



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2017

## Calendar

\*\*\*Tuesday, Nov. 6 , 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by George & Cindy  
Mayfield, 24315 NE 59th Ave., Battleground 360-687-0360

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

\*\*\*Tuesday, Nov. 25 , 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Arden & Sherry  
Hagen's, 2203 SE 135th Ave., Vancouver 360-892-8872

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		

## PROGRAM:

### Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Speaker: Sandy Wright

Sandy Wright, Development Director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge will speak about Preserve the Wonder, a campaign to ensure that the wild and wonderful Columbia Gorge endures for many generations to come. The campaign aims to raise \$5.5 million to purchase and preserve seven properties on the Washington side of the Gorge totaling 420 acres. For over a decade, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has evaluated hundreds of properties and identified those with the most scenic landscapes, crucial wildlife habitat, and best recreational opportunities. These lands are now close to being permanently preserve. Sandy will take you on a video tour of all seven properties and suggest other ways to see these lands first-hand or get involved.

## FIELD TRIP

### Rare Bird Run

Leader: Arden Hagen,  
360-892-8872

When: Nov. 11, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Salmon Creek Park & Ride  
at 134th St. (Tenney St) & 10th Ave.



We will try for rarities in SW Washington. This could be an all day trip so bring lunch and snacks.

**We will carpool.**

**Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.**

**It is important that you sign up with an email address or phone number in order to be contacted in case of a late cancelation of the trip. Otherwise you may show up and no one is at the meeting place.**

## FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE



**Welcome New Members:** Betty Barton • Rosalie Bustos • Priscilla Christenson • Patti Daggett • Pamela Garlett • M. Deirdre J. Gilman • Merry & David Haveman • Scott Hewitt • Janeen Johnson • Linda Malinowski • Christina McClellan • Cindy McCormack • Pam Mitchum • Mary Noland • Eugene Ratkoviak • Deanna Reed • Sergey Tokarev

# Vancouver Audubon

VAS Budget will be voted on at the General Meeting on Dec 5th by the voting membership.

## Operating: 2017 Budget vs. 2018 Budget

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Bank Interest	25.00	10.00
Refreshments	15.00	15.00
Memberships*	800.00	2,200.00
Donations	1,300.00	1,700.00
Backyard Bird Shop		400.00
CFSWW—Disbursement		6,500.00
Doris Troxel Trust**		400.00
Audubon Adventures	1,000.00	
Fundraising Trips	3,200.00	1,500.00
National Audubon Society	1,785.00	1,785.00
Store Sales	300.00	300.00
Retained earnings	1,500.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>9,925.00</b>	<b>14,810.00</b>

## EXPENDITURES

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Postage	80.00	40.00
Supplies	150.00	125.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	82.00	94.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>		
	80.00	80.00
<b>CONSERVATION Meetings</b>		
	600.00	500.00
<b>DONATIONS</b>		
Audubon Washington	2000.00	2,000.00
PDX Wildlife Care Center	250.00	250.00
Intertwine Alliance	250.00	250.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge***		5,000.00
Unidentified Needs	615.00	500.00
<b>DUES/MEMBERSHIPS</b>		
Columbia Land Trust	100.00	100.00
WA. Environmental Council	100.00	100.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge	100.00	100.00
Nature Conservancy	100.00	100.00
Columbia Springs	100.00	100.00
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
Supplies	50.00	50.00
Printing	2,100.00	1,800.00
Postage	600.00	600.00
Bulk Mail Permit	215.00	227.00
<b>OUTREACH</b>		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	1,000.00	400.00
Audubon Adventures supplies	25.00	
Home and Garden Show	150.00	70.00
<b>PROGRAMS</b>		
Speaker Travel	700.00	700.00
<b>PUBLICITY (Web page, search engine)</b>		
	108.00	108.00
<b>RENT</b>		
	360.00	375.00
<b>MISC</b>		
		50.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,925.00</b>	<b>13,729.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$(0.00)</b>	<b>\$1,081.00</b>

\* Membership dues increase to \$20 starting Sept. 2018

\*\* Restricted Funds (Education) will be used for Audubon Adventures or similar activity

\*\*\* Steigerwald NWR Expansion Land Purchase

## Bequest Funds\* 2017 vs. 2018 Budget

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>2017 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Community Foundation Earnings	7,500.00	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>BEQUEST EXPENSES</b>		
Disbursements	5,000.00	6,500.00
Community foundation Fees	2,400.00	2,400.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,400.00</b>	<b>8,900.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>

\* The earnings from the Bequest funds are used for Grants in which VAS supports others organizations to help complete their environmental projects.

