



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2019

Program

Owls of Washington

Carlo Abbruzzese

Tuesday, June 4th

7:00pm

Owls have evolved some incredible anatomical and physiological adaptations that allow them to fly through dense forests and capture prey in the dark. Carlo Abbruzzese will discuss some of these adaptations and will also describe the owls that one can expect to find in Washington. The presentation will also include the calls of the most commonly heard owl species.



Carlo works as a Natural Areas Manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources in southwest Washington. His work involves the protection and restoration of rare plant communities and habitat for rare plants and animals, trail management, and environmental education. He has also worked as a biologist on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve near Austin, Texas, which provides protection for two endangered birds, cave invertebrates, and several rare plants species. His experience includes various field projects involving Northern and Mexican Spotted Owls in Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico. He holds a B.A. in biology from Lewis & Clark College and an M.S. in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University, where studied the hunting behavior of Eastern Screech-owls.

West Park Community Room at 610 Esther St.

Field Trip

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Sam Neuffer

Contact Info: 206-930-1032 or samneuffer@gmail.com

When: Saturday, June 15th at 7:00am

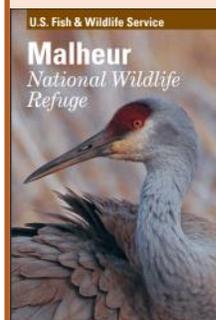
Where: Meet at the Salmon Creek Park and Ride, 1112 NE 136th St, Vancouver, WA

Named after tribal rights and conservation activist of the Nisqually native tribe, Billy Frank Jr., this wildlife refuge is the largest undisturbed estuary in Washington. The refuge boasts a variety of unique habitats and wildlife. We will look for seabirds on the boardwalk and warblers, woodpeckers, owls, and flycatchers in the riparian forest. We will also keep an eye out for Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. Entrance fee is \$3 per car (Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Passport, or Federal Duck Stamp can be used). We will carpool and I will bring a duck stamp which gets one car into the refuge. If anyone else has a duck stamp or pass, feel free to bring it! This will be an all day trip. Please bring a lunch. I also recommend bug spray and sunscreen.

Fall Migration in Malheur NWR

Would you be interested in participating in a 4-5 day field trip to Malheur NWR in September?

Arden Hagen is putting together a fundraising trip to the high desert of eastern Oregon.



If you are interested (no commitment needed at this time) or know someone that would be interested in additional information as the planning proceeds, call or email Arden:

360-892-8872

iambakerman@comcast.net

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		M28				1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 28th (Tuesday) @6:30pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle

June 4th (Tuesday) @ 7pm: VAS Program "Owls of Washington" by Carlo Abbruzzese West Park Community Room, 610 Esther St.

June 15th (Saturday) @ 8am: Field Trip to Nisqually NWR led by Sam Neuffer

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Website.....	Sherry Hagen.....littlebirder@comcast.net		

Volunteer Opportunities

VAS Program Chair

Help! We need your talents and ideas as a new volunteer to take over the position as program chair! We hope you would like to take an active part in our group and help plan and organize the wonderful presentations we all enjoy. Please contact Arden or any member of the board if you are interested for more information!

Arden Hagen: 360-892-8872 or iambakerman@comcast.net

Purple Martin Monitoring

We are looking for volunteers to help locate banded Purple Martins at area nesting and roosting locations as they start to arrive this spring. Spotting scopes will be needed, as well as the patience it takes to get an entire band number! **We could also use season-long volunteers to help with the banding and monitoring effort.** Contact Randy at re_hill@q.com for more information.



Hutton's Vireo nest building. Photo by Barry Woodruff



The Columbia Flyway is published monthly September through June.

Vancouver Audubon Board Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month August through May in various locations (announced in newsletter).

Membership meetings and programs are held on the first Tuesday of the month September through June.

Program meetings are held at the [West Park Community Room at 610 Esther St.](#) (just across the street from the west end of Esther Short Park, or kitty-corner from City Hall). Main parking lot is on the west side, handicap parking is found on the east side. There is an entrance at either side of the building.

