



Friends of Turnbull

Volume 4, Issue 7

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Fall 2001, 3rd Quarter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We apologize for the late arrival of the last newsletter. We wanted it to be a little late so you wouldn't forget to sign up and attend the Annual Meeting. However it came out much later than expected due to a problem at the printers; making this newsletter seem early in comparison. Didn't we have a short summer? It's hard to believe it's Fall again and the FOT Activities Fall field trips are coming up. Andy Buddington, the Activities Chair, has some interesting new field activities, as well as some tried and true ones that you enjoyed last year. There are some changes in our Board this Fall; the details will be in the Winter issue.

Combined Federal Campaign:

We have been accepted for the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign, so those of you who may be working in an office that participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, please look for us in the booklet and hopefully contribute to our cause. Please point us out to your co-workers, as well. We continue to receive funds from the 2000 CFC and hope to increase the amount contributed to us this year. These funds, memberships, and sales have been our income this year, although we have had some donations to the Endowment Fund, as well.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting was on a very warm day this year, but it was really quite pleasant at the Refuge in the evening. The food, of course, was delicious. It's amazing that a potluck often brings together just the right number of salads, main dishes, and desserts without planning, and that is what happened this year. Nancy Curry, the Refuge Manager, spoke to us about what is going on with staffing, etc., at the Refuge this year. She and Mike Rule, the Refuge Biologist,

answered general questions from the group which was very informative. We then toured the Environmental Education Classroom and the Friends of Turnbull Store. Everyone enjoyed seeing what was accomplished to make the classroom a new and inviting place for children.

Friends of Turnbull Store:

The Store is doing quite well. We invested around \$900.00 in books to add to the stock of T-shirts and sweatshirts that we already kept for sales events and membership drives. In the first two months our store sales were just over \$1000.00. Sales slowed down in August, but so did visits to the store. We seem to sell at a fairly steady pace. We are still open only on weekends, but have changed our hours to Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We found that more people came in the afternoon and hardly anyone came in the mornings. We have also had trouble staffing the store with volunteers in August. If any of you are interested in helping staff the store and you haven't already been contacted, please call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466. All that's needed is 2 1/2 hours of your time, once a month...unless you'd like to donate more!



In this issue...

President's Corner	1
FOT Field Trip Listing	2
Special Thanks	3
Saving Birds and Their Habitat	3
Refuge Happenings	4

Continued from page 1

We plan to keep the store open through October if it seems worthwhile to do so, and then close for the winter months. We still have lots of interesting books for both children and adults available plus the T-shirts and sweatshirts we already stock. We have some new colors in T-shirts and are now negotiating for caps, which we will stock as soon they're available.

Endowment Fund:

We have had a couple new donations to the endowment fund recently and we are still awaiting word from the Charlotte Martin Foundation about a sizeable addition in the form of a grant from them. It will probably take some time for their decision to reach us, so we are still involved in an ongoing search for monies to add to this fund. I would encourage each member to make a donation to the Endowment Fund. The interest from the endowment will be used to for Environmental Education at the Refuge. If you should wish to help us please send your checks to our post office box and mark them "For Endowment Fund."



**Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.
Board of Directors**

- | | |
|---|--|
| President:
Marian Frobe | Directors:
Andrew Buddington |
| Vice President:
Chuck Kerkering | Vonice Parker |
| Treasurer:
Otto Schumacher | John Phillips |
| Secretary:
Robert Liepold | Joanne Powell |
| | Ed Reynolds |
| | F. Lance von Marbod |

For Membership or Newsletter information, please contact Joanne Powell at 456-7111 x 204 or email powell@snapwa.org

**Friends of Turnbull
Field Trips**

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
Sunday October 14th

This field trip will tour the Kootenai NWR to enjoy the fall colors of the beautiful Kootenai river valley near Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The trip will include a hike through the refuge viewing waterfowl and the occasional moose in the river bottom wetlands. Learn about the geologic origins of the area and how the Pleistocene glacial ice age had a profound effect on the development of this unique and scenic part of the Inland Northwest. We will meet at the Kootenai NWR Headquarters (see <http://www.r1.fws.gov/kootenai/kootenai.htm> for directions). Call Andy Buddington (533-8017) to sign up and for more information.

