



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

May 2017

Calendar

*****Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting** at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

*****Tuesday, May 30, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle**
8705 NE 51st Ave. Vancouver 360-576-0330

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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	31			

Program: Farming for Sandhill Cranes

Speaker: Dan Friesz

Daniel Friesz is currently the Natural Area Manager of the Columbia Land Trust property known as **Cranes' Land** since April 18, 2016 for wintering and staging of Sandhill Cranes in the heart of the Vancouver Lowlands. Dan has over 27 years of experience in surveying birds. He has worked five years for the Columbia Land Trust that currently involves habitat management plan development, annual monitoring, and habitat restoration. He has been involved with the restoration hundreds of acres of habitats within the Lower Columbia River Estuary as well as up-land forestland in eastern WA.



CRANE holds a conservation easement on the property while the Columbia Land Trust will manage this oasis in perpetuity to benefit migratory waterfowl – with an emphasis on Sandhill Cranes. Much of the 527-acre will be farmed yearly to provide wintering food for migrating and staging Sandhill Cranes ranging in numbers from 2,000-5,000. In addition, the highly detailed farming practices will provide critical wintering forage for tens of thousands of Canada Geese sub-species, Snow Geese, several species a dabbling ducks, raptors, and many mammalian species as well. Portions of the property not managed as farmland will be restored to native grasslands and palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands. A diversity of habitat types will not only attract a richness of bird species, but will also provide optimal benefits to insects, small mammals, amphibians, and larger mammals – such as Columbia white-tailed deer.

FIELD TRIP: Larch Mt., Clark County

Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: May 20, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Safeway parking lot at 162nd & 4th Plain.



This is a half day plus trip. Hiking will be a bit strenuous. We will be looking for MacGillivray's & Hermit Warbler, Sooty Grouse and more. Bring a lunch to eat at the summit & water for the hike. DISCOVERY PASS needed for parking.

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.



ANNUAL Spring POTLUCK

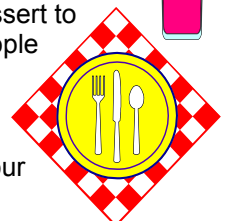
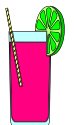


When: May 2nd

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to serve at least 10 people to share. Bring your own table service (plate, utensils, cup, napkins, etc) and your own drinks.



Vancouver Audubon

Go Solar Washington

Audubon WA is working on a new campaign, Go Solar Washington, and we need your help!

Protecting birds and the habitat they need is our top priority. Audubon science confirms that climate change is the number one threat to birds, so we are mobilizing our statewide network to take actions that will reduce carbon pollution, promote renewable energy, and protect the habitats birds need today and in the future.



Solar energy technology is booming in the United States, and yet Washington is falling behind in the clean energy race. We believe Vancouver and Clark County have the power to be leaders in the state, so we are calling for the city and county councils to adopt a policy to get 15% of our electricity from solar by 2025.

In order to achieve this goal, we will be building up public support for solar by gathering endorsements from local businesses and organizations, sharing the petition through social media, and organizing meetings with elected officials.

To learn more about the campaign and help out, contact Alana at AudubonWAsolar@gmail.com with subject line: Volunteer.

We need your help!

Over the years, Arden Hagen and Wilson Cady have led the bulk of Vancouver Audubon field trips. While Wilson leads a trip or two a year the majority of trips are left open for Arden to find a volunteer leader or step in and lead them himself. Susan Setterberg has stepped up and is now leading a few every year and I usually try to do at least one a year. In reality, Arden ends up doing more than his share of field trips and it's a lot to ask of him.

Would you be interested in volunteering to lead a field trip?

Your first thought is probably, "Oh no, not me. . . I'm not an expert birder". That's ok. You don't need to be. The only requirement is a desire to help, a destination, and a group to lead. Do you have a favorite place you like to visit? Your field trip can be a half day at a local destination or a full day of birding at the coast for shorebirds or a day in the mountains. There are so many choices! It's a bonus if you are up on birds, flowers, local history, and any other item of interest in our region, but very few of us are.

Our field trips are simply outings for like-minded people to get together and go birding. That's it. As a leader, you're simply the planner and chaperone with a goal of not losing anyone along the way.

If you have any interest in leading a trip, we'd really appreciate it. Give me or Arden a call with any questions or ideas and we'll lend our experience and knowledge. Thanks for any help that you can give.

Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116

Arden Hagen 360-892-8872

Save the Date

Sunday, May 7th



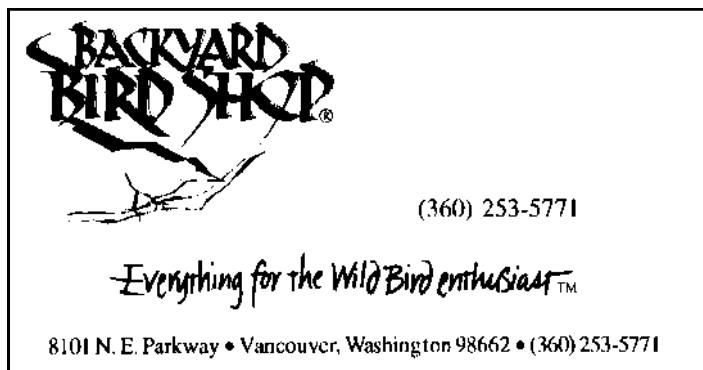
Special Evening Event

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Join them for refreshments, gift wrapping, live music, raffle and local guest artist: Dean Crouser

8101 NE Parkway Drive
360-253-5771

The Backyard Bird Shop will be collecting donations for Vancouver Audubon starting mid April.



Go Solar

This is Audubon is a campaign by Audubon Washington (and others) to promote the use of solar energy. Of course we know that global warming is the greatest long-term threat to birds the world over (although, in Clark County, the more immediate threat is probably urban sprawl).

In Washington, there are 189 species of birds that are climate sensitive. We'd expect that water-dependant birds such as the western grebe and various ducks and other waterfowl to be in trouble should the earth's temperature continue to rise, thereby changing the patterns of rainfall. Even so, it is startling to see such a common bird as the mallard on a list of birds that would be endangered by climate change. Hummingbird species that would be in trouble include the rufous hummingbird. Forest-dependant species would be affected as well.

As ecosystems move north, they would not do so in one piece. Some ecosystems would disappear altogether. Plants are less mobile than animals; both plants and animals vary in their ability to adjust to new conditions. For the sake of birds (as well as people) we need to do something about how we produce electricity.

Washington is lagging behind other states in adopting solar energy. (Although, our abundant hydropower may have something to do with that.) Nevertheless, fossil fuels are being used to produce electricity, and to protect bird habitat, we need to stop using them.

The approach that Audubon Washington is using right now is to talk to the decision-makers -- our elected officials. We would like to have our city councils adopt resolutions in support of solar energy.



A Win on Growth Management

Friends of Clark County (FOCC), with which Vancouver Audubon is closely allied on growth management issues, won nearly all of their challenges to Clark County's growth management plan. According to our attorney, (I am including Vancouver Audubon with FOCC), David McDonald, the Western Growth Management Board ruled in our favor on the following issues: the county "did not meet" Washington law "... requirements on urban growth expansions, buildable lands, urban reserve overlays, agricultural land de-designations, up-zoning agriculture and forest resource lands, variety of rural densities, and industrial land banks (all FOCC) challenges). Therefore, the Board basically affirmed FOCC's positions. The Board remanded those issues to the County and imposed invalidity on the County's action to expand urban growth area boundaries of Battle Ground, La Center, and Ridgefield." On top of that, all the challenges to the growth plan from Clark County Citizens United (CCCU -- a group of property owners from north county who want to develop their land) were rejected by the growth board. From our point of view, these decisions by the growth board were almost perfect.

Gretchen Starke 

GO PAPERLESS with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Sherry Hagen at littlebirder@comcast.net to receive a "PDF" copy of The Columbia Flyway in color sent to you. Include the email address that you wish to have it sent to.

The PDF form is also available on line at:

www.vancouveraudubon.org

Welcome New Members: Jack & Sherry Burkman and Barbara Harmon

March 11, Sightings from Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground yard: 7 **TUNDRA SWANS**, 1 male **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** and 2 **EVENING GROSBEAKS** flying over.

March 12, Ken Knittle reported a male **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** and a **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** in their back yard.

Bob Flores had a **OSPREY** at Salmon Creek near I-5 and a **TURKEY VULTURE** across from Frenchman's Bar Park.