Historic Legislative Session

The 2019 legislative session was the most significant for the environment in decades. Thanks to the advocacy of members like you and the leadership of legislators, we made it clear that the environment was a priority this session.

Climate Action

100% Clean Electricity, the strongest clean energy bill in the country, will transition our state's energy to clean sources by 2045.



Clean Buildings creates energy efficiency standards for large commercial buildings.

Solar Fairness Act allows homeowners to fully benefit from solar energy they generate.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure authorizes utilities to plan for and build needed infrastructure to advance the use of electric vehicles.

Appliance Efficiency Standards will be integrated into utility programs to reduce energy and water use.

Super Pollutants Ban phases out hydrofluorocarbons.

Puget Sound Orcas

Habitat Protection will support Chinook salmon and forage fish populations by protecting shorelines and reducing predatory invasive species.

Oil Spill Prevention will require vessels carrying crude oil to be escorted by a tug around the San Juan Islands.

Vessel Noise and Disturbance increases vessel buffer zones, reduces speed around orcas, and institutes commercial whale watch licensing and fees.

Toxic Pollution Reduction addresses classes of chemicals that impact vulnerable populations like kids and sensitive species like orcas.

Big Polluters Pay is a landmark law requiring them to pay their fare share to clean up toxic sites, prevent and reduce pollution, and support local communities.

Lower Snake River Dams Stakeholders Forum was funded to bring people together to discuss and develop a contingency plan that identifies investments and transitions for keeping communities whole if/when the four

lower Snake River dams are breached or removed to restore salmon, and help starving orcas and struggling fishing economies.

Budget Shorts Culvert Fixes and could delay salmon recovery. The \$100 million approved by the Legislature in the transportation budget is about 1/3 of what Gov. Jay Inslee requested to meet a federal court order to repair or replace road culverts that block salmon passage.

State Lands

Not all the news from Olympia was positive. The Washington Department of Natural Resources will lose \$750,000 in Discover Pass revenues. The agency is still grappling with what the losses will mean. Washington State Parks is also impacted by fund transfers. In a huge disappointment for conservation, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife still faces a \$7 million budget shortfall, with layoffs and service reductions likely. Critical biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration and outdoor recreation programs, already neglected at less than 5 percent of WDFW's budget due to insufficient support from the state General Fund, will be cut even further.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

The capital construction budget includes \$85 million for the WWRP, a \$5 million increase over last biennium's budget, its second highest funding ever. WWRP is Washington's primary funder of outdoor projects, including parks, trails, wildlife habitat and working lands. The budget funds over 100 projects across the state, including the purchase of 72 acres old growth forest at the south end of Merrill Lake in Cowlitz County and completes a multi-year acquisition of 1,453 acres of prime wildlife and riparian habitat.

By Susan Saul



Governor Inslee Opposes Kalama Methanol Plant

On May 8, during a bill signing to ban hydraulic fracking for oil and natural gas within Washington state, Governor Jay Inslee announced opposition to two fracked gas projects in Washington, including Northwest Innovation Works' proposed methanol refinery at Kalama. Inslee said that emerging science emphasizing the urgency to respond to climate change and the environmental impacts of natural gas make clear that the state's efforts and future investments in energy infrastructure must focus on clean, renewable resources rather than fossil fuels. Governor Inslee emphasized that his stance does not affect the state's regulatory process. He said that state agencies will comply with state and federal laws to ensure a rigorous and objective review of project proposals. Northwest Innovation Works, a Chinese-backed company, is finalizing its supplemental final environmental impact statement. Originally billed as a "cleaner" energy project that would displace dirtier coal-burning plants in China to produce plastic products, investigations have revealed that the company is marketing its project to investors as a potential fuel source. Presentations to potential investors detail the company's intent to burn its methanol for fuel in China. Transforming methanol to plastic traps carbon from being released, but burning it as transportation fuel releases carbon. Washington Department of Ecology will review the final environmental impact statement before key permits are issued.

