

*Annual Potluck Picnic  
 Sunday June 3, 2007  
 1 pm – 3 pm+  
 Friends Landing  
 300 Katon Road, Montesano  
 (see article inside)*

May/June 2007



# The Sandpiper



*Spotted Owl by Paul Bannick*



*Barred Owl by Dianna Moore*

## **Barred vs Spotted Owl**

*By Dianna Moore*

On Friday, April 27th, I read the results of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's plan to recover the Northern Spotted Owl in my usual venues; The Daily World, The Olympian, both Seattle papers and even the Washington Post. Seattle and Olympia got the politics behind it right. But the best coverage was on Tweepers.

For those unfamiliar with Tweepers, it is an online birding group

*Continued on page 6*



*2007 winner Brett Pelan*

## **The 12th Annual Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival: A Grand Event!**

*By Jan McMillan*

*2007 Festival Coordinator*

After getting off to a drizzly start on Friday, April 27th, the sun came out and the birds flew in and provided the participants in this year's Festival with three days of great birding activities and celebration.

125 people enjoyed field trips to Westport, Bottle Beach, Grayland, Tokeland, Ocean Shores, Lake Quinault, Point Grenville and 2000 visitors walked the Sandpiper Trail at the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge to see birds by the tens of thousands.

During the week before and the week after the festival, elementary school children enjoyed field trips to the Refuge, a culmination of their year of learning all about shorebirds in their classrooms with Jaclyn Schlindwein, GHNWR Education Coordinator.

Over 1200 students participated in the Festival Poster Contest. The awards for the winners from each grade level plus the best in show were presented by Mayor Jack

Durney at a ceremony on Saturday at Hoquiam High School, the festival headquarters.

Nearly 80 people enjoyed the amazing photography of award winning photographer Paul Bannick on Friday night and a dessert reception following Paul's presentation.

Festival participants attended lectures and strolled through the Vendors and Exhibitors Hall to purchase bird-feeders, books, jewelry, t-shirts and birding trail maps and to chat with the non-profit and government agencies there to discuss their programs.

School children enjoyed the art and science activities at the Kids Fun Fair on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The Fun Fair site was decorated with the poster contest winners and by large painted wooden shorebirds, adding to the air of celebration.

136 birders, community and environmental leaders and Congressman Norm Dicks, enjoyed the Saturday evening Banquet and Auction which helped raise over \$7000 for the Grays Harbor Audubon Refuge Fund and for the bus trips for kids to the Refuge through the GHNWR Education Program. The group also enjoyed a skit promoting the Great Washington Birding Trail Map which honored funders and volunteers who helped with the development and production of the maps.

Author Bob Morse, whose original vision launched the very first Festival received the first ever

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## The President's Perch



### Volunteer Opportunities Abound

By Jan McMillan

Around my yard there are signs of spring everywhere. The cherry blossoms, tulips and daffodils have come and gone already and so has the lacy white antique rhodie (I'm told it's an antique) that sits right behind it. Now the blue bells are blooming and the apple tree, Bride's Lace and Chinese red rhodie are bursting out of their buds and getting ready to bloom.

A little sadly, we found two dead pine siskins in the bird bath this past week with signs of trauma. I wonder what can be getting them since we have no cats of our own...and why always the bird bath? There is a cat in the neighborhood that used to live in this house and believes, mistakenly, that it still belongs to him. He sleeps under our porch some nights and occasionally we see him sneaking down our garden stairs on his way to somewhere. Maybe he is the culprit.

We're getting ready for a six week trip so we'll miss a lot of action in our garden while we are gone. I guess some of our birds will fly off for the summer and new summering birds will arrive to take their place. Each year we see a couple of "new feathered friends" that hadn't found their way to us before. This was my list for last June, July and August: downy woodpecker, goldfinch, American robin, Anna's hummingbird, Rufus hummingbird, northern flicker, junco, crow, house finch, spotted towhee, house

sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, red-breasted nuthatch, Stellar's jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, black-capped chickadee, and house wren. No evening grosbeaks...no violet-green swallows though I see them in the neighborhood and we have a proper bird house placed at the proper height. Maybe this year. While I love to travel, I always feel a little tug about what I'll miss when we're gone. We may miss the blooming of the golden chair tree...though there may be a few days of golden blooms left when we return.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and that you take lots of time to be outdoors enjoying this beautiful world...where ever your travels take you or just staying at home enjoying the beauty in your own back yard!