## Go Green with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Sherry Hagen at [littlebirder@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.vancouveraudubon.org)

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## An Agreement About to be Dumped

Nope, not the agreement we and other countries have with Iran on their nuclear development.. Nor any of the trade agreements we have with various countries. It is the agreement among ranchers, conservationists, state governments, scientists, and even energy companies on using the land, while still protecting the sage grouse.

It took a lot of time and a lot of negotiating for all parties to reach an agreement that everyone can live with. Even the sage grouse can live with the agreement. Ten years is what it took. As a result, in 2015, the USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service) decided that it was not necessary to list the sage grouse as either endangered or threatened. Audubon, of course, had been deeply involved with the negotiations.

The agreement plan works on a landscape level and "the goal is to keep as many acres of sagebrush lands intact while supporting economic enterprise" (Yarnold, Audubon, Fall 2017).

Enter the new administration. The Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, announced that the administration would "overhaul" the agreement now in place to conserve the greater sage grouse. Zinke had in mind to make the agreement better (Better for whom? Probably not the grouse.)

Reaction has been vigorous and negative. As David Yarnold, CEO of National Audubon, put it, "it (the agreement) wasn't broken and it didn't need fixing." Think of it!! A conservation agreement among environmentalists and other advocates of the grouse on one hand and business, the kind of businesses that involves using the land, on the other hand, agreeing to a plan that was negotiated and in place for a couple of years. And was working well as shown by the fact that the grouse did not need to be listed. **But these new comers, knowing nothing about wildlife or the west in general, think they can come up with a "better plan."** Better than the science-based plan now in place.

Zinke decided to "focus on numbers of sage grouse" (ibid). The problem with that approach is that sage grouse naturally has a population characteristic that is either boom or bust. The numbers fluctuate. That makes it difficult, if not impossible, to plan or to determine the status of the population. (As an example, years ago, Oregon Fish and Wildlife made a serious mistake with coho salmon, which also has a fluctuating population cycle. The population of coho would go down and ODFW reacted by cutting the permitted catch. Then, the population would increase naturally, and ODFW would permit an increased catch. The next natural down turn would be lower yet. The result was the continued decrease of the coho population until ODFW realized what was happening. By then, it was almost too late.)

Zinke's plan also involves captive breeding (ibid). For sage grouse, "scientists have shown (this it) is difficult to

do" (ibid). For a species that is having difficulty simply because of habitat decline, this is a terrible idea. To help such animals, just stop degrading the habitat. And, by the way, a captive breeding program is bound to be much more expensive than letting the grouse do their reproductive thing, naturally. (How do you duplicate in captivity the lek breeding system that the grouse use?)

Yarnold said that the only people who support Zinke's plan are "the fly-by-night drillers who are most likely to operate on the edge of the law." Lovely. Throw out a plan that seems to be working in favor of Zinke's know-nothing ideas. Throw out a plan that the relevant parties can live with. So, a further disadvantage to Zinke's plan is the probability of conflict and hostility, a situation that the negotiations and eventual agreement avoided.

Gretchen Starke



## Thanks to Birdfest Volunteers

Thank you so much to John Allinger, Sherry and Arden Hagen, Sam Neuffer, Randy Hill, George Mayfield, Michelle Maani, and Les Carlson represented Vancouver Audubon for BirdFest Bird walk and scoping station. I know both the Friends and VAS are very grateful.