Historic Native American use of the Turnbull area and its environs. 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 24th, 2001. Sasquatch Room, Spokane Community College LAIR Student Building.

Join Dr. Jerry Galm, Professor of Anthropology (Eastern Washington University), for this very interesting slide presentation that will highlight current information on native use through time of the lakes region in and around Turnbull. The lecture will present evidence of the earliest occupation of the area as well as new data that challenges long-held notions of native use and practices in this region. Don't miss this intriguing and educational presentation. Call Andy Buddington at 533-8017 for more information or visit <http://www.scc.spokane.cc.wa.us/maps/> for directions to the SCC campus.

Elk & Deer Field Trip. Saturday December 1st, 2001

This very popular field trip returns! Spend part of the day with refuge biologist Mike Rule tracking elk and deer while examining the various types of "big game" habitat on the refuge. This trip has limited space and **sign up to attend is required**. Sign up **DEADLINE** is November 21st. For more information and sign up, call the refuge at 235-4723.

Special Thanks

Our thanks to the following donors to the Environmental Education Endowment Fund this summer for their generous donations:

*Margaret A. Pearson
Ed & Jan Reynolds*

Thank you to *Dr. Charles Russell*, who put a lot of time and effort into writing the grant we have submitted to the Charlotte Martin Foundation.

Thanks also to those members who join or renew at the Patron Level. We truly appreciate your generous donations:

Virgil & Priscilla Bowen

Our thanks also go to the many volunteers who have manned the Friends of Turnbull Store. I am not putting in names at this time for fear we will have missed someone. But, in particular, we wish to thank *MaryJane Booth*, who does all the calling to keep the store staffed. We know this is a challenge at times.

If we have overlooked anyone who should be acknowledged, please accept our apologies. Also, if you have renewed or donated recently, we hope to list you in the next newsletter.

Marian Frobe

FOT Activities

A calendar of activities in the FOT newsletter will offer guided field trips to Turnbull as well as slide shows, lectures, and other activities including field trips to regional refuges throughout the Northwest. Watch for announcements in each Friends of Turnbull newsletter. Come and enjoy your refuge and meet other Friends members. We hope to see you at our next event!

For more information or suggestions, please contact Andy Buddington at 533-8017.

SAVING BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT CREATES JOBS AND INCOME

Preserving forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and wetlands does not just mean preserving a world in which we all want to live - it means jobs. In 1991 over 76 million Americans went bird watching, fed birds or went on trips to watch wildlife. They spent \$18 billion generating almost \$40 billion in economic activity, creating 760,000 jobs and producing \$3 billion in Federal and State tax revenues. Preserving habitat and species generates jobs and income. After health care, recreation and tourism are the largest employers in the United States providing jobs for more than 6 million Americans.

"Teaming with Wildlife," the proposed surcharge on bird seed, binoculars, and other wildlife equipment will support state wildlife programs. Our Federal science programs in the US Geological Survey, the National Forest Service, the National Science Foundation and others, help us to understand how to preserve wildlife. People who use our National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks provide an important income source for communities. Wetlands are vital for the survival of many bird species and attract large numbers of bird watchers. Recreational uses of Federal lands such as BLM land and National Forests provide a significant source of income for local communities.

A study published by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (1995) showed that over \$6.5 billion is spent each year in the U. S. by bird enthusiasts and hunters. This spending generated an estimated economic output of at least \$19.5 billion and supported 234,000 jobs. Over 65 million of us watch and feed birds, and 35 million take trips primarily to see wildlife.

	Retail sales generated by bird watchers	Jobs supported
California -	\$622.6 million dollars	16,200
Florida -	\$477.0 million dollars	13,900
Pennsylvania -	\$256.4 million dollars	6,040

YOU do make a difference!