Unusual in Skamania County, 3 **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** came to our feeders, we have had them here less than a half dozen times in forty years.

March 13, Peter Johnson saw a male **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** at his feeder in Stevenson, the first of the year (FOY) for Skamania County.

March 16, A male **CASSIN'S FINCH** at Ken Knittle's feeders in Hazel Dell was his 253rd bird seen in Clark County and the 99th species in his yard.

March 17, The first **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** of the year at Susan Setterberg's hummer feeder in Ridgefield this morning. She had been waiting since her friend in the SF Bay Area reported them about 10 days ago.

March 20, Randy Hill says that with a large number of **SAY'S PHOEBE** sightings west of the Cascades recently, the one seen on Bachelor Island at the Ridgefield NWR was not unexpected.

March 21, At the River S, Ridgefield NWR, Randy Hill spotted at least one each **BARN SWALLOW** and **NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** over Ruddy Lake. A single **TUNDRA SWAN** and a single **TRUMPETER SWAN** seen on South Mantrap Lake. A **PEREGRINE FALCON** and many **BALD EAGLES** were harassing everything and an **OSPREY** trying to figure out which nest platform to claim.

March 22, Ryan Abe reported that there were a few thousand gulls near the Lewis River Mouth and adjacent farm fields. These may have been a movement of Ring-billed and California Gulls heading for their nesting islands up the Columbia River. He had a couple early FOY birds in the area--**CLIFF SWALLOW** today and **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** yesterday. Peter Johnson saw the FOY **OSPREY** in Skamania County at Rock Creek Cove in Stevenson

March 23, At her Salmon Creek home, Michelle Maani had 1 **LESSER GOLDFINCH**, 1 **PURPLE FINCH** and a non-stop parade of **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES**, **CHESTNUT-BACKED** and **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES** at the feeder. Four **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKERS** tested

her house's acoustic qualities but decided trees worked better. She then drove to Frenchman's Bar Park where she saw a hundred **SANDHILL CRANES** land in the field near the park that is managed by the Columbia Land Trust as a crane feeding area.

Susan and I drove up to Klickitat County to look for wildflowers and early migrant birds, but near Bickleton we found **FERRUGINOUS HAWK**, **SAY'S PHOEBE**, **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, and **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**.

March 26, Five species of sparrows were among the thirty species that Les Carlson observed from his home in Hazel Dell. He had Red and Sooty **FOX SPARROWS**, **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**, **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**, **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** and **SONG SPARROW**.

March 31, Jim Danzenbaker birded on Larch Mountain finding 1 **SOOTY GROUSE**, 1 **WESTERN BLUEBIRD**, 1 **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, 5 **EVENING GROSBEAK** and 1 or 2 **RED CROSSBILLS**.

April 2, Ann Nightingale, Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan, joined Jim Danzenbaker on Larch Mountain for some birding. Highlights of their visit were 3 **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS**, a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, 5 **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS**, 3 **RED CROSSBILLS** and 22 **EVENING GROSBEAKS**.

We had a visible migration with our first of the year **RUBY-CROWNED** and **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS** and **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** moving through our woods.

April 3, Les Carlson had a nice mixed flock on his morning bike ride with **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER**, both **KINGLETS**, **BROWN CREEPER**, **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE** and a **BEWICK'S WREN** on territory there as well.

April 4, Bob Flores found 76 **GREAT EGRETS** using a wet area along the road across from the Frenchman's Bar Park entrance. In the corn field on the Frenchman's Bar side there were 279 **SANDHILL CRANES**. Throughout the area there were large numbers of Canada and cackling geese mostly using corn fields.

April 6, Ryan Abe birded near Ridgefield finding **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** everywhere, tons of **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** (nearly all Audubon's) with one flock having 16 birds, **COMMON YELLOWTHROATS** increasing, FOY **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, a handful of flyover american pipits, large increase in **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS**, a few **SAVANNAH SPARROWS**, and was able to pish in a flock of about 25 **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS**.

Vancouver Audubon

A **CHIPPING SPARROW** on the Jim Danzenbaker's deck was the first Spring record for his yard.

April 7, A pair of **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** visited Eric and Tammy Bjorkman's feeders in Vancouver. These lovely finches used to be very rare in our state but they have increased in numbers but still have a very spotty local distribution. They are common in some Vancouver neighborhoods and virtually absent from others.

