



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

April 2010

## Calendar

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

\*\*\*Tuesday, Apr. 6, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, Apr. 5, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Nancy Ellifrit 3805 NE 160th St. Ridgefield 360-574-3621

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |

## PROGRAM:

### Peru

by Sherry & Arden Hagen

Sherry and Arden began a 3 week birding tour of Peru in mid September. Join them as they describe their adventure through a computer generated slide presentation while birding the coast, the high Andes mountain, a side trip to the ancient ruins at Machu Picchu, then down the eastern slopes of the Andes. Visit a Cock-of-the-rock lek where these beautiful birds do their mating display and climb to a blind high in a tree to view the huge Harpy Eagle. Days were spent birding in the Manu Reserve (Amazon basin) where transportation is strictly via boat or on foot.



## FIELD TRIP Columbia Gorge



Leader: Wilson Cady, 360-835-5947

When: April 3, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Port of Camas-Washougal near the boat launch  
We will be looking for early migrants, shorebirds and wild-flowers on the trip. Bring lunch or snacks and dress for the weather.

Thanks The Backyard Bird shops sold 28,292 pounds of bird seed in the month of December and donated to our Vancouver Audubon chapter a penny a pound of seed sold, which totaled \$282.92.

Thank you Backyard Bird Shop!

## VAS Upcoming Programs:

**May: Ridgefield NWR: plans & updates** by Bob Flores, Project Manager

**June: Public Land Acquisitions & Conservation Futures**

by Bill Dygert, Land Consultant

**Summer Break until Septmeber**

Treasurer's Report. February income was \$235.18 with \$45 in donations and \$70 in newsletter subscriptions. Expenses were \$418.78 with \$153.64 for newsletter printing and \$197.48 for conservation. Cash and Investments were \$22,734.26. As of 31 December the Community Foundation Fund was \$209,217.29.

Field Trips. The March trip will be to Tualatin Valley NWR. A trip to North Dakota is scheduled for June 6-13. There will also be a trip the Malheur NW in September.

Conservation. The Board voted to support two Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee Resolutions: Washington Department of Natural Resources Deferral of Timber Sales in Marbled Murrelet Areas and, Support for American Alps Legacy Project – Expansion of the North Cascades National Park.

Old Business. The Community Foundation Fund grant committee turned down a request by the Friends of Ridgefield NWR as they considered that there was too much emphasis on the Plankhouse and not enough of wildlife. The Board agreed.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

## Willapa Hills Audubon Program Scientist to Speak of Arctic Wildlife and Climate Change

World-renowned scientist, George Divoky, has spent the last 34 years above the Arctic Circle on Cooper Island, studying the behavior and arctic world of the Black Guillemot, a small seabird. Divoky has witnessed habitat change over 3 decades of research. Willapa Hills Audubon and LCC Biological Society invite the public to hear Divoky's Presentation "Falling Off the Edge; Four Decades of Environmental Change at the Top of the World." Divoky will share photos and exciting tales of polar bears and sadder tales of the changes affecting his beloved black guillemots. Divoky is a captivating speaker.

When: Friday, May 7 at 7:00 PM

Where: Lower Columbia College's Rose Center  
Wollenberg Auditorium.

It is free and open to the public.

For a map go to: <http://lcc.ctc.edu/maps/>



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## Secretary Salazar Releases New "State of the Birds" Report Showing Climate Change Threatens Hundreds of Species

***The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change***, follows a comprehensive report released a year ago showing that nearly a third of the nation's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline.

"For well over a century, migratory birds have faced stresses such as commercial hunting, loss of forests, the use of DDT and other pesticides, a loss of wetlands and other key habitat, the introduction of invasive species, and other impacts of human development," Salazar said. "Now they are facing a new threat—climate change—that could dramatically alter their habitat and food supply and push many species towards extinction."

The report, a collaboration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and experts from the nation's leading conservation organizations, shows that climate changes will have an increasingly disruptive effect on bird species in all habitats, with oceanic and Hawaiian birds in greatest peril.

In releasing the report, Salazar cited the unprecedented efforts by the Obama Administration and the Department of the Interior to address climate change.

Last week in Anchorage, Alaska, for example, the Interior Department opened the first of eight new regional Climate Science Centers that will engage scientists from all of Interior's Bureaus and our partners to research climate change impacts, work with land, natural, and cultural resource managers to design adaptation strategies, and engage the public through education initiatives.

*"Just as they did in 1962 when Rachel Carson published Silent Spring, our migratory birds are sending us a message about the health of our planet," Salazar said. "That is why—for the first time ever—the Department of the Interior has deployed a coordinated strategy to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change on the resources we manage."*

<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

National Audubon is part of this collaborative study effort.



## The Legislature

As of this writing, the legislature just adjourned its regular session. The governor said, however, that she would call a special session, lasting about a week, to give the legislature time to finalize its tax package. The taxes are necessary to prevent wholesale slaughter of many state programs, including environmental programs. It takes so long to do this because, contrary to much of what the public thinks, elected officials would rather cut off their right arms than raise taxes. It is a painful thing. Responsible elected officials -- and we have many in the legislature -- see the need to raise taxes sometimes. At this time, I don't know how our programs and interests will have fared. However, as of this writing, the following cuts were in the Senate version of the budget.

- The State Parks, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and Dept. of Natural Resources were cut by \$10.5 million. This was to compensate for not consolidating the three agencies into the Dept of Natural Resources. Yes, there was a proposal to consolidate all those agencies. Never mind that each agency had its totally different mission and that the proposed consolidation made no management sense. Never mind that any reorganization of any agency sets in a period of confusion and adjustment that the employees must make. The more drastic the reorganization (and this proposal would have been a biggie) , the longer the period of adjustment would be. Public service would suffer.
- The funds of the Growth Management Division in Department of Commerce were reduced by \$1,000,000. This money was the foundation for an agreement on a bill that would delay the deadline for reviewing comprehensive land use plans under the Growth Management Act for three years. Without this money, the environmental groups will not be able to agree to the delay.

The above material on the Senate budget were taken from the March 10 Special Budget Hot List prepared by Washington Conservation Voters.

Again, as of this writing, the House and Senate clean water bills, the bills that would levy a fee on petroleum products to fund projects to clean up storm water, are in the Rules Committees of each house for second readings. Apparently, the bill is still alive and, we hope, will be acted upon during the special session.

## The Columbia River Gorge Commission Endangered

The dangers of doing something without knowing anything about it. In an effort to save \$300,000 over 18 months, a representative, Van De Wege, from the Olympic Peninsula introduced a bill to dissolve the interstate compact that created the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

Since the money to be saved was so little, possibly Van De Wege was motivated by the general push to abolish commissions in the state.

But the Columbia Gorge Commission is not an ordinary commission. It is a bi-state commission that was created by Congress to administer the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area. The commission has legal responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, review of county land use ordinances to ensure they are consistent with the Act creating the Scenic Area and to review land use appeals.

The creation of the commission was part of a compromise at the time that the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area Act was passed by Congress. Many local people living in the Gorge bitterly opposed the idea of the scenic area. They certainly did not want federal control of the land in the Gorge. The Forest Service did not want to get into local land use planning either. The bi-state commission was set up to oversee planning in the Gorge, which was to be done by each county. The members of the commission consist of appointees from each of the six counties within the Scenic Area (of which Clark is one). The Forest Service has an ex-officio (non-voting) representative on the commission. Each state is provide for one half of the funding of the commission. If the compact creating the commission were to be dissolved, it is unclear how planning for the Gorge would be administered. It is also unclear if Washington could legally withdraw without the say-so of Congress.

I read of Van De Wege's bill in *The Columbian* and thought that our delegation would fight against the effort to withdraw from the compact. Imagine my dismay -- shocked disbelief even -- when I checked the legislature website and saw that it had passed the house 92 to six and that the only Clark County legislator to oppose it was Orcutt. It was sent to Ways and Means in the Senate. Senator Pridemore is on Ways and Means and he assured me that the bill was dead. I saw on the legislative website today that the bill was sent back to the House Rules Committee. I will not rest easy until after the end of the special session.

