



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

April 2013

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, Apr. 2, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

***Tuesday, Apr. 2, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Apr. 1, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Marilyn Hall
10806 NE 89th St., Vancouver 360-253-6865

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:

Spring Birds & Wildflowers

by Wilson Cady & Susan Saul

Now that spring has come, let us get out and enjoy it. But where to go and what to look for should be thoughtfully considered as you set your goals.

Birds migrate through or come to pair and nest. Which species can we expect to see and where do you go to find them? Likewise where do you find wildflowers and which are you likely to find ?



Our own Wilson Cady and Susan Saul will help us out. Their skill and experience are real assets and we can learn some extra tips as we get out into nature and enjoy its wonders.



FIELD TRIP

Columbia Gorge Pierce NWR



Leader: Wilson Cady, 360-835-5947

When: April 13, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Steigerwald Lake NWR parking lot at Milepost 18 on Highway 14

Bring a lunch, water and dress for the weather and if you have a FRS two-way radio bring that too. We will visit the Pierce NWR where volunteers are needed to monitor breeding birds this season. From there we will bird further east in the Gorge for as long as will and time allows.

GO PAPERLESS

with the VAS Newsletter

We hear it everywhere, "GO GREEN". 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:
vancouveraudubon.org

Treasurer's Report – Joan Durgin

Revenue for February 2013: **\$666.36**

Expenses for February 2013: **\$477.65**

Old Business

1. **INTERNAL CONTROLS** – Eric, Tammy, and Joan met to begin the implementation process. They set May 1st as the date to have all changes in place.

2. **AUDUBON'S NATIONAL CONVENTION** - Will be held at Skamania Lodge from July 12 -15. Eric will ask Wilson to again make an announcement at the general meeting.

New Business

1. **GRANTS** – VAS receive two grant proposals for this grant cycle. They were forwarded to the Grants Committee for review. The Grants Committee unanimously voted to approve both grants.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REQUESTING GRANT: Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$5,000

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: Grant will support environmental education programs for spring and fall of 2013. This grant paired with their fundraising efforts, will bring over 3,000 students to the Refuge who will otherwise not have the opportunity. This program is offered to the schools free of charge. However, due to school budget cuts, most school districts cannot afford to transport their students.

DURATION OF PROJECT: March 2013 – November 2013

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REQUESTING GRANT: Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$3,300

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: Grant seeks funds that provide bus transportation and resource materials for at least 10 local 5th grade classes from Camas and Washougal to visit Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge for Environmental Education during the spring and fall of 2013.

DURATION OF PROJECT: March 2013 – November 2013

MOTION: Moved by Bob Rowe (seconded by Gretchen Starke) that Vancouver Audubon agree to fully fund both grants for the requested amount.

MOTION CARRIED (10 – 0).

1. **HOME & GARDEN SHOW** – will be held at the end of April and VAS will again participate. There will be a sign up sheet at general meeting asking for volunteers.

2. **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER** – Discussion regarding offering this option instead of hard copy only.

3. **SLIDE PROJECTOR** – Discussion regarding what to do with our old slide projector.

Tammy Bjorkman, VAS Secretary

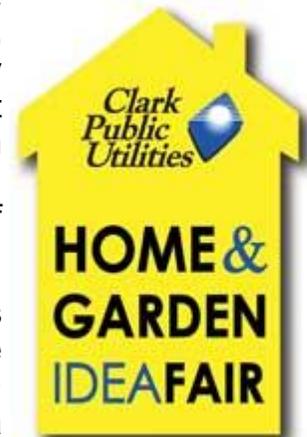
1. Call the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center for information:
503-292-0304
5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR

2. Call Arden or Sherry Hagen for information: 360-892-8872
If they are available and a bird requires transport to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then the volunteers suggest they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation to the Care Center for the care of the bird at the time of pick up.

3. Please do not call other Board Members since they are unable to help at this time.

HOME & GARDEN IDEA FAIR

The 22nd annual Clark Public Utilities Home & Garden Idea Fair will be held **April 26, 27 and 28, 2013** at the Clark County Event Center, located at 17402 NE Delfel Road in Ridgefield, Washington, just nine miles north of the I-5 bridge at exit 9.