By Susan Saul

Save the Date! BirdFest 2019 October 4 & 5, 2019



Birdfest is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. The plans for a celebration and the BirdFest & Bluegrass Festival will be a little different this year. This is a heads-up to save the dates of Friday, October 4th and Saturday, October 5th. The Friends of Ridgefield NWR are going to have a celebration party and fundraiser on Friday evening (4th) at Illani. This year, Birdfest and Bluegrass will be held only on Saturday, Oct 5th. There will be plenty of activities and Vancouver Audubon will be leading a bird walk on the Kiwa Trail and staffing the scoping station overlooking the Hunt Area on Saturday. We have a lot of fun doing both but we always need volunteers for the activities. So if this appeals to you, please mark you calendars. Requests for volunteers will be in the September newsletter. Thanks so much and come join the fun!

Susan Setterberg

SAVE THE DATE: Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW)

HOST REGION: Southwest Chapters (Vancouver, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, Tahoma, Black Hills)

WHEN: **September 27-29, 2019**

WHERE: **Vancouver Water Resources Education Center**, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661

REGISTRATION: \$40/person

THEME: 100% Audubon

Inspired by our recent victory in passing the 100% Clean Energy legislation, we have been reflecting on all we can accomplish when we – as an Audubon community – are 100% committed. By combining forces, all our initiatives are stronger, and with a mentality of 100% we remove the barriers that keep us from thinking big in what we can accomplish together.

In this year's ACOW, we will focus on big initiatives that could impact 100% of Audubon chapters. Key speakers include the director of Audubon's new Migratory Birds Initiative and the leader of the Campus Chapter Program. We will take time to celebrate recent achievements, in the legislature (e.g., 100% Clean Energy) and across the landscape (e.g., completion of the Sagebrush Songbird Survey in Eastern Washington.) And we will honor longtime Audubon leader Helen Engle, who exemplified what it means to be 100% in for the birds.

During this weekend, we'll reserve time to share our work, learn from each other, identify opportunities to collaborate, and network with Auduboners from across the state.

ACOW will start on Friday afternoon with education and conservation committee meetings, followed by pizza and an evening speaker. We will meet all day Saturday and conclude with field trips on Sunday to see cranes and other special birds in the region.

Please save the weekend on your calendars now, and [watch the website](#) for more information as it becomes available. See you in Vancouver!



Teri Anderson

Chapter Network Manager

206.652.2444 x108

April 16, A nice movement of raptors over Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground yard included 7 **TURKEY VULTURES** in one kettle with a pale morph **SWAINSON'S HAWK** with them. The identification marks noted included white below, dark chest, pointed wings, slimmer in all respects than TV or Red-tailed Hawk and it flew with a dihedral (V-shape). This is a hawk of the open grasslands that migrates to South America, it eats a lot of insects and was once called a Grasshopper Hawk. Other raptors seen were **1 OSPREY, 2 COOPER'S HAWKS, 1 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, 4 RED-TAILED HAWKS** and **3 BALD EAGLES**.

April 19, In his Washougal yard, Clark spotted two **NASHVILLE WARBLERS** among the 21 he saw there including **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** and **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**.

APRIL 24, We had a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** at our feeder for only a few minutes before it was chased away by a Rufous Hummingbird, this bird stuck around for five days.

APRIL 26, a visit to Frenchman's Bar Park by Bob Flores produced 19 **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 8 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 4 WILSON'S WARBLERS, 1 WARBLING VIREO, 15 HOUSE WREN, 1 SWAINSON'S THRUSH, 3 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS** and **1 BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**.

April 27, a **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** was calling from our woods where they have nested for over forty years.

April 28, At the lower end of the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail, Bob Flores found a **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** there with 18 **LEAST SANDPIPERS**. Along LaFramboise Road he picked out 2 **VAUX'S SWIFT, 1 GREATER YELLOW-LEGS, 1 WARBLING VIREO, 1 SWAINSON'S THRUSH, 61 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 9 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 2 YELLOW WARBLERS, 3 WILSON'S WARBLERS** and a **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**.

April 29, besides the **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD**, we had a **GRAY FLYCATCHER** at our place east of Washougal.