## ACOW (Audubon Council of Washington) Report

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon was the host council for the Spring ACOW meeting in Pasco, April 13-15. Grays Harbor Audubon board members Jan McMillan, President, Arnie Martin, Vice-president and Ann Haarer, Membership Chair attended the conference which included bus and boat tours of the Hanford Reach area. Members of LCBAS worked for over 20 years to protect this important shrub-step habitat. The conference also included reports from each chapter as well as legislative updates and Audubon Washington staff reports. Nina Carter, current Executive Director of Audubon Washington announced that she will be returning to Olympia to resume work in conservation and chapter relations, the areas most dear to her heart. Audubon

has begun the search for a new executive director.

The Fall ACOW meeting will be hosted by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society the weekend of October 19-21, 2007 in Sequim at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center. Topics for the conference will include:

- ◆ Restoring Puget Sound with presenter Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-chair of the Puget Sound Partnership and Chairman of the Salmon Recovery Board
- ◆ Elwha River Research with Research and Monitoring Coordinator for the Olympic National Park, Jerry Freilich, Ph.D.
- ◆ Nature Poetry Reading with Tim McNulty, Poet, conservationist and award winning nature writer.
- ◆ Field Trips to Dungeness River Audubon Center, Jimmycomelately Creek Estuary, Elwha River restoration and Dam removal site, early morning field trips to local shorelines of Sequim and Dungeness Bays and a Sunday afternoon boat cruise around Protection Island.

GHAS members are encouraged to attend the ACOW Conferences. It is a good opportunity to hear great speakers, go on some field trips and learn more about the activities of Audubon Washington and other chapters. Stay tuned for more information in the September/October issue. You can also go to <http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org> for agenda, registration and accommodation information.

Are you interested in receiving *The Sandpiper* online? Send us your email address and we can forward the latest issue the moment it is ready to publish or visit <http://ghas.org> to view the newsletter as a color pdf file.



## **Bird Year comes to the Washington Coast**

*A fossil-fuel free trip that's for the birds*

*By Ken Madsen*

In September, 2006, Malkolm Boothroyd started sweating through three high school grades in two years. "When the schoolwork seemed too much to manage," he said. "I dreamed about the payoff, my Bird Year."

A "Big Year" is a 365-day birding marathon. Big Year Birders "turn into maniacs" said Mark Obmascik (author of *The Big Year*). Malkolm won't be an exception – especially since he and his parents Wendy Boothroyd and Ken Madsen will travel for ten-thousand miles without using fossil-fuels. Malkolm calls his adventure a Bird Year, since he isn't doing the "standard" Big Year over a single calendar year.

"Our adventure isn't just a vacation," said Malkolm. "We hope to inspire people to care for bird habitat – including special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In September when my friends are going back to school, I'll be looking for seabirds from a sailboat in Monterey Bay," he said. "When my classmates are writing midterms, I'll be at Bosque Del Apache watching

thousands of Sandhill Cranes. It won't all be fun though. There will be headwinds, mosquitoes and scary drivers."

Malkolm's Bird Year begins on the 2007 Summer Solstice. He'll cycle south from Yukon to California and east to Florida. He'll finish in the scorching Texas heat looking for two threatened species: Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos. Malkolm hopes his Bird Year total will reach 400 species.

"We hope that people join us to protect birds and their habitat – bird migration connects wilderness from the Arctic to the Everglades," said Malkolm. "People can sponsor us – or they can do a fossil-fuel-reduced Big Day of their own."

Malkolm hopes to meet many people during his travels. And he hopes many more will become involved in the Bird Year website ([www.birdyear.com](http://www.birdyear.com)). Please have a look – it's an adventure to protect the environment! If you have any scheduling ideas, please send an email to our website.

Malkolm and his parents will be cycling through Washington in August, 2007. They plan to arrive in Ocean Shores on August 12th. They hope to meet members of Grays Harbor Audubon while they are birding along the coast. Their full schedule is on their website in the "Our Project" section.



## **Membership Meeting**

*A Potluck Picnic at Friends Landing  
Sunday, June 3, 2007  
1:00 - 3:00 pm*

Please bring a potluck side dish or desert to share. A main dish, drinks and table service will be provided.

***All members are urged to attend!  
Children Welcome!***

We are not featuring a speaker or program this month, but bring your binoculars and we will go birding instead. We may see and hear many migrant songbirds in the surrounding trees and brush.

*Friends Landing* is located at 300 Katon Road, Montesano. At the west Montesano exit, take Devonshire Road south approximately 1 mile and turn left at Katon Road. The Landing fronts the Chehalis River and is accessible for individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Amenities include fishing piers, a 1.7 mile trail that circles the 32 acre lake and covered picnic shelters.

### **Webmaster or Webgoddess We're Looking for a Web Site Volunteer!**

Grays Harbor Audubon is looking for someone to manage our website! If you have the skills and a little time to devote each month and would like to volunteer, please contact Dean Schwickerath at 495-3101 or by e-mail at [dschwick@techline.com](mailto:dschwick@techline.com) If you would like to check out the website, you can go to <http://www.ghas.org>





**Grays Harbor College Relay for Life Cancer Team**  
*Hand-made Birdhouses*

These beautiful houses are made from cedar planks (old fence pickets) and are a fundraiser for the Grays Harbor College Relay for Life Cancer Team.

There is a variety of styles available for \$20 each.

Contact Adrienne Roush for more information- 538-4053 or [aroush@gmail.com](mailto:aroush@gmail.com).



### ***GHAS Mission***

The mission of the Grays Harbor Audubon Society is to seek a sustainable balance between human activity and the needs of the environment; and to promote enjoyment of birds and the natural world

### ***Camping at the San Poil: West Fork***

*Like a diver gasping for air, I break through the surface of sleep into waking, and rise from the pebbled streambed of dreams to the crows of early mountain quail. The loud cry suggest a male. His field marks: Chestnut throat; a white and single stripe extending from the eyes; head plume thin and distinctive, its top curling like a little wave. The flock so hard to flush, signals in soft whoops and scatters. Perhaps it's true what people say: The quail that hide here in the brush are spirit souls of San Poil slain from ambush at broken bridge.*

*Franz Schneider*



### **Wenas Campout May 25 -28, 2007**

*by Helen Engle*

For over 38 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, SW of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which Auduboners have been assured will be in protective status soon.

The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

◆ The campground is about 2,500' elevation, can be quite cold at night, hot during day.

◆ Bring water for drinking (the creek is beautiful and bountiful but not potable).

◆ We set up tents or use "pick-up" type campers.

◆ We all share in the rent of portable toilets for four days.

◆ Bicycles and Frisbees are fun, telescopes and cameras standard gear.

◆ Please leave pets at home.

◆ There are organized field trips throughout the Wenas drainage and WA DF&W management areas and some on private property at owners' requests.

◆ In camp we have natural history workshops with some of the state's top birders, WNPS botanists, entomologists etc.

◆ There is an old-fashioned campfire in the evening with singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit the new Wenas Website, by Webmaster Michael Hobbs, to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout.

[www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org). There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and more. If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend - May 25-28, 2007! See you there, Helen Engle, [hengle@iinet.com](mailto:hengle@iinet.com), (253)564-3112.

### **Overheard at the Shorebird Festival**

A woman picked up a checklist for Birds of Grays Harbor and remarked that in the divorce, her "husband got the binoculars... but I got the life list!"

*reported by Becky Durr*

**2007  
A great  
legislative  
year for the  
environment!**



This year proved to be a banner year for environmental priorities in Olympia. We are grateful to the legislators who supported this important legislation which included:

**SB 6001** which makes Washington the second state in the Nation to establish a carbon emissions standard. This measure prohibits utilities from entering into long-term contracts with coal-fired power plants that produce excessive greenhouse gases.

**HB 2212/SB 5248**, which Audubon and other conservation groups negotiated with the Farm Bureau (the sponsor of 933, which was defeated last November) on real land-use regulatory issues impacting viable agricultural and forestry. Farmers fear regulations might impose buffers and take some of their farmland out of production. Audubon knows birds rely on working farm land. If farm land is sold to developers, we lose farms and birds. Following this legislation, everyone will work to find new and creative solutions aimed at engaging farmers through voluntary programs to provide environmental benefits while making sure that agricultural operations in Washington remain viable.

**SB 6141** which was negotiated successfully with the timber industry, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the con-

servation community. This legislation is a decent Forest Health bill that increases science-based decision making, and recognizes ecologically uncharacteristic fuels build-up or infestations as priorities for DNR intervention.

**SB 5883** and **HB 1408** provide family foresters with moratorium flexibility at the same time increasing environmental reviews. Audubon Washington and other conservation groups were integral to developing this legislation which addressed issues necessary to keep working forests viable while maintaining and enhancing environmental protections.

***Priorities for a Healthy Washington***

**ESSB 5372** With strong bipartisan support, the Legislature created the Puget Sound partnership, a new agency to ensure the recovery of Puget Sound by 2020. This legislation establishes strong recovery and protection goals, an independent science advisory committee, priority for funding Puget Sound Cleanup projects, and other important accountability measures to make sure state funding delivers action and results for the Sound's recovery.

**ESHB 1303** This is an omnibus bill that will help Washington develop a clean-energy economy by providing market

incentives for clean fuels and vehicles, Washington-grown biofuels crops, and clean school buses.

**ESHB 1024** was the first Priority to pass this legislative session. Washington State is now the first in the nation to ban toxic flame retardants.

Final Good News! The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) was funded at \$100 Million in the capital conference budget. Audubon chapters lobbied heavily for the passage of this legislation. WWRP will now be able to fund an additional 135 projects throughout the state and over 70 of these projects correspond with sites on the loops completed for the Great Washington State Birding Trail.

A special thanks to Grays Harbor Audubon Chapter members who wrote letters, made phone call, and participated in Lobby Day to support these important bills and funding.

Thanks to Audubon Washington's Bird's Eye View 2007 Legislative Newsletter for the information in this article. You can sign-up for a free electronic version of Bird's Eye View at <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/myregistration.asp>

**Global Warming**

Complained to his mate Señor Froggy:  
The heat in this place makes me groggy.  
I wish it would rain  
Cooling water again  
In the wonderful world of our boggy.

*Franz Schneider*

***Shorebird Festival continued from page 1***

“Wind Beneath Our Wings” Award for his leadership and guidance in growing the festival and helping to build the bridges of understanding with the wider community.

I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered at the Festival. I know I won't remember everyone but please know I do appreciate every single person who helped! To: Rose DuBois, Steve Hallstrom, Cecelia Boulais, Gary and Kay Utter, Becky Durr and Jude Armstrong, for covering the Chapter table; all the board members and NNWR and GHNWR volunteers who brought desserts for the Friday night reception; all of the volunteers from the Refuges, Hoquiam High School, AmeriCorps, and Carol Sunde who helped set up tables, put up displays, and take everything down again on Sunday; Jaclyn Schlindwein and all the volunteers who helped the kids at the Fun Fair; Ann Haarer for providing the much appreciated coffee for the workers and attendees; Jennifer Bullington and her husband John for helping to set up tables for the banquet; Kris Schoyen for making such pretty table decorations; Linda Orgel and Ann Haarer who did the difficult job of checking out the successful auction bidders after the auction; Auctioneer Al Carter; the great staff at Emerson Manor and Coastal Catering, (Stephanie Glover and Jeannie Holt); The Daily World for the fantastic coverage, of the Festival; R.D. Grunbaum for his service as our bartender and host on Friday night; all of you who solicited items for the auction and the folks who donated the auction items; Kris Liedtke with Bank of the Pacific for providing radio spots for us; the

field trip leaders, lecturers, vendors and exhibitors, and all of you who helped in any way, my deepest thanks.

***Owls continued from page 1***

who swap information about birding and related subjects here in the Pacific Northwest. The members are from many walks of life and many opinions, with the love of birds in common.

There were many comments, all relevant, but I noticed none got into the politics of this latest report; they stuck to the non-native Barred Owl's invasion of Spotted Owl territory. Of course they did agree that it was due to the cutting of old-growth forest, loss of the Spotted Owl's habitat, and that is a man-made problem. And they agreed that the Barred Owl is more aggressive than the Spotted, with 4-5 territories in the same amount of space a Spotted Owl has for one territory. And the point was even made that the Barred prefers the flatter, valley bottoms and wetlands, while the Spotted Owls that persist are generally on the steeper, drier ridge-sides.

The consensus was that the Barred Owl is easy to approach and photograph...and you know that is a big plus for birders. It means we can be more personal about them, even get to watch them in our yards as I do, develop relationships with them, even like them! So we have made changes to the landscape that made it difficult for the Spotted but favorable to the Barred and in the process gained a sort of “yard owl” here in the flats.

The one point that generated the most comment, of course, was the plan to selectively remove 12 to 32 Barred Owls from each of 18 areas, and shoot them. Somehow that doesn't seem to fit in with the “survival of the fittest” plan. What we need to realize is

we have shifted the balance by changing the rules of the game for the Spotted Owl. By eliminating critical habitat, we give the outsider the advantage, and the Barred Owl took that advantage.

One point made in particular resonated with me: “It is semantic sleight of hand to say that selective removal of Barred Owls is murder, while loss of Spotted Owls through inaction is not.”

The point here is we have interfered, and the only way to attempt to right this is to interfere again and remove some of the Barred. We can only hope that this will allow some of the remaining Spotted to then nest in those areas.

So I have had to set aside the distaste I feel for killing one to hope that it will help another recover, and I am angry that I have been forced to make that choice. But I live in a house that was built of cedar and, yes, I use paper towels and toilet paper too. So I am part of this problem, and I take responsibility for that.



**Head for the beach and join in a scotch broom eradication**

It's that time of year that we can effectively identify and remove scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) on some of Audubon's property in Westport on the Southwest Washington coast. Meet at 9:00 AM on Wednesday June 6th and/or June 15th at 9:00 AM at the “Y” just off State Route 105. Help remove invasive weeds and then join us for a picnic lunch. Call Renee for directions at (360) 268-0485.

## GHAS Board of Directors

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Program Chair	Dianna Moore 289-5048 dlmoor2@coastaccess.com
Hospitality	Renee Prine, 268-0485
Publicity	Jan McMillan, 268-1004 mcmomjan@comcast.net

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State Audubon	(360) 786-8020
National Audubon	(212) 979-3000
GHAS Website	<a href="http://www.ghas.org">http://www.ghas.org</a>

*Please Fill Out and Mail Back*

**ANNUAL GRAYS HARBOR AUDUBON  
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

If you would like to join Grays Harbor Audubon Society (GHAS), please fill out the form below, **make check payable to Grays Harbor Audubon Society** and return it with your check to:

**Grays Harbor Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 470  
Montesano, WA 98563**

Chapter Memberships include a subscription to *The Sandpiper* newsletter. All Chapter Memberships above the Sandpiper category provide financial support to our Chapter. The Grays Harbor Audubon Society is totally self-supporting.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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- Pelican \$50.00
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- I am renewing my membership
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If your newsletter is stamped with **Last Issue-Please Renew**, be sure to fill out the Membership Form above and send it in to keep your membership active and keep receiving the newsletter!  
Thanks!

**Annual Potluck Picnic**  
**Friends Landing**  
*Good Food, Good Birding*  
*and Outstanding Fun*  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
June 3, 2007

**News & Editorial**

send materials to  
P.O. Box 1044  
Westport, 98595-1044  
or email to  
rd@olearycreek.com  
Copy deadline July 6th

**How Do I Know When My  
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