



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

May 2019

Program

Mountain Goats Return to *Lawetlat'la!*

Nathan Reynolds

Tuesday, May 7th

7:00pm



Nathan Reynolds is an ethnologist for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe in southwest Washington and currently serves as interim Cultural Program Manager. For millennia, Cowlitz people climbed the slopes of Mount St. Helens/*Lawetlat'la* to hunt mountain goats and collect wool. These fibers were spun into yarn, woven into capes and blankets, and traded throughout the pre-contact Northwest Coast as high-status items. Since the 1980 eruption, mountain goats have naturally recolonized Mount St. Helens and the population is expanding. Biologists from the Tribe, several agencies, and volunteer citizen scientists are working together to monitor population trends. The volcano was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property of the Cowlitz Tribe, and members are again gathering tufts of wool from the slopes of *Lawetlat'la*, preparing to recover the lost art of wool-weaving. Reynolds will weave science, culture and history together in his fascinating presentation!

[West Park Community Room at 610 Esther St.](#)

Time for the Annual Spring Potluck!

Time: 6:15 PM



Come early to the monthly meeting and enjoy good food and great company! 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.



Field Trip

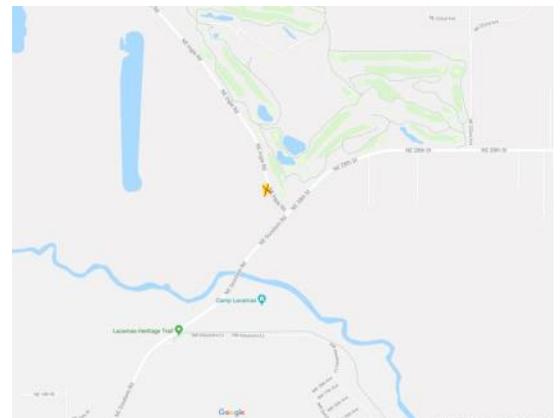
Lacamas Prairie Natural Area

Leader: Carlo Abbruzzese

When: Saturday, May 18th at 8:00am

Where: Meet at the parking area just NW of the intersection of Goodwin and Ingle and NE of the Camas Meadows Golf Course.

This combined natural area preserve (NAP) and natural resources conservation area (NRCA) protects the best known remnant of the Willamette Valley wet prairie ecosystem in Washington. Lacamas Prairie Natural Area also protects one of the largest populations of Bradshaw's lomatium, which is federally listed as "endangered". The site also protects populations of five other rare plant species: Oregon coyote-thistle, Hall's aster, dense sedge, Nuttall's quillwort, small-flowered trillium. The prairie remnant occurs in a native valley landscape mosaic with Oregon white oak woodland and Oregon ash wetland forest that is home to a number of migrant and resident birds. Birds that we might encounter include, migrant and resident warblers, lazuli bunting, warbling vireo, Wilson's snipe, and lesser and American goldfinch. With luck we may also see the rare race of the white-breasted nuthatch (slender billed) that is only know from 4 locations in the state. No parking permits required and there are no restrooms on site. Rubber boots advised as ground can be very wet into May. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. This easy, mile or so hike accesses some flat wetland species and rare plants.



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		A30	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	

April 30th (Tuesday)@6:30pm: Board Meeting @ West Park Community Room

May 7th (Tuesday) @ 6pm: VAS Spring Potluck and Program
West Park Community Room, 610 Esther St., Vancouver

May 18th (Saturday) @ 8am: Field Trip

May 28th (Tuesday): VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle

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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 Les Carlson



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.

Illegal Quarry Threatens Natural Resources

Illegal gravel mining in eastern Clark County, just inside the northwest boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, has been harming lands, water bodies, and wildlife, as well as the surrounding community, on a daily basis. The unpermitted rock quarry, located just north of Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, is one of the largest and longest-running land use violations in the 32-year history of the National Scenic Area.

The property, owned by the Zimmerly family, has a history of mining-related violations. For example, in the mid-1990s, Zimmerly illegally discharged millions of gallons of sediment-laden mining runoff into Gibbons Creek and Steigerwald Lake refuge, destroying endangered salmon habitat and other resources. Zimmerly was fined nearly \$200,000 and mining was discontinued from 2004 on.

In October 2017, Zimmerly's new tenant, the Nutter Corporation, once again began mining, crushing, and hauling rock from the property, and began using an unpermitted drainage ditch to discharge mining runoff onto adjacent property. Neither Zimmerly nor Nutter attempted to obtain the required land use approvals and permits to resume mining operations.

Unfortunately, despite repeated pleas for help from hundreds of citizens, the staff of the Columbia River Gorge Commission have failed to carry out their enforcement responsibilities under the Scenic Area Act and implementing rules, thus allowing the illegal quarry to keep operating with impunity. The Commission's staff could, at any time, shut down the illegal mining immediately by using its enforcement powers and issuing a simple stop-work order.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge has joined with a dozen Clark County residents and land owners in appealing decisions not to enforce National Scenic Area rules. The appeals will be heard by the 12 appointed Gorge Commission members. Vancouver Audubon Society will file an amicus brief focused primarily on the Hearings Examiner's erroneous ruling blocking the public from participating in land use enforcement matters.