Vancouver Audubon has manned a booth at the Clark County—PUD Home & Garden Idea Fair for many years.

We need volunteers to man the booth throughout the weekend.

Please contact Marilyn Hall at 360-253-6865

The fair features hundreds of ideas on how to make your home, yard and garden a more beautiful, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly place.

It's a fun filled show, with activities for the entire family. **Admission is FREE and venue parking is \$6.**

The hours for the 2013 show are:

Friday, April 26: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 27: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 28: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

Many of our Board Members receive many calls **especially** during Breeding Season on injured birds or baby birds that seem to be abandoned. 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?



Notes on the Legislature

Although Audubon can, and does, speak out on issues that affect birds and other wildlife, we can't favor one political party over another. I am more interested in what an elected official does to the environment than his or her political party. However, over the past three to four decades there has been a decided lurch against the environment, especially on the part of one party. That's what makes the situation in the state Senate interesting.

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Whichever party has the most votes in a house of the legislature is able to run the place -- deciding who will be in the leadership and who will run the committees. (The same is true of the Congress.) A local republican senator narrowly won his race, bringing number of republicans in the senate to 23, with the democrats having 26. Ordinarily this would mean that the democrats would run the senate. But, two democrats decided to vote with the republicans to form a conservative coalition, meaning that the conservatives, 23 republicans and two democrats, decided on leadership and the committees.

This is a generalization, but conservatives tend to not like governmental regulation, environmentally protective or not, sensible or not. They also tend to favor business over the public good. To give them the benefit of the doubt, they may not exactly understand the issues. Which could explain that for the Environmental Community Hot List (put out by the Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters) of March 4, the percent of bills we (the environmental community) oppose in the house of representatives is 22%, while the percent of bills we oppose in the senate is 80%.

Lobby Day Experience

Lobby Day

Lobby Day was on Tuesday, February 19. The first cutoff day was Friday, February 22. In order to keep things moving along, the Washington legislature operates on a series of deadlines. When a bill is introduced into the legislature, the leadership of the house in which it is introduced send it to the relevant committee for hearings and possible amendments. The first cutoff is when all bills not related to the budget must be out of that committee. If a bill is not, it is dead. Usually, as Lobby Day was just a few days before the cutoff, the legislators were mostly in committees and in hearings. We did get to see Paul Harris and Monica Stonier, both representatives in the house. We did talk to the legislative aides who passed on our concerns to the legislators. We mostly talked about the environmental priorities of the coalition.

Senator Benton Tries to Save Us from the UN

For those who don't usually follow rightwing conspiracy theories, Agenda 21 is a document that came out of the UN Earth Summit of 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro. According to the rightwing conspiracy, Agenda 21 lays out the plan the UN has to take away people's property rights. The UN has "accredited and enlisted numerous nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations to assist in the implementation of its policies relative to Agenda 21 around the world..." to carry out its nefarious plan. According to the real world, Agenda 21 is "an environmental action plan for the (21st) century. It is *not legally binding* but forms the basis for a new international partnership for sustainable development and environmental protection worldwide."

Senator Benton introduced a bill that would forbid Washington and any political subdivision of the state (that's counties, cities, school districts, and so on) from implementing policies that could be traceable to Agenda 21. Nor could the state or any political subdivision give any grant or enter into any agreement with any nongovernmental organization that was thought to be "defined in Agenda 21."

Aside from its loony assumptions, there would be difficulties in implementing the bill: tracing a county's growth management plan to Agenda 21 for one and identifying organizations (Audubon, perhaps?) as agents of Agenda 21 for another. How do you prove a negative? Fortunately, Benton's bill never made it out of committee and it died.

Park Parking Fees to be Discussed -- Stay Tuned

The county staff has been working on the commissioners' (some of the commissioners, anyway) request to look at the parks' finances. One of the commissioners made a campaign promise to eliminate the three dollar parking fee for some of the county's regional parks. As of this writing, the commissioners have scheduled a work session on the elimination of the parking fees. I was forwarded the PowerPoint presentation, which I looked over. Alternative 1 would make up the amount of the lost revenue from the parking fees from the county general fund. The other two alternatives would mean difficulties for the parks department. Although it may not be immediately apparent, services to the public would be affected in the long run.