The number of species reported by anyone this year for the 2017 County Cumulative List project was Clark: 171 and Skamania: 103.

While scouting the Woodland Bottoms for the VAS field trip she led, Susan Setterberg photographed a gorgeous dark morph **RED-TAILED HAWK**, it was the color of dark chocolate. A **BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** was reported coming to a feeder in Camas during the first week in April. Migration lasts through the month of May, with Red-eyed Vireo and Common Nighthawks among the last species to arrive. This year's migration has seemed a little behind the normal schedule due to our extended cool and wet Spring and the late leafing out and blooming of the native trees and shrubs that provide food for the insects that the migrants need to fuel their journey. Please continue to send your sightings to me for inclusion in this column and the County Cumulative List.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

Wenas Campout - Memorial Day Weekend ***Free*** May 26-29, 2017

The annual gathering of the Audubon Chapters of Washington takes place on the Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Forest Campground east of Selah, in Yakima County. This campground is situated in a valley that spans many habitat types, from grasslands, to sub-alpine meadows. This variety of plant communities hosts a wide range of birds along with many wildflowers. Birds seen here on a regular basis include Poorwill, White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and both Western and Mountain Bluebirds to name only a few of the over two hundred species on the area checklist.



The Native Plant Society will once again be joining us and will, as usual, have a display board with specimens of the flowers identified and labeled.

There are numerous field trips scheduled every day covering most habitat types and focusing on all aspects of the natural history of the Wenas Valley. These trips include all day and part day hikes and auto tours. For those that wish to just stay in the campground area there are workshops and classes both in the mornings and afternoons, some of these are designed for children.

Rustic would be the best description of this campground, there is no water or power, and portable out-houses are the closest thing to luxury. Every form of camping from Motorhomes to pup tents will be seen here, many people attend yearly to visit and relax, or explore on their own. Bring your own water and all other supplies. Campfires are not always permitted, check the website the week before the campout.

There are no fees charged to attend this gathering and it is open to everyone who enjoys the outdoors. This is probably the only spot in the State where you are guaranteed a camping space on the Memorial Day Weekend.

Directions: Take Highway 97 north from Yakima, leave the Freeway at Exit 30A to the town of Selah, when you reach Naches Avenue turn right and go to Wenas Avenue and follow it 21 miles to the end of pavement. Here you take the gravel Audubon Road, 2.5 miles to a bridge that crosses the creek and leads into the campground. Before you leave Selah fill your gas tank and avoid having to return to do so later.

The campout is free and open to all ages. This is a Department of Natural Resources campground so every vehicle must display a **Washington State Discover Pass**.

For more information contact Wilson Cady:
gorgebirds@juno.com

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

We have no Bird Rehabilitators in the Vancouver Area that we know 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
5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR
2. Call Arden or Sherry Hagen for information: 360-892-8872
If they are available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then they ask that they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation for the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.
3. There is 24 hr **Animals Hospital called DoveLewis** in downtown Portland that will take the bird overnight if the Portland Audubon Wildlife is closed.

1945 NW Pettygrove 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 SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1966
Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

vancouveraudubon.org

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vancouver, WA
PERMIT# 976**

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

May 2017

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 COUPON

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

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$10/year.

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

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

_____ I prefer to receive the VAS Flyway by printed copy _____ by email _____ [PDF]

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

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 coupon and make check payable to and send to:
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360 (membership)
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116 (VAS President)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

President	Eric Bjorkman	695-3116	bjorkmante@iinet.com
Vice-Pres	Joan Durgin	834-5621	jdurgin1@hotmail.com
Secretary	Tammy Bjorkman	213-6489	bjorkmante@iinet.com
Treasurer	Susan Setterberg	980-0884	smsetterberg@yahoo.com
Conservation	Gretchen Starke	892-8617	gstarke@pacifier.com
Membership	George Mayfield	687-0360	gomayf@comcast.net
Field Trips	Arden Hagen	892-8872	iambakerman@comcast.net
Programs	Bob Rowe	254-8699	rowe9629@comcast.net
Sightings	Wilson Cady	835-5947	gorgebirds@juno.com
Editor	Sherry Hagen	892-8872	littlebirdier@comcast.net
Mailings	Bonnie Bingle	576-0330	audubonnie@comcast.net
Refreshments	Cindy Mayfield	687-0360	gomayf@comcast.net