By Susan Saul

Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance Study

Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is currently studying recreational assets of statewide significance and they need your input! These are outdoor places that make Washington a great place to live. They include local facilities that support the most popular forms of recreation in our state as well as marquee, popular, and destination sites that have a regional or statewide draw.

This study will identify these assets, where gaps may exist, and recommendations and investment strategies to fill these gaps. The study also will forecast needs through 2040 and how this study will implement the goals of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan.

Studying these assets will help decision-makers determine how to invest in local and destination facilities to ensure that all residents have access to great recreation areas. The study is due to the Legislature by June 30, 2019.

What are assets of statewide significance?

Exceptional Assets: Places that are very important to one or more user groups because they are very popular, can accommodate high use, are truly "destination" sites, and represent the best of what Washington has to offer. These sites are marquee sites that draw people from around the state and beyond, or support a recreational community with disproportionate opportunities.

Foundational Assets: Facilities that support the most popular forms of recreation in the state as identified by a previous study: biking, boating and sailing, camping, fishing, hiking, leisure activities in a park, nature activities, paddling, playing sports, swimming, walking and winter recreation.

Get involved: The study is collecting information on all types of outdoor recreation. Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RASS-RCO>

By Susan Saul

March 15, the first **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** in Clark County was at Kevin Black's feeders in Vancouver, this was about two weeks later than normal.

March 17, A **SAY'S PHOEBE** was spotted and photographed flycatching over the fields near the gardens at Fort Vancouver by Michelle Maani.

March 18, Ridgefield 2 male **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS** were fighting over the feeders at Bill and Marilyn Feddeler's home in Ridgefield the first one of the year also showed up at our place east of Washougal.

March 19, Les Carlson, Barry Woodruff and I spent the day birding in Skamania County and despite it being windy at the west end of the county we still found some nice birds.

On Strawberry Island below Bonneville Dam we found 3 **SAY'S PHOEBES**, 1 **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** and 2 **AMERICAN PIPITS**. This area is also known as Hamilton Island and these open grasslands attract a lot of species that are hard to find in Skamania County which has very few low elevation open areas. The hill on the island was made with the rock and soil that was removed to make a new river channel for the second powerhouse for Bonneville Dam, when they demolished the old city of North Bonneville to dig that channel the debris from that town was buried underneath those hills. We found a second **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** along the waterfront in Stevenson, pretty good for a species I had never seen in the county before. At the Spring Creek Fish Hatchery we found our fourth **SAY'S PHOEBE** of the day and a **COMMON LOON**.

March 20, While successfully searching for the **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** below Bonneville Dam, Lyn and Gene Topinka found a **WESTERN BLUEBIRD** and **SAVANNAH SPARROWS** on Strawberry Island.

March 21, 3 **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES** were seen at the Steigerwald Lake NWR by Cindy McCormack and Robert Vanderkamp.

March 24, Bob Flores had his first **RUFOUS HUM-**

MINGBIRD of 2019 at his Ridgefield home

March 27, Steven Clark had a male **LESSER GOLD-FINCH** and three **AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES** return to his feeder in Washougal where they had been absent since last fall. It took another two days for 2 **AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES** to show up at our place six miles further east and 900' feet higher.

Continuing the sightings of east of the Cascades birds was a **VESPER SPARROW** seen and photographed at Steigerwald Lake by Walker Berg.

March 28, another eastside breeding species, a **BUR-ROWING OWL** was photographed at the Steigerwald



Lake NWR by Luke Hanes he also saw the long continuing **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**.

The first **PURPLE MARTIN** of the year was reported from the colony at Steigerwald Lake NWR by Samantha Neuffer.

April 4, A **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** was found at the Steigerwald Lake NWR parking lot feeding on Flowering Red-current blooms by Les Carlson and Bob Rowe.

April 5, Michelle Maani found a Greater **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** at Kline Park in Salmon Creek that was hanging out with five Canada Geese. Also the **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** are back in large numbers there.

April 6, A **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** was located by Peter Johnson along the eastern edge of Rock Creek Cove in Stevenson, shorebirds are very scarce in Skamania County.

April 7, Susan Setterberg reported that the **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS** were back at the Ridgefield NWR but it is hard to say which day they first arrived as the River S Unit is only open on weekends due to construction work on a new bridge.

April 8, Bob Flores visited Frenchman's Bar Park checking for migrants finding 5 **GOLDEN-CROWNED**

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56th Annual Washington State Audubon Campout The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at the Wenas Creek Campground

Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27, 2019

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, bats, butterflies, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington!

The 56th Annual Wenas Audubon Campout will take place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2019) at the The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at the Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg).



This casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, wildflower walks, field sketching, owl prowls, and campfire presentations PLUS special guest speaker, corvid researcher Dr. Kaeli Swift, Ph.D. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website (www.wenasaudubon.org) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information (2019 program coming soon). The campout is free and open to all ages. No reservations or registrations needed; just show up, set up camp, and participate in activities.