*Gretchen Starke*

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**New Members:** Mary Armantrout • Roberta Beaudin • Mary Bogdon • Carolyn Brown • Leslie Carlson • Kaye Christman • Roxie Cibart • Steve Clark • Cathy Comfort • Vivian Crane • Mina Dority • Bob Dudek • Pete-Angie George • Gail Greer • Laura Harris • Ellen Horton • Janelle LaRue • Linda Liehr • Val Lindsay • Sherri Marinenko • Sharon Mikelson • Ilse Orthmeyer • Shoshanna Porter • Bonnie Rockstad • Maire Rodda • Terri Schulte • Jeanna Sebald • Tom Sedlacek • Janet Thompson • David Tripp • Craig Wallace • Hugh Wyatt

**Transfer Members:** Patricia Bieze, Ann Tham Pearson



**Feb. 6,** On a Columbia Land Trust tour of Klickitat County we tallied **47 BALD EAGLES** for the day. And we found two flocks of **WILD TURKEYS** between Glenwood and Trout Lake. When I got home there was a **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** calling in the front woods.

**Feb. 8,** Scott Carpenter found a **SAGE SPARROW** on La-Frambois Rd in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands. This is only the second Sage Sparrow ever reported from Clark County, Scott also found the first one which was at the Ridgefield NWR.

**Feb. 12 – 15,** Barry Woodruff and I participated in a Washington Ornithological Society "winter birds" trip to Okanogan and Douglas Counties. We found many of the species we were targeting including **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL, NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, GYRFALCON, GRAY PARTRIDGE, BOHEMIAN WAXWING, AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, COMMON RED-POLL** and **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH.**

**Feb. 13,** A "**COMMON**" **GREEN-WINGED TEAL**" was seen at the Ridgefield NWR, River "S" Unit by Steve and Sybil Kohl. This is the Eurasian subspecies which has a horizontal white line over the wing rather than the vertical white line in front of the wing of the North American breeding population. At one time it was considered a separate species.

**Feb. 14,** John Allinger observed 4 male **BARROW'S GOLDENEYES** vying for the attention of two females at Drano Lake which is at the mouth of Little White Salmon River in Skamania County. This is an excellent spot to compare both this duck and the Common Goldeneye side by side.

**Feb. 15,** Along the Ridgefield NWR auto tour route, Gerald Hamilton identified **NORTHERN SHRIKE, "COMMON" TEAL, 2 SHORT-EARED OWLS, 2 RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS, TRUMPETER SWANS** and **2 RAVENS.**

**Feb. 16,** Arden and Sherry Hagen birded the 10,600 plus elevation at the Sandia Crest House at Albuquerque, New Mexico where they saw **BROWN-CAPPED, BLACK, and GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCHES.** This is the easiest spot to see all of the Rosy-finches at once.

**Feb. 19,** George Neavoll reported that the "**COMMON**" **TEAL** was still at the Ridgefield NWR. **3 TRUMPETER SWANS** and **3 TREE SWALLOWS** rounded out his list for the day.

**Feb. 20,** 2 singing **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS** were found by Carol and Kevin Healy while walking the old railroad tracks, starting at the C.A.S.E.E. Center which is near Hwy 503 and NE 149<sup>th</sup> Street in Brush Prairie. Meadowlarks along with California Quail are almost gone as breed-

ing birds in Clark County due to loss of habitat and predation by pets on these ground-nesting birds. Sidra Blake and Tyler Hicks kayaked on Mud Lake near Ridgefield. The highlight of what they found was a drake **EURASIAN WIGEON** in a large flock of **AMERICAN WIGEON.**

**Feb. 21,** Susan and I found a **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** at the St. Cloud Ranch site in Skamania County and a **SAY'S PHOEBE** at the Interpretive Center in Stevenson. We continued up to Klickitat County and easily found the **ACORN WOODPECKERS** near Lyle.

**Feb. 22,** an adult tan striped **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** was at the Battle Ground home of Jim Danzenbaker.

**Feb. 24,** A pale adult female **LESSER GOLDFINCH** was at Jim Danzenbaker's feeder in Battle Ground. This is his fourth consecutive year for this species there but the first February sighting.

**Feb. 27,** Laura Dickinson spotted a **SURF SCOTER** at Hood River. These large and conspicuous sea-ducks are rare this far inland.

**Feb 27 & 28,** Matt Bartels located the **SAYS PHOEBE** flycatching from some of the fencing around the fairgrounds at Rock Creek in Stevenson. Along Kueffler Road about a mile north of Beacon Rock State Park he called in a **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL.** Just below Bonneville Dam he found **NORTHERN SHRIKE** and **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK,** two species scarce in Skamania County.