May 1, Arden and Sherry Hagen had a fallout at their Cascade Park home with several **WESTERN TANAGERS** and **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER, WILSON'S WARBLER** and **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS**.

May 8, a **LAZULI BUNTING** was photographed at NatureScaping Gardens in Brush Prairie by Barbara Bloomfield.

May 9, Les Carlson and I spent the day birding in the Columbia Gorge, our best bird of the day was a **SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER** on Hamilton Island below Bonneville Dam, there are fewer than five records of this species in Skamania County.

May 12, an unusual looking female grosbeak was photographed on Keith Knittle's feeders, it showed markings of both Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

May 15, Deanna Reed reported a pair of **WILSON'S WARBLERS** at her home near Mill Plain and Andresen, their normal habitat is along brushy streams and in thick understory in forests, but during migration birds can be found anywhere.

May 17, Lyn and Gene Topinka we drove LaFrambois Road in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, off of Fruit Valley Road and found Lazuli Buntings singing along the road and a surprise **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** on a back pond along with **BULLOCK'S ORIOLES, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, CINNAMON TEAL** and **YELLOW WARBLERS**.

May 18, Ken Knittle and John Bishop saw a male **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** coming to a feeder while they were observing the mystery grosbeak.

May 19, Les Carlson's counted 12 **LESSER GOLD-**

(Continued on page 6)

FINCHES with their young feeding on one nyger seed sock with a total of at least 16 in his Hazel Dell yard.

May 20, a flock of 9 **RED-NECKED GREBES** were photographed from the Steigerwald Lake NWR dike trail by John Bishop, this was the largest group of these birds that I have heard of locally.

May 21, 3 **LAZULI BUNTINGS** made a short visit to our field before being chased off by the nesting swallows there.

This Spring's migration period continued to produce interesting and out of place birds in our area but I never did encounter any sizable groups of migrants. We had very low numbers of migrant warblers at our place even though we did see eight different species here. The migration will wind down by the first of June but restarts again in July when the first southbound shorebirds arrive from their arctic breeding grounds. Now that Vancouver Audubon has a Facebook group you can report your sightings and share your local natural history photos there. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/290490018269847/>

Since I am a birder, I would love to see what your feeding areas look like and how you provide water or cope with squirrels. As of May 21st, 204 species of birds have been reported this year in Clark County and 169 in Skamania County. Have a nice summer and may all your birds be identified.

By Wilson Cady



Experience Carty Lake Like Never Before

Excerpt from the Refuge2020.info site

In partnership with the Port of Ridgefield, the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is excited to announce the long-awaited opening of the new Carty Lake Trail on May 1st, 2019. As the Port waterfront transformed into a family-friendly walking space, the Refuge recognized the area as an important opportunity to work side-by-side and build upon that experience. During the past two years, we've added over a mile of new trails, constructed an entry plaza, and built a trail-head kiosk to welcome people into the Refuge.

With the connection between the Port trail and Refuge trails now in place, we have taken an important step in our shared goal of connecting the community and its visitors to immersive nature experiences, no matter what popular community space marks the start of your journey.

Get a taste of the Refuge before you go all in

The beginning of the approximately one-mile trail system offers Port visitors a year-round loop that can be accessed without paying the Refuge's \$3 daily fee. This special loop travels through restored woodlands and offers gorgeous views of wildlife on Carty Lake and Lake River.

When you're ready to take the next step:

From the free loop, you're invited to venture further into the Refuge on a new seasonal trail. This trail marks the beginning of the \$3 daily fee area. The nominal cost supports public programming at the Refuge and gives you access to the rest of the Carty Unit and the River S Unit, home of the Auto Tour Route and Kiwa Trail.

On this seasonal trail - Open May 1st through September 30th - you'll meander along Carty Lake, over Gee Creek, and slowly rise out of the floodplain where you'll encounter massive oak trees and arrive at the Cathlapotle Plankhouse. From here, you can connect to the Oaks to Wetlands Trail System or head over the footbridge to Refuge Headquarters.

*Patrick Stark's Refuge 20/20 blog and guest author
Chris Lapp,*

Project Leader at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

We have no Bird Rehabilitators in the Vancouver Area that we are aware of. So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation?



Many Birds that hit a window just need some time to rest to get “their wind back” before taking off again.

Try putting them in a box with plenty of air for an hour or more until you hear movement then take them outdoors and test if they are ready to fly off. If not then....

1. Call the **Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center** for information: 503-292-0304. The center is located at 5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland, OR.
2. Call Arden 360-635-1828 (c) or 360-892-8872(h)
3. If he is available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center, you will be asked to donate a gas mileage compensation and a small donation for the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.
4. DoveLewis, a 24hr Animal Hospital in downtown Portland will take the bird overnight if the Portland Audubon Wildlife is closed. 1945 NW Pettygrove, Portland, OR 503-228-7281.

In the meantime....

Keep the bird in a box with small air holes.

You might offer water via a dropper, and if necessary watered down puppy chow to supply nutrients.

Vancouver Audubon is on Facebook!

Follow our page [@VancouverAudubon](#) to get up-to-date announcements, news, and events from Vancouver Audubon! We also added a group page—you can find the group by just selecting the button “Visit Group” under our page banner. Join the group to share your nature photos and experiences, or to even get ID help!



Ridgefield NWR Closures

Current Projects affecting access to the refuges:

Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit

Habitat Improvement: Oak Release

Beginning March 18, the Carty Unit at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will undergo a process known as an “oak release.” This involves removing faster growing conifer trees, mainly Douglas fir, in order to create more ideal growing conditions for Oregon white oak trees.

The Oaks-to-Wetlands Trail will close north of the Oak Overlook (the end of the paved portion of the trail) for approximately six weeks during tree cutting. The trail will remain closed for up to two additional months in order to ensure the site is safe from falling debris. Look for the trail to re-open north of the Oak Overlook in June or July.

Ridgefield NWR “S” Unit

Public access improvement: River S Bridge Replacement

No public access Monday through Friday. During the bridge replacement construction, access to River “S” Unit will be restricted to Saturday and Sunday.

This project will replace the existing single-lane bridge that provides access over Lake River to the Auto Tour Route and the Kiwa Trail. The new bridge will be two lanes wide and will cross over both the railroad tracks and the river, improving access and safety.

Want to stay informed?

Check [Refuge2020.info](#) to get the most recent information about the many wildlife habitat and public access improvements to be completed or underway by 2020.



(360) 253-5771

Everything for the Wild Bird enthusiast™

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VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Mission Statement:
Vancouver Audubon believes in the wisdom of nature's design and promotes this through education, involvement, stewardship, enjoyment and advocacy.

Reminder!
This is the last paper-printed newsletter! To continue to receive your copy, be sure to send your email address to nwbirder@gmail.com.

June 2019

THE COLUMBIA FLYWAY is the monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Publication **deadline** is at the board meeting each month.

VANCOUVER AUDUBON ** MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

Membership dues support speaker programs, Flyway production and conservation projects.

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$20/year.

_____ I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donation of \$ _____

_____ I wish only to support Vancouver Audubon with a donations of \$ _____

Membership Renewal date:

September 1st

VAS will not share your information with any other organization. However, we may send out a limited number of time sensitive news items we feel are important to club membership.

Chapter Code: Y13

Please include this form and make check payable to and send to:
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more information:
George Mayfield 360-360-687-0360 (membership)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ (for Vancouver Audubon's use only)

For additional information on membership to National Audubon, got to <http://www.audubon.org/>

Going Green with the VAS Newsletter!

VAS will be transitioning to an all-digital newsletter format by next fall. To continue receiving a VAS newsletter, please be sure we have your correct email address. An electronic newsletter saves paper and printing and mailing costs. Since our printed edition numbers had fallen so low, the publisher cannot set the press for them any longer. Until June, printed copies will be printed manually, so you may see a difference is paper and ink. Digitally, you can enjoy the newsletter in full color and easily follow hyperlinks! E-mail George at gomayf@comcast.net to have the PDF version of *The Columbia Flyway* sent to you. PDF version also available on the website: vancouveraudubon.org