Gretchen Starke 

National Audubon Society 2013 Convention

TAKING FLIGHT TOGETHER

The National Audubon Society will hold it's national convention this summer at the Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA in the Columbia River Gorge.

When: July 12-15, 2013

What:

- Four full days of exciting field trips, inspiring speakers, in-depth hands-on workshops, and tens of program options highlighting strategic conservation successes from the four flyways.

- And the camaraderie only Audubon can provide.

<http://www.audubon.org/audubon-convention-2013>

Welcome New Members: Michele Anderson • Paul Baran • Lynn Barefoot • Sheryl Bateman • Cassie Brockman • Jograce Buck • Kay Button • W. Caughell • Stephen Cheng • Molly Choate • Dale Clark • Charles Day • Paul Deblock • Dolores Dinneen • Jerold Dodson • Carol Eckert • Sarah Gentry • Ursula Gibbons • Donald Gorgert • Millie Goodall • Una Heath • Kevin & Torea Hiebert • Kenneth Husen • Jeanette Hymas • Melody Jennings • Anne & Jerry John • Dennis Johnson • Shelvia Kahrs • James Lanz & Kate Ketcham • Norinne Kendall • Zoe Kendall • Warren Lampson • Mark Leed • Larry Matkowski • Gayle Mattson • J. McClintock • Norma McGraw • Mozewr Meeker • Ulrick Mettler • Terry Moore • Gini Moran • Pete Muellner • Karen Susie Novinter • Patti Palmer • Nancy Perry • Andrea Powley • Bill Reeburgh • Cynthia Rink • Dixie Ross • Wayne Scardigli • Joe & Sharon Sorenson • Celeste Smith • Colene Straub • Lori Weddle • Debbie Wheat • Millie Wilkins • L. Worthington

Transfer Member: Kathleen Jonsson

VAS Budget will be voted on at the General Meeting on April 2nd by the voting membership.

2012 Operating: Actual vs. 2013 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2012 Actual	2013 Budget
Bank Interest	86.18	75.00
Bird Challenge (2 Teams)	1,597.00	1,885.00
Refreshments	22.65	20.00
Donations	1,825.00	1,500.00
Audubon Adventures	1,798.79	1,800.00
Fundraising Trips	-0.00	2,900.00
National Audubon Society	3,631.50	1,845.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	1,180.00	1,100.00
Store Sales	413.44	300.00
Refunds	20.00	-0.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,574.56	11,425.00
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
Supplies	209.71	500.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	70.00	75.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	20.00	50.00
Prpfessional Sevices - CPA	1,235.00	-0.00
COFFEE SUPPLIES	24.80	200.00
CONSERVATION Meetings	324.54	500.00
WASHINGTON AUDUBON	-0.00	2,000.00
MISC (Carving Show, Home Show)	132.71	150.00
Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center	250.00	500.00
<u>DUES/MEMBERSHIPS</u>		
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
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>		
Printing	2,030.76	2,000.00
Postage	1,488.48	1,050.00
Bulk Mail Permit	190.00	200.00
<u>OUTREACH</u>		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	647.42	2,300.00
MISCELLANEOUS	85.00	80.00
<u>PROGRAMS</u>		
Speaker Travel	530.00	400.00
PUBLICITY (Web page, search engine)	107.40	110.00
RENT	-0.00	600.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,047.82	11,425.00
NET INCOME	\$2526.74	\$(0.00)



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2012 Bequest Funds vs. 2013 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2012 Actual	2013 Budget
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EARNINGS	9629.00	11,300.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$9629.00	\$11,300.00
 <u>BEQUEST EXPENSES</u>		
Misc Grants	541.00	4,000.00
Friends of Ridgefield NWR	5,000.00	5,000.00
Community foundation Fees	2,140.22	2,300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,681.22	11,300.00
NET INCOME	\$1,947.78	\$0.00



- **Jan. 15,** While hiking the Dalles Mountain area of Klickitat County, Susan Saul spotted a **SHORT-EARED OWL**. When she visited the same area the first week of April she saw a pair of these owls.
- **Feb. 13,** The first **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** of the season was reported from Joan Durgin's feeders in Camas. Every year she seems to get them several weeks before they are reported in the rest of the county.
- **Feb. 17,** Two **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES** were at Polly Stricker's feeder in Vancouver and a **RED-NAPED SAP-SUCKER** was perched on her clothesline post.
- **Feb. 20,** In the last week, Randy Hill had a single **ROSS'S GOOSE**, a **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** and **200 TREE SWALLOWS** on the River S Unit of the Ridgefield NWR. A **GOSHAWK** was photographed by Helen Ramatowski, at her home in Cascade Park, one of the most densely populated areas of Clark County. These larger and fearless relative of the Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks are normally a bird of the deep forests.
- **Feb. 22,** A half dozen **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** were at Ken and Susan Davis's backyard feeders, in Vancouver. Less than twenty years ago, the only place in Washington, other than near the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek in Vancouver, where these birds were found regularly was in a small area of Klickitat County, near Lyle. Besides the huge population increase in Clark County, they are now found in good numbers along the southern edge of the state all the way to the Idaho border and they are starting to spread North.
- **Feb. 24,** Vincent Lucas and Amit Kulkami came to the Camas for the continuing **TUFTED DUCK** at Fallen Leaf Lake, a life bird for Amit and a State bird for Vince. A **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** woke Ray Korpi up in the morning and was seen and heard most of the day at his home in Vancouver.
- **Feb. 25,** 20 noisy **RED CROSSBILLS** were spotted by Lyn Topinka, in her yard a couple of miles south of the Van Mall, in Vancouver.
- **Feb. 26,** Susan and I checked the Vancouver Lake area and found a **ROSS'S GOOSE** at Post Office Lake, a **RED-BREADED MERGANSER** at the Flushing Channel and a **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** at Frenchman's Bar Park.
- **March 2,** The first **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS**, that I heard about, in the Gorge this Spring were found by Susan Saul, in the Columbia Hills in Klickitat County. Three days later she saw them at the Catherine Creek Preserve.
- **March 3,** Wendy Duncan reports that the **RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER** continues at Captain William Clark Park, in Washougal. This is the second winter that this bird has spent at this park on the Columbia River. An **OSPREY**, seen by Bonnie Bingle, at Kline Pond, was either a very early migrant or a bird that spent the winter in this area. A **BARRED OWL**, a male **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**, and a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** were at Rob

Conway's home in Camas.

- **March 4,** Another urban sighting of a **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** was reported by George Mayfield. There were at least three of these birds reported from various low elevation locations in Clark County this season.
- **March 5,** The **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** at Ron Palmi's home in the Meadow Glade of Battle Ground have built a nest outside his picture window. He should have great views of the nesting and raising of the young birds.
- **March 6,** Arden & Sherry Hagen joined Eric and Tammy Bjorkman for a quick trip up to Ediz Hook, in Port Angeles, for search for recent rarities. The reported **THICK-BILLED MURRE** was found but they had no luck on a Horned Puffin. Also seen were **RHINOCEROS AUKLET**, **MARbled MURRELET**, **LONG-TAILED DUCK**, **HARLEQUIN DUCK**, and **BLACK OYSTERCATCHER**. A tan-striped **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** was in Colleen Sibelman's garden overlooking the Ridgefield Refuge. This species breed east of the Rocky Mountains and among the few birds here each winter, we get two color morphs, one with tan stripes and one with white stripes.

Barbra Burgess mentioned the numerous **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS** around her apartment that she has been photographing. They start setting territories up in February and are actively displaying and calling then. We had one at our feeders on March 7th, the earliest Spring record for our place in thirty-five years.

As we enter into the Spring the migration will start to pick up until the last species arrive about the end of May. For those people interested in the average arrival dates of many Portland/Vancouver are birds you can find them online at: <http://birdsoverportland.wordpress.com/oregon-migration-phenology/>

50th Anniversary of the Wenas Campout

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the Wenas Campout, where members of all of the Audubon chapters in the state meet with the Native Plant Society for four days of camping and field trips on the Memorial Day weekend. I haven't missed one since 1976, for more information go to: <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>

As of end of the first week of March, 137 species have been reported from Clark County this year. In Skamania County the number of birds seen was 97. To see the county lists go to: http://www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

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 2013

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 \$_____

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*** This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* ***

_____ **Do Not share** my name or any of my personal information with other organizations

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

For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116

**Flyway Renewal
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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