation. Building roads in wilderness areas not only brings in more people, it often degrades stream quality and introduces invasive species. Up to 3,000 workers are projected to work in this mine. Whether a new community is built to accommodate them and their families or they commute from surrounding areas, their need for food, shelter, and other services will leave an imprint on what is now an undeveloped area.

Besides these general concerns about development so close to the National Monument, there are problems specific to mining whichever method is chosen. Both open pit mines and underground tunnel mines have toxic mineral by-products and run-off that could affect downstream water and/or deep aquifers. This might affect threatened salmon and steelhead populations. Also, the watershed drains into the water reservoirs for towns in Cowlitz and Lewis counties, such as Toutle, Longview and Kelso. The near-constant seismic activity near Mt. St. Helens and the possibility of volcanic eruption would make controlling these problems more difficult.

What can you do as a concerned citizen? You can find out more about the proposed mine by coming to the presentation February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Center of Lower Columbia College. Ryan Hunter of Gifford Pinchot Task Force will discuss these and other environmental concerns, and Idaho General Mines, Inc. has been invited to present its point of

view. You can also write a letter with your comments on the proposed lease to the decision makers:

Claire Lavendel, Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682 clavendel@fs.fed.us.

Robert DeViney, Chief of Lands & Mineral Resources, BLM Oregon State Office, 333 SW 1st Ave., Portland, OR 97204 Robert_DeViney@or.blm.gov.

Tidbits of Avian Trivia

Reprinted from *The Avalanche*, the newsletter of the North Cascades Audubon Society, Nov/Dec 2005

- Horizontal-flying Peregrine Falcons reach speeds of 60 miles per hour, while a stooping Peregrine can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.
- Each year, Arctic Terns travel nearly 22,000 miles round trip between their wintering grounds on Antarctica's ice floes and their breeding grounds on the Arctic tundra.
- One hummingbird, the Amethyst Woodstar, flaps its wings an incredible 5,400 times per minute.
- Bar-headed Geese routinely fly at nearly 20,000 feet as the species migrates over the Himalayas to its breeding grounds in China.
- Bristle-thighed Curlews fly 4,500 miles nonstop over the Pacific Ocean between Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands.
- Emus walk more than 600 miles during migration.
- Many Albatrosses can fly for hours and sometimes days without flapping their wings.



Drawing Courtesy of Darrell Pruett, WDFW



Willapa Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 8
Longview, WA 98632-7058

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

Programs

See Page 3 for Details

January 18 - *Return of Ancient Wings*

February 6 - *Proposed Mine Near Mt. St. Helens*

February 25 - *Dragonflies - the Jewels of Our Wetlands*

March 16 - *A Visit to Bhutan, a Buddhist Kingdom in the Himalayas*

April 13 - *George Divoky's Arctic Research*

Field Trips

See Page 4 for Details

January 22 - *Winter Birds at Ridgefield Refuge and Vancouver Lake*

February 11 - *Elk Meadows Wildlife Area, Jewell, Oregon*

March 12 - *Ellsworth Creek Preserve near Naselle*