Refuge Happenings

by Mike Rule

Aspen turning gold, bugling elk, waves of migrating warblers followed by sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks remind us that summer is coming to a close and it is time to begin our review of the breeding season.

Although refuge wetlands were fairly full this spring, resulting in near normal breeding populations of waterfowl and other water birds, the long dry summer has taken its toll. Water levels this fall are only 50% of what they have been in the fall of the past several years. Rapidly declining water levels may have had an impact on the survival of late nesting waterfowl. If the winter stays dry with little snow or rain we



can expect considerably less wetland acres next year. Both poor production and reduced habitat will

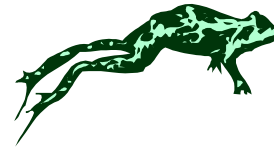
likely result in fewer numbers of water dependent birds. The dry conditions that prevailed throughout most of the summer also resulted in considerably fewer insects in upland habitats. Although fewer mosquitos made field work more comfortable, there was also less food for our insect-eating birds. The extremely dry conditions in the upland portion of the refuge will also restrict any planned prescribed fire this fall. Past experience has shown that reintroducing fire under drought conditions result in unacceptable tree mortality.

The eighth year of the refuge's songbird banding project finished up on August 29. We captured 175 birds which is 20% lower than last year's total but 10% above the eight-year average of 158. A hermit thrush was captured for the first time this year, bringing the total number of species captured and banded to 59. Thirty birds banded in previous years were recaptured this year including a male song sparrow that has been recaptured annually since 1996 and a male yellow warbler first banded in 1997. It is interesting to note that although the 600 birds captured and banded

as juveniles over the past eight years represent more than a third of all captures, we have only recaptured 6. This low return rate may indicate problems with survivorship or limited habitat for first year birds returning to hatch.

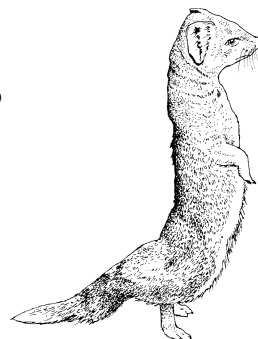
The last western bluebird broods fledged from refuge nest boxes in late August. A total of 456 bluebirds fledged this nesting season, a 14 % decline from last year but less than 2% below the long-term average.

This year the refuge participated in a national survey for frog malformations.



As you probably know some populations of frogs have exhibited significant levels of deformities including missing or extra digits, limbs, and eyes,

and various other skin, eye and skeletal deformities. The possible causes of these malformations being investigated include parasites, toxins, predation, and UV-B radiation. During the month of July, field crews collected 180 recently metamorphosed Columbia spotted frogs from 3 locations. Seven frogs with missing digits were found. All of these were from the inlet to Windmill Pond at Headquarters. These abnormalities appear to be the result of predation by sticklebacks. Several frogs from this site had significantly shorter tails than the other sites that appear to have been nipped at by fish, too. No malformations were located in the other sites which did not contain fish of any kind. Sampling will occur next year and the refuge may be receiving money to complete a comprehensive study of water quality.



An interesting note: In the past, river otter sightings have been reported solely from the Pine Creek wetlands below headquarters. This year otters have been seen in the ponds near the railroad overpass on the Cheney / Plaza Rd. and near the outlet of Upper Turnbull Slough on the west side of the highway.

Membership Application

YES! I want to support the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, and Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ e-mail _____

Annual Membership: (Circle one)

Individual \$ 15

Family \$ 25

Business/Group \$ 35

Patron \$ 100

Benefactor \$ 500

Donation \$ _____

Endowment Fund Donation \$ _____

Amount Enclosed _____

New _____ Renewal _____

I would like to volunteer _____

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.

P.O. Box 294

Cheney WA 99004

Have You Renewed For 2001?



Friends of Turnbull

Friends of Turnbull NWR

P.O. Box 294

Cheney, WA 99004

“The Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a nonprofit organization, supports the mandate of the refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education, research, habitat preservation and restoration.”