Donations are encouraged to cover SaniCans, signage, and other administrative costs. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>). Barring high fire danger, campfires will be allowed.

Follow us on Facebook, too! We'll be sharing photos and stories from past years, as well as tips from Wenas Campout pros to help make your trip a fun and memorable experience. [facebook.com/wenasaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/wenasaudubon/)

Contacts:



General questions? Contact Carol Kohler, carol-kohler98607@gmail.com

(Wilson Cady's Afield—Continued from page 4)

KINGLETS, 13 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS and 1 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

April 9, A return visit to Frenchman's Bar Park by Bob Flores turned up a **WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, 8 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, 8 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS and 2 COMMON YELLOWTHROATS.**

4 CLARK'S GREBES were at the Vancouver Lake flushing channel according to Jim Danzenbaker.

April 10, A pair of **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** were found by Bob Flores just below Sunset Falls on the East Fork of the Lewis River. Randy Hill and Jim Danzenbaker were able to see these ducks as well. This species winters on the ocean and nests on mountain streams and is rarely reported locally.

April 11, A male **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** was photographed at Rich and Ollie Young's feeders on Prune Hill in Camas. Although rare in western Washington we have a few of these birds seen locally every year due to our proximity to the mouth of the Gorge.

April 12, an **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** was the first warbler of this spring for our place.

April 13, the first **VAUX SWIFTS** were reported by EV Armitage at Vancouver Lake where they also had **CLARK'S GREBES** and **HORNED GREBES** at the flushing channel.

This has been a very unusual Spring migration in our area and the checklist for the year from the Steigerwald Lake NWR reads like a checklist from eastern Washington with Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike, Vesper Sparrow and Sagebrush Sparrow so far this year. The creation of this National Wildlife Refuge resulted from the Vancouver Audubon chapter taking it on as our first environmental project in 1975 and is it a great birding site to visit or to volunteer with the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, check their Facebook site for updates and sightings. The majority of the migrant birds arrive from mid-April through the end of May coinciding with the leafing out and blooming of our native trees and shrubs that provide for the insect hatch that fuels the bird's migration. Blooming

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(Continued from page 5)

oaks and maples are very attractive to birds and some species will eat the blooms too.

The annual Audubon Wenas Campout, will be held on the Memorial Day weekend, May 24 -27. This is a great free event for all people who enjoy the outdoors whether you are a birder, wildflower enthusiast or just enjoy sitting under the pines in a wonderful setting with like-minded people. This is probably the only public spot where you are assured of a camping spot on this busy weekend. For more information check the article on the campout in this news-

letter, visit the website at: www.wenasaudubon.org or contact me.

The cumulative bird lists for species reported in Clark County in 2019 is at 167 as of April 14th and in Skamania County the total was 116. For more information on this list go to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> The totals are updated every two months, if you have seen a bird not checked off for this year please let me know. And please continue to send me your sightings or share them on the Vancouver Audubon Group facebook page for use in this checklist and this column.

By Wilson Cady

Columbia Gorge Trip Report

On Saturday, March 16th, 11 participants joined me for our annual Columbia Gorge field trip. This time of year you can expect just about any type of weather but we were lucky enough to have only the wind to deal with. We made numerous stops along the way before reaching our destination, the Lyle-Balch cemetery, where we enjoyed lunch.



American Dipper

actively foraging and moving east rather quickly. Before long, it flew off along Hwy 14 and was gone.

The cemetery produced a flock of turkeys and numerous Lewis's Woodpeckers. Further up the road is a colony of Acorn Woodpeckers and we were lucky enough to find one amongst the Lewis's. Their

maniacal call is hard to miss.

The day produced 49 species seen. As usual, we had Tundra Swans at the Franz Lake pullout and the resident American Dippers put on a show at the Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery Complex. The pair actively collected nesting material from moss-covered rocks along the river before one of them graced us with close-up looks while perched atop the cement wall next to the small dam. A decent number of swallows swooped over the river close by. Most were Violet-green but there was at least one each of Tree and Barn Swallow.

Best birds of the day included a small flock of Lesser Goldfinch near Bonneville Dam. These birds, while becoming more common in Clark County, are still unusual in Skamania. So too are Say's Phoebe, a single bird seen at the Drano Lake boat ramp. This was a lucky find as it was



A non-birding highlight came in the form of a peach-huckleberry pie from Dickie Farms in Bingen which we all shared at lunch, compliments of one of our participants (Thanks Fran!). It was a fun day with a great group. The gorge is always a special place even when the birds aren't as cooperative as they were on this day.



Grass Widow

By Eric Bjorkman



MMMM...Pie!

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.

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.



Vancouver Audubon is on Facebook!

Follow our page [@VancouverAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/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!



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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.*

May 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 COUPON

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 \$ _____

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

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

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

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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 in paper and ink. Digitally, you can enjoy the newsletter in full color and easily follow shared 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