We had two really good days. Not super numbers of birds but a very nice variety of species and good weather. Saturday started with 250-300 **White Pelicans** in the morning which also showed themselves Sunday afternoon. Saturday's start bird was a Peregrine Falcon while Sunday's were two adult Bald Eagles using the same snag. **Sandhill Crane** were

mostly visible on both days; ducking into depressions from time to time. The very noisy Kingfishers of Saturday finally gave a good fly around show on Sunday. An interesting sighting on Saturday was watching a Northern Harrier harass a Raven for some time; while on Sunday, it was watching a Great Blue Heron get the best of a snake in the middle of the road for all to view. Sunday we got to watch two Red-tails doing mating behavior overhead, possible in response to a third bird encroaching. We identified 38 birds from the scope station inside the River S

Hunt gate. I know Randy had Osprey and Snowy Egret going down to the Crane Tour view sight, while Arden mentioned Cedar Waxwings too. I am sure we had more visitors each day than combined dates of both the previous two BirdFests where we scoped at the hunt gate. It was a good showing all around. Thanks to everyone for helping out. And a big thank you to Bonnie Bingle who arranged for table coverage at the Birder's Marketplace.

*Susan Setterberg*



**Sept. 10, SABINE'S GULL** at the Steigerwald Lake NWR photographed by Ken Pitts, was a new bird for the refuge checklist.

The first fall Sooty **FOX SPARROW** reported was at Les Carlson's home in Hazel Dell, Sootys breed in northern Washington and to the north and on the Olympic Peninsula and are our common wintering subspecies.

**Sept. 11, Another FOX SPARROW** and a **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** were detected by Jim Danzenbaker on Larch Mountain.

**Sept. 12, 28 LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS** were seen on the Pierce NWR, in Skamania County, by Randy Hill and Cindy McCormack while they were taking the Purple Martin nests down for the winter. These were the first of these lovely woodpeckers reported in the county his year and were seen heading downstream past nearby Beacon Rock.

**Sept 13, The first of the year LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** for Clark County was reported by Cindy McCormack from the Ridgefield NWR where they were a common bird forty years ago.



**Sept. 14, The 2 SNOWY EGRETS** at Ruefner's Pond on Lower River Road were seen by Michelle Maani.

**Sept. 15, Jim Danzenbaker** birded on Larch Mountain finding his first two Clark County **2 CASSIN'S FINCHES, 3 CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS, 1 SAY'S**

**PHOEBE**, his first one locally in the fall, **3 MERLIN** and **11 TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**. He said that the birds were along the edge of the smoke plume while eleven miles south east of him we had very few birds inside of the smoky area.

His first of the fall **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** was in Les Carlson's Hazel Dell yard, where there were 20 or more **BUSHTITS** together as well. There must have been a good movement of sparrows overnight since on his bike ride he had a **CHIPPING SPARROW** and **SAVANNAH SPARROW** as well.

**Sept. 18, Our first wintering GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** and **DARK-EYED JUNCOS** arrived at our feeders.

**Sept. 22, 2 LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS** were reported



from Beacon Rock State Park by Jared Strawderman. Luckily they stayed around for several days allowing both Lyn Topinka and myself to see them.

Migrant species at our home included 1 **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, 2 BLACK SWIFTS, 2 HERMIT THRUSH, 1 Slate-colored FOX SPARROW** and **16 EVENING GROSBEAK**. That type of Fox Sparrow is one of four subspecies seen in Washington and breeds east of the Cascades.

**Sept. 23, Another SABINE'S GULL**, which is an Arctic nesting species that spends its life over the ocean was found at Frenchman's Bar Park by Shawneen Finnegan and David Irons.

**Sept. 24, John and Mary Davis** were birding at the St. Cloud Recreation Area in Skamania County where they counted an amazing **58 LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS, 84 CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAYS** and **240 STELLER'S JAYS** flying east up the Columbia River. Cathy Flick was also there with a crew netting and banding birds near the orchard and commented on the huge number of jays seen there.

Susan and I found two **VESPER SPARROWS** at Strawberry Island below Bonneville Dam, our first in the county.

**Sept. 25, Les Carlson** Good birds today were his first of fall **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** at Millers pond in Hazel Dell along with **WILSON'S SNIPE** and Great Egret. At his home he had his first of fall **WHITE- THROATED SPARROW**.

**Sept. 26, Jim Danzenbaker** decided to check if the birds were still moving through the St. Cloud site and found 1 **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER, 515 STELLER'S JAYS** and **52 CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAYS** all headed east up the Columbia River. He also counted about 150 **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** in the orchard there.

**Sept. 27, I also visited St. Cloud** and saw 1 **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER, 111 STELLER'S JAYS** and **28 CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAYS**.

**Sept. 28, Ken Knittle** had 1 **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** flying over their Hazel Dell yard for his first nighthawk in Clark County.

**Sept. 29, Sept. 29** , Larry Basham spotted 4 **SURF SCOTERS** that he watched fly across the Clark-Skamania County line for the first sighting in both counties in 2017.

A calling **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** was just behind our house when I went out to fill our bird feeders. Just had about 50 fly over the house. First for Fall.

Bob Flores had 50 **CACKLING GEESE** fly over his Ridgefield area home, his first of the fall

**Sept. 30, Jim Danzenbaker** spotted 1,350 **GREATER-**

# Vancouver Audubon

**WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** - heading south over his Battle Ground home, FOY for his county and yard lists. Other interesting sightings were 51 **TURKEY VULTURES** - 51, **42 COMMON BUSHTIT** (in one flock!) and 2 **AMERICAN PIPITS**.

Ken Knittle had a late migrant **WESTERN TANAGER** in their yard using the water bath and hanging around a Sapphire Berry tree which was loaded with bright blue berries

**Oct. 1**, Jim Danzenbaker was looking skyward from his Battle Ground yard and saw a flock of 6 **GREAT EGRETS** which is only the 6th time he ever recorded them from his place. After appeared vultures started flying he saw 10 kettles for the afternoon totaling 164 birds was his highest daily count from his back yard. Additionally, one **PEREGRINE FALCON**, several **RED-TAILED HAWKS** and one **COOPER'S HAWK** and one **SHARP-SHINNED Hawk** rounded out the show.

Jim Lawrence had a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** on Whalen Road in the Woodland bottoms.

**Oct. 2**, Jim & Gloria Lawrence reported a **BLACK PHOEBE** on Whalen Road in the Woodland Bottoms. Lots of **SANDHILL CRANES**, **CANADA/CACKLING GEESE** and **SNOW GEESE** and of **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS**.

While not a bird, Susan and I enjoyed seeing and photographing a **BOBCAT** chasing rabbits under our bird feeders.

**Oct. 3**, Jim Danzenbaker birded on Larch Mountain finding a nice movement of migrant birds. He recorded 1 **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**, 6 **COOPER'S HAWKS**, 6 **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS**, 2 **MERLIN**, 13 **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, 142 **VARIED THRUSH** and 46 **EVENING GROSBEAK**.

**OCT. 5**, A **NORTHERN SHRIKE** was found on Hamilton Mountain by Rik DeTroye and Mary Cal Hanson, the first for Skamania County in 2017.

**Oct. 7**, A **SNOWY EGRET** and an **OSPREY** were found at the Ridgefield NWR during a Birdfest Tour led by Randy Hill.

The large number of eastbound jays and Lewis's Woodpeckers seen in the Columbia River Gorge is puzzling, the jays could have come from anywhere west of the Cascades but where would 60 Lewis's Woodpeckers originate from as they are scarce in western Washington? Many of the species that nest here such as vireos, warblers and tanagers have returned to their tropical wintering grounds and our attention shifts to the large numbers of wintering waterfowl and raptors and the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and the Ridgefield NWR are excellent areas to see a vari-

ety of these birds from the roadways while keeping warm and dry in your vehicle. The trails along the Columbia River upstream from the I-5 bridge are a great place to view the river for loons, grebes and scoters during the winter. Just look for the large rafts of Greater and Lesser Scaup and look through them for out of place birds such as scoters or Tufted Duck.

The 2017 Clark County Cumulative Year List is at 229 species reported in the county this year. In Skamania County there have been 187 species seen. To see the complete list go to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> If you have seen any bird this year in Clark or Skamania County that has not been checked off please let me know.

Wilson Cady [gorgebirds@juno.com](mailto:gorgebirds@juno.com)



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## 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 360-635-2333 (cell) or 360-892-8872 (home)
3. If he is available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then 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.
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**

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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.*

**November 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)

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

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