**March 3,** Eric Bjorkman reported hearing a **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** at the Orchard Hills Golf Course in Washougal. They were extremely late in returning this Spring.

**March 4,** **SAY'S PHOEBE** was seen by Randy Hill on Bachelor Island at the Ridgefield NWR. Only a couple of these members of the flycatcher family are seen a year in Clark County. They are a common breeding species on the east side of the Cascades.

**March 5,** a male **TUFTED DUCK** was found in Skamania County at Drano Lake by Katie and Kevin Rompala of Dillon, MT. This is a Eurasian species of diving duck sporting a ponytail like tuft of feathers on the back of the head.

**March 5,** Eric Bjorkman heard a **SWAINSON'S THRUSH** at the Orchard Hills Golf Course, a very early return date for this species.

**March 6,** Susan Saul hiked upper Swale Canyon on the Klickitat Trail, in Klickitat County finding a **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.**

**("Afield" Continued on next page)**

**("Afield" Continued)**

Ken Knittle saw the **TUFTED DUCK** on Drano Lake in with a few scaup and **RING-NECKED DUCKS** feeding on the far shore across from the boat launching area.

Gene and Lyn Topinka and Anne Kahle and Russ Koppendrayer also showed up to enjoy this rarity from Eurasia

**March 7,** Jordan Gunn of Bothell, WA, also spotted the beautiful male **TUFTED DUCK** on Drano Lake in Skamania County.

Rick & Tina Taylor also spent the weekend in Skamania chasing the **TUFTED DUCK** on Drano Lake and improving their county list. They also had a **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** on the slopes above the Drano Lake. At Bonneville Dam in addition to a **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** on Hamilton Island, we also had **2 HORNED LARK** near the boat launch.

**2 WILSON'S WARBLERS** were singing and flitting around in the trees in Eric and Tammy Bjorkman's yard, about two weeks earlier than they are normally return.

**Mar. 8,** Lyn Topinka spotted a pair of **TURKEY VULTURES** circling over the Vancouver Trout Hatchery, just off the Columbia River on the upstream side of the I-205 Bridge, the first of the year reported from Clark County.

**March 10,** A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was heard by Eric Bjorkman just off the sixth hole at Orchard Hills Golf Course in Washougal. That's what is nice about birding, you can do it anywhere.

Donna Brown was on a Portland Audubon field trip when a female **DICKCISSEL** was found in Nehalem Meadows. This is only about the fourth Oregon record for this species.

Good yard-birds this year from Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground home include **RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, and LESSER GOLDFINCH.** In 2008 he identified 116 species at his home.

April begins the real movement of birds in our region and almost every week through the end of May will see the arrival of a new set of summer birds or species just passing through on their way further north. Please send me your sighting dates of these Spring migrants for this column and the "Cumulative County Species List". As of the end of February, 113 species have been reported in Clark County this year and 88 in Skamania County. To see the lists for all of the Washington Counties go to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html>

If you would like to put your birding interest to use the Water Resources Education Center is looking for a volunteer birder to do monthly (or quarterly) surveys in the wetlands along the Columbia River next to the Water Center. Please contact Cory Samia at 360 487 7112 or [cory.samia@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:cory.samia@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

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

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## **Birdathon: Fund Raiser**

May 15th, 2010

***We need your donations to fund our programs and educational services.***

This year the Birdathon: Fund Raiser is changing back to a similar format used previously. Arden Hagen will be counting species and will report to donors the total species he or his group find. You may join him for the day with a pledge of \$100 per individual or for a donation of \$100 collected from friends or neighbors. If you can't physically participate, you can receive a birdhouse for a \$100 donation. Please bear in mind that the Birdathon is a day of hard work at a fast pace.

Call Arden at 360-892-8872 for more information.

### **VAS BIRDATHON 2010 FUND RAISER - May 15**

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of the VAS's Birdathon

I would like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species in support of the VAS's Birdathon

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**Vancouver, WA 98668**

OR

**Arden Hagen**  
**2203 SE 135th Ave.**  
**Vancouver, WA 98683-7133**

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of nature's design and  
promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
stewardship, enjoyment  
and advocacy.*



**April 2010**

**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.

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every year

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