



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Chartered December 18, 1975

April 2014

Calendar

***Tuesday, Apr. 1, 6:45 pm: Free 30 minute class before the General Meeting

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

***Tuesday, Apr. 29, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Gretchen Starke
308 SE 124th St., Vancouver 360-892-8617

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
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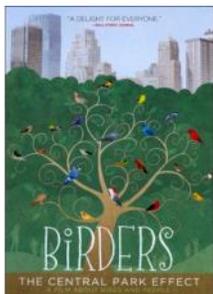
PROGRAM

BIRDERS: The Central Park Effect *(a movie)*

Join us for movie night at Vancouver Audubon

Birders: The Central Park Effect reveals the extraordinary array of wild birds who grace Manhattan's celebrated patch of green, and the equally colorful New Yorkers who schedule their lives around the rhythms of migration.

Not only does this film have some of the very best color footage of Central Park, but it covers 3 topics very effectively. First what makes birders "chirp"...so to speak. How they think and connect to the natural world. Second, information that the entire park is a landscaped fantasy, not a natural world. Strange, when so much looks like it might have been wild New York back in the days. And third, the essential need to preserve wildlife habitat because the Park attracts 25 per cent of all the birds in the United States as well as many migrants because there are no other good places to go.



FIELD TRIP

Fernhill Wetlands



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: April 19th, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Inn at the Quay, downtown Vancouver waterfront, west side parking lot.

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

This will be a half-day trip looking for migrating shorebirds and early passerines. A good variety of waterfowl could also be present.

Vancouver Audubon Election of Officers are coming soon *Nominations from the floor will be accepted.*

The following people have agreed to run for positions on the board.

President: Eric Bjorkman
Vice President: Susan Setterberg
Treasurer: Joan Durgin
Secretary: Tammy Bjorkman

Vancouver Audubon

VAS Budget will be voted on at the General Meeting on April 1st by the voting membership.

Welcome New members (46): Richard Akers • Hazel Alverson • Dixie Arata • Harold Ballensky • Robert Belka • M. Brady-Ciampa • Ronald Brown • Beverly Cook • Gail Czech • Margaret Ellison • Nancy Farman • Wallace & Vivian Fox • Claudia Frahm • Beverly Francis • Don Grant • Harriette Hatch • Martha Henning • Jennifer Hernandez • Joan Hildebrant • Robyn Karstens • Zoe-Beyma Kendall • John Lawrence • Janice Lowry • Joan Lucas • Connie Marshall • Rebecca & Micha Blick • Carol Moffet • Michael Moore • Jean Norwood • Caroline Ostrowski • Christy Pomerleau • Stephen Rei • Michelle Robertson • Linda Rone • Ben Scott • Lynne Sears • Michael Spencer • Daniel Spyker • Don Stangel • Andrea Steinhilper • Sheryl Stevens • Peggy Thoeny • Judy & Thom Mcconathy • Glenn Tribe • Michele Venclik • Patricia Woltman

Transfer Member(1): Anne Wood

2013 Operating: Actual vs. 2014 Budget

REVENUE	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Bank Interest	27.00	35.00
Bird Challenge (2 Teams)	2,026.00	0.00
Refreshments	19.00	20.00
Donations	1,535.00	2,000.00
Audubon Adventures	1,319.00	1,400.00
Fundraising Trips	2,475.00	2,200.00
National Audubon Society	2,056.00	1,935.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	1,020.00	1,100.00
Store Sales	154.00	230.00
Ads in newsletter	10.00	-0.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,638.00	8,920.00
EXPENDITURES		
ADMINISTRATION		
Supplies	631.00	180.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	72.00	75.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	0.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	180.00	150.00
Bank fees	60.00	0.00
REFRESHMENTS	325.00	100.00
CONSERVATION Meetings	375.00	300.00
WASHINGTON AUDUBON	2000.00	2,000.00
MISC (Carving Show, Home Show)	128.00	150.00
Malheur Field Station support	500.00	0.00
Paton BirdHaven support	1000.00	0.00
DUES/MEMBERSHIPS		
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
NEWSLETTER		
Printing	1,973.00	2,000.00
Postage	217.00	600.00
Bulk Mail Permit	190.00	200.00
AUDUBON ADVENTURES	2,435.00	1,860.00
OUTREACH		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	2,435.00	1,860.00
PROGRAMS		
Speaker Travel	0.00	400.00
PUBLICITY (Web page, search engine)	187.00	120.00
RENT	275.00	275.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,048.00	8,920.00
NET INCOME	\$(410.00)	\$(0.00)

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.

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

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.

2013 Bequest Funds* vs. 2014 Budget

REVENUE	2013 Actual	2014 Budget
Community Foundation Earnings	13,298.00	14,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,298.00	\$14,000.00
BEQUEST EXPENSES		
Misc Grants	3,300.00	10,000.00
Friends of Ridgefield NWR	5,000.00	0.00
Community foundation Fees	2,148.00	2,400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,448.00	12,400.00
NET INCOME	\$2,850.00	\$1,600.00

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

The Value of Networking Together (Or: How We Killed a Bad Bill)

The Conservation Futures Program allows local governments to levy a small tax on real estate that is to be used to purchase land for open space and conservation. Clark County has used Conservation Futures to buy land that is now part of our parks, greenways and trails system. A few years ago, the legislature passed legislation that would permit local governments use 15% of their Conservation Futures

funds for removal of invasive plants on the conservation lands and other maintenance activities. Even land that is not developed (except for trails) needs maintenance.

But, 17th District Senator Don Benton introduced a bill that would increase the percent local governments could use for operation and maintenance to 30%. The bill did not define operation and maintenance, nor did it say where the diverted funds could be used. Would the diverted money be used to clear out blackberry bushes or would it be used to clean restrooms? Benton's bill did not make it clear.

Bill Dygert, a good friend of Clark County conservationists, has contracted with the county for years to put together funding packages for the purchase of specific parcels of land. The land Bill has helped the county buy includes the greenways along Salmon Creek and Washougal Creek.

The last week in February, I received an e-mail from Bill explaining the situation with Benton's bill. The big problem is that the bill would permit the commissioners to divert 30% of the Conservation Futures money to Operations and Maintenance thereby reducing the money available for buying land. Bill said that for us in Clark County, the 30% that could be diverted amounts to "something on the order of \$720,000." Bill and others offered language to the bill that would require counties that divert more than 15% from Conservation Futures to prepare a report at the end of the year detailing which county lands and what maintenance activities the

money was used for. Apparently, Benton did not like that language and it was deleted. So much for transparency.

As the legislature is nearing the end of the session, things move very fast. The day that Bill notified environmental activists in the county, including me, Benton's bill had passed the Senate and was in the House Environment Committee. It was too late to amend the bill. The best chance was to kill it. I contacted Vancouver Audubon's board and Audubon Washington's policy person, Jennifer Syrowitz. Other individuals and groups contacted their representatives, as well as the chair of the House Environment Committee. It took only a couple of days. It turned out that the committee had been hearing from people all over the state.

When I called the office of chair of the House of Environment Committee, Joe Fitsgibbon, his aide me told me that the bill was dead. (Committee chairs have that power.)

I don't know why Benton introduced this bill. But, I have noticed two things in observing the commissioner hearings and meetings: the commissioners have an aversion to the idea of increasing county revenue (on the contrary, two of them have worked to decrease county revenue) and two of them do not want the county to buy more land, especially land that is buildable -- that is, land that does not have environmental constraints such as steep slopes or wetlands.

Another lesson from this lesson is the value of a presence in Olympia, even if it just to keep a watch on what is going on and the value of a network of people who are willing to contact their legislators and to contact others who would also act. If Bill hadn't found out about the bill and if he hadn't contacted those interested in conserving land, Benton's bill could have slipped through and Clark County would have less money available to purchase valuable conservation land.

Finally, something to always remember. It is easier to kill a bad bill than it is to pass a good bill.

...the bill would permit the commissioners to divert 30% of the Conservation Futures money reducing the money available for buying land..... in Clark County, the 30% that could be diverted amounts to "something on the order of \$720,000."

Gretchen Starke 

Feb. 7, **4 RED-NAPED SAPSUCKERS** were reported by Cathy Jones, from the Wind River Valley in Skamania County. The Red-naped is the more common east of the Cascades although they do move around during the winter with a very few making it to the west side. Here in our area, Red-breasted Sapsuckers are the expected species.

Feb.13, On Hamilton Island, near Bonneville Dam, Russ Koppendrayer found one male **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** mixed in with three male and one female **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS**.

Steven Clark saw a very early returning female **YELLOW HEADED BLACKBIRD** in the flock of Red-winged and Brewers Blackbirds coming to his feeder in Washougal. This is the same flock that contains a **RUSTY BLACKBIRD**, giving them four species in one flock.



Feb. 16, On a visit to Northeastern & Central Oregon, Carol and Don Kohler happened to stop on the side of the road and saw movement on the hillside that turned out to be **MOUNTAIN QUAIL** a life bird for both of them. Carol also reported that the **TUFTED DUCK** at Lacamas Lake was still present, but appears to have an injured eye.

Feb. 17, A male **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** was found at the Spring Creek Hatchery near Underwood, in Skamania County, by Stuart Johnston. This is the second winter record that I am aware of at the hatchery.

Feb. 18, About **30 SANDHILL CRANES** flew over Anna Wiancko Chasman's house on the Washougal River. Other than at Steigerwald Lake, where they are very uncommon, east county has no spots where cranes might be found and these may have been a flock that had come down the Gorge heading for the Vancouver Lake/Ridgefield NWR area before continuing north to their nesting grounds.

Feb. 22 The first **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** for Skamania County were reported by Peter Johnson, flying along the Columbia River just below mouth of Hamilton Creek, near North Bonneville.

There must have been a migration of swallows over night, as Jim Danzenbaker saw a flock of **20 TREE SWALLOWS** and about **5 VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** at the Ridgefield NWR.

Feb. 27, Two **SAY'S PHOEBE** were found by Peter Johnson in Skamania County, just downstream of the Rock Creek Drive bridge in Stevenson.

Feb. 28, Fran Lenski took a walk along the

Washougal Dike and through the Steigerwald NWR. He saw a **HARBOR SEAL** in the channel adjacent to the dike and at Red-tail Lake, there were **37 GREAT BLUE HERONS**. These are some of birds that will be nesting in the heronry on Reed Island, where there are about 90 nests. **TREE SWALLOWS** were abundant and he found a couple of **SAY'S PHOEBES**, one of the earliest migrants, these members of the flycatcher family nest east of the Cascade Mountains.

March 1, The first **TURKEY VULTURE** of the season was seen near the Fisher Rock Quarry at 192nd and Highway 14 by Eric Bjorkman. This was a traditional nesting area before the interchange was built and is still an area where they are commonly found.

March 3, A **MEW GULL** was seen on the Ridgefield auto-tour route by Scott Carpenter, for some reason these dainty gulls seem to be less common now than twenty years ago. He also say that there are 2 **SAY'S PHOEBES** on the refuge, but both were in areas restricted to the public.

March 4, **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS** arrived with males reported at Colleen Sibelman's feeder above the Ridgefield NWR, Loretta Layton's feeder on Canyon Creek on the upper Washougal River and at our feeder on Mt. Pleasant, Skamania County.



As a recent arrival from Virginia, Jared Strawