



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

April 2008

## Calendar

\*\*\*BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, April 1, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

\*\*\*Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, April 7, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting at the home of Nancy Ellifrit 3805 NE 160th St. Ridgefield 360-574-3621

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## PROGRAM:

### Trinidad & Tobago, and Brazil

by Mike & Kathy Kinnie

Kathy and I recently returned from two photo shoots - Trinidad & Tobago, and Brazil. We would like to share the new photos of High-Speed flash Hummingbirds and other birds and animals from the trips with the members of the Audubon. Some of the images include stunning shots of the most difficult Hummingbird to get the colors to come out (the Ruby Topaz) and a whole list of hummers from Brazil that stay south of the Amazon and along the Atlantic Forest area of that country.



We also got spectacular shots of toucans, tanagers, parrots, toucanets, woodpeckers and Kathy got some awesome images of the Brazilian Merganser (one of the rarest birds in the world -2007 survey reported total population at under 250).

I had the pleasure of walking with Giant Anteaters. In fact one was so close that he brushed by me and I could hear him breathing ! But the highlight of the trip for us is always the hummingbirds. Please join us in celebrating these living jewels in their true beauty.



## FIELD TRIP

### South Jetty Columbia River



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: April 5, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: 134th St. Park & Ride in Salmon Creek

We will be looking for migrating sea-birds, waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring lunch, snacks and dress for possible wet weather.



## Election of VAS Officers

The election of VAS Officers will be held at the April General meeting. Nominees are:

President: Eric Bjorkman

Vice-Pres: Marilyn Hall

Secretary: Nancy Ellifrit

Treasurer: Joan Durgin

Nominations from the floor will be accepted before voting.

## VAS Upcoming Programs:

**Alaska** by Taldi Walter (May)

**Ecuador** by The Hagen's (October)

**Show & Tell** by Members & Guests (Nov)

**Polar Bears** by Randy Hopfer (?)

## Clark Co. Home & Garden Show

April 25-27, 2008

**Your Help  
is Needed**

We will have our booth again this year at the Home & Garden Show. We need volunteers to man the booth for 2 hour shifts. Please call Marilyn Hall for info or to sign up at: 360-253-6865.

## OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRDFEST

SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

April 4-6, 2008

Visit the rain shadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

**New this year:** A three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2008, immediately following BirdFest. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center,  
P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382  
360-681-4076 info@olympicbirdfest.org  
www.olympicbirdfest.org .

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**New Members:** Curphey • Sally Beard • Bob Blakey • Hazel Brown • Joanne Chezum • Diana Christensen • Maureena & Robert Cravens • Rosemarie Davis • Wendy Espeleta • George Etter • Fred Eves • Gay Farrer • Don Finel • Donna Foster • Peggy Gipple • Mary-Matt Goodman • Glenn/Judy Gordon • Chris Huff • L Warren Lampson • Elizabeth Larue • Dee Lieser • Linda Marlene • Jean Matthews • John Mc Bratney • C. Murray • Leila Petersen • Carole Pinney • Stan Prager • Allyn Rapcinski • George Richardson • Constance Ronayne • Kenneth Rosencrans • Margaret Skulbru • Tina Stewart • Tamara Sutton • C. Walseth • Mel Whisenhunt

## A PEREGRINE FALCON STORY

by Mary Ann Teague

As Glenn and I were taking a walk in Lacamas Park on Sunday 2/24, we came upon a juvenile Peregrine Falcon standing just off the trail. It was obviously not well and very weak as it didn't even try to move away from us. After talking with Arden on the cell phone, we decided to take it to the Humane Society in Vancouver. If we left it in the park, one of the several unleashed dogs running around would probably have grabbed it. If it couldn't be saved, we reasoned, maybe the wildlife care people could learn something from it.

Glenn took off his sweatshirt and gently covered the falcon, picked it up and carried it a mile back to our car. I held it in my lap while Glenn drove to the Humane Society in west Vancouver. It hardly moved at all in my hands but it did make what I can only describe as 'distress' sounds.



At the Humane Society, a volunteer took the sweatshirt off of the falcon to put it into a cage. It was barely alive. It didn't even have enough strength to stand up. She said that she would get a wildlife person to look at it. At that point we left.

On Monday morning, I called the Humane Society to find out what happened. She said that they had called the Audubon Society of Portland Wildlife Care Center and by the time the guy got over to Vancouver, the peregrine had died. But he took it anyway so they could determine what happened to it. Then I called the Wildlife Care Center was told that they took x-rays of it, performed an autopsy, and took tissue samples. But they couldn't find any apparent reason why the falcon had died. She said it may be one of those cases where they will never know.

But she did tell me that the care center currently has a Peregrine Falcon that they haven't been able to release because of some broken feathers. So they planned to take some of the feathers from the dead one and 'transplant' them to the live one. That was interesting. We didn't know that was possible. It was sad to know that this magnificent bird died but maybe it will help another one to live.

*The Humane Society is located on 2121 St. Francis Lane just off Mill Plain before it converges with Fourth Plain to become 503 in west Vancouver. 360-693-4746.*

*You can take injured birds to the Humane Society, then Audubon Portland transports them to their rescue center in Portland at 5151 NW Cornell Rd. 503-292-0304*



## An Idea Whose Time May Have Come? Legacy Lands Project

Bill Dygert, who has worked as a consultant for the county on parks and open spaces projects, is heading up a project to obtain money for purchasing land for open space, greenways, natural areas, and farm land. The Columbia Land Trust is also involved. The benefits of saving open space and greenways are many for birders and the public in general. But, it will require a careful and effective campaign to get the tax payers to approve a money measure to buy the land.

Bill and others involved in the project met with the county commissioners. They reacted with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The first step in reaching the public is underway as of this writing. A professional organization is conducting research on attitudes by way of focus groups. The purpose is to determine if saving greenways, open space, and farm land is important to the people of Clark County. Based on the results of the focus groups, polls will be conducted. This is necessary to see if it is feasible to put forth a money measure to be voted on. One potential obstacle is the worsening economy. As I find out more information on the progress of the Legacy Lands project, I will let you know.

## The County Continues to Plan

This time the commissioners are preparing to develop a plan for rural lands. Just the mere mention of the commissioners wanting to plan rural areas raises a red flag. Val Alexander of Friends of Clark County attended a commissioners' work session on the subject and passed on her notes.

The discussion started out about what the goal of the planning effort. Should there be more development in rural areas? Should there be more personal freedom? Should there be more personal responsibility? Commissioner Stuart said that, under the law, there can be no more than 10% of a county's development in rural areas. Commissioner Morris said that she is not sure about that. The county can't deny building permit on some parcels. There was a discussion about lot size. Rich Lowry from the prosecuting attorney's office said that approving one acre lot sizes would be a challenge. Morris said that the purpose is to offer more opportunities for agriculture. But lot size ought to reflect market-driven forces for agriculture. I'm not sure what that means. There was discussion about rural industries and home-based businesses. Compatibility of uses is an issue. It may depend on who was there first. Stuart mentioned the need to preserve transportation and open space corridors.

The commissioners want to appoint a committee to discuss the rural look and determine what rural character is. According to a handout, possible appointees to the com-

mittee might include people ranging from a representative of the Building Industries Association of Southwest Washington (BIASW) to John Karpinski. The committee might even include an actual farmer or two. Why someone from the BIASW should be on a committee to determine rural character is a puzzle – or, maybe, a concern.

## The Legislature: Evergreen Cities

As of this writing, the legislature has a week to go. The Evergreen Cities bill, which is the priority bill for Audubon, has passed the Senate. Before it is in the clear, the bill must pass a concurrency vote in the House. It had passed the House previously, but there were amendments added to the bill in the Senate. The budget to implement the bill also needs to pass. There currently is \$400,000 in the budget and that must be kept.

## Climate Change

The climate change bill that sets goals and a timeline for reduction of carbon emissions passed the legislature and was sent to the governor. The bill that requires local governments to consider carbon emissions when updating their plans (Local Solutions to Global Warming) passed the House with no crippling amendments. It must now face a concurrency vote in the Senate. It also needs to be fully funded.

Next month I will tell you the fate of all four of the environmental priority bill

*Gretchen Starke*

### \*\*\*\*\*MEMBERS TRADING POST\*\*\*\*\*

If you have art work or books to sale that have to do with Nature, Wildlife or Science, you may bring them to the General Meeting but you **MUST** donate **at least** 10% of the sale price on books and **at least** 15% of the sale price on other art work. For more information call:

Sydney Reisbick 360-887-7880



message/fax (360) 253-5771

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Feb. 4, Al Larrabee and Roger Windemuth saw a light colored **MERLIN** at the River "S" Unit of Ridgefield NWR. Roger was able to obtain an excellent photo of this bird.

Feb. 9, Bill Clemons and his mother, Olive birded the River "S" Unit at Ridgefield NWR, finding **RED-HOULDERED HAWK, RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER and PILEATED WOODPECKER.**

Feb. 10, When Bob Flores checked the fields at a dairy located at 27201 NE 10th Ave. he found an outstanding collection of gulls including **MEW GULL, RING-BILLED GULL, GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, HERRING GULL, GLAUCOUS GULL (2), THAYER'S GULL, and CALIFORNIA GULL.**

Feb.12, Susan and I checked the flock of gulls on NE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and were rewarded with fine looks at the birds found by Bob Flores. We need to add this spot to the areas checked during the annual Christmas Bird Count.

Feb.13, Susan Kirkbride, of Battle Ground reported that the **4 WESTERN BLUEBIRDS** she had there last fall were back. These were the first of this species reported from Clark county this year.

Feb. 14, Scott Carpenter found a loose flock of the swallows at River "S", 13 were **TREE SWALLOWS** and 2 were **BARN SWALLOWS.** Near dusk, a lone **SHORT-EARED OWL** appeared along the SW corner of the auto-tour route.



Feb. 17, Ken Knittle had a **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** at his Vancouver feeder being chased by an aggressive male Anna's. Joan Durgin also had one in Camas on the same day indicating a wide spread influx of migrant hummingbirds.

Feb. 18, Guy McWethy, Bob Stallcop, and Ken Knittle birded in Skamania County from Underwood back to Franz Lake NWR and found 54 species. Their best birds were a female **PURPLE FINCH** at Spring Creek Fish Hatchery and 1 lone **HORNED LARK** east of Home Valley on the railroad tracks.

Feb. 19, Susan and I birded the Vancouver Lake Lowlands where we found a **RED-THROATED LOON** at Frenchman's Bar Park before heading to Ridgefield where we picked **3 TRUMPETER SWANS** out of the large flock of Tundra Swans on Rest Lake.

Feb. 20, 2 male **CASSIN'S FINCHES** were at our sunflower seed feeder at our home on Mt. Pleasant in Skamania County. This species nests in pine forests east of the Cascade Mountains and is uncommon this far west.

Feb. 23, A **WESTERN GREBE** was spotted on Lacamas Lake by Carol and Kevin Healy.

Feb 24, Susan Guillory photographed a pair of **LESSER GOLDFINCH** at her home in NE Vancouver, the first of this species reported this year in Clark County.

Feb. 26, The first of the year **TURKEY VULTURE** for Clark County was seen by Arden Hagen near the quarry at the 192<sup>nd</sup> interchange on Highway 14.

Feb. 28, Clay Davis witnessed a natural spectacle near the

Hunters' Gate on the River "S" Unit, when he spotted a lone **RIVER OTTER** swimming in a canal behind 3 American Coots and when submerged. Clay focused on the Otter's small ripples and bubbles as they approached the three unaware Coots from their rear. All of a sudden, the Otter surfaced directly under the center Coot and firmly lifted the Coot out of the water and immediately submerged again with the Coot protesting loudly. Otters normally are associated with eating fish but don't pass up an easy meal of other species.



Two singing **HUTTON'S VIREOS** passed through our property while I was outside working. This bird is overlooked most of the year but is easily found when calling in early spring.

Feb. 29, Bob Flores spotted a **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** carrying nest material near the entrance road into the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR.

March 1, Carol Kohler reported her first **EVENING GROSBEAKS** of the year at her home in Camas.

The first of the year **BAND-TAILED PIGEON** returned to our feeders, by late spring we will have several dozen of the hungry birds gulping down seed.

March 2, Anne Kahle, Ken Knittle, and I birded Skamania County following along the Columbia River We ended up with 66 species for the day including **GREAT EGRET, 4 VIRGINIA'S RAILS** and a **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** that was drumming on a metal BPA power transmission tower.

March 3, Roger Windemuth reported the first flock of the year of **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** over Long Lake on the River "S" Unit at Ridgefield. They were keeping company with hundreds of Tree Swallows that have been at the refuge for the past 1-2 weeks. To see the weekly list of bird sightings for the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR, that is updated daily by Roger, go to [www.ridgefieldfriends.org/WildlifeReport.html](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/WildlifeReport.html)

March 6, Don Kohler saw his first turkey vulture for the year over Highway 14 between Camas and the 192<sup>nd</sup> interchange. While I was hauling plants out to the Steigerwald Lake NWR for a Scout habitat restoration planting I came across **20 AMERICAN PIPITS** on the gravel road.

Starting in April the number of migrant species moving into and through our area increases dramatically, warblers, flycatchers, vireos and a myriad of other species will be encountered by people who spend some time in the field or watching their feeders. Please report the arrival dates for these birds for this column and the cumulative Clark and Skamania County Year Lists. As of March 1<sup>st</sup> 121 species had been reported from Clark County and 83 species from Skamania County.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

# Vancouver Audubon 2008 Birdathon Bird Census & Fund Raiser Participation Form

May 2, Friday through May 4, Sunday, 2008 (3 days this year)

USE A DIFFERENT FORM & CHECKLIST FOR EACH LOCATION YOU ARE BIRDING

Participants (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of species seen:

Donation: \$

\*\*\*\*\*

## Birdathon 2008 Birds of Clark County May 2 - 4

*We need  
your help*

We would like to get more people involved in our Birdathon Fund Raiser and at the same time learn more about our birds in our own county. **This is our 3rd year in this new format of birding only Clark County.** The more we cover the county, the more information we learn about "OUR" birds in early May.

1. A "Clark County Birdathon" where anyone can count species as long as it is in Clark County and on the chosen 72 hour period. You **do not** have to bird the whole 72 hours though.
2. We will add all the species seen together to get the total number seen.

Participants may bird different areas within the 72 hour period **BUT** the area **MUST BE** in Clark county. Since we are looking for species and mapping where birds are

seen, it doesn't matter if people report the same birds.

Participants can gather pledges per species from sponsors or ask for a set amount. Each participant will be asked to make a donation in the amount of their choice, remembering that this is our fund raiser.



Backyard bird watching is a place to start then you could venture out to a near-by park or trail for a second report. Then try venturing out to the wilderness areas of our county and do another report.

Participants need to fill out a reporting form for each place you bird. You can bird as much or as little of 72 hours as you can give.

**Report sheets & Checklists  
will be available at the  
April Meeting and on line at:**

[www.vancouveraudubon.org/birdathon.html](http://www.vancouveraudubon.org/birdathon.html)

If you need a form sent to you please call  
Sherry Hagen at: 360-892-8872

I will compile the results and map out the species so we can get an idea where birds are in early May in the county. Over years it could be very interesting.

*Editor, Sherry Hagen &  
Birdathon Coordinator*

**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.*



**April 2008**

**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 \*\* NEWSLETTER & DONATION COUPON**

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I wish to subscribe to Vancouver Audubon's newsletter "The Columbia Flyway" for \$10/year.  
 I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Flyway Renewal  
date:**  
November 1st  
every year

**Renewals:** please send your renewal directly to National Audubon with the forms sent to you. Thanks!  
\*\*\* This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* \*\*\*

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For more Info Call:  
Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872  
George Mayfield 360-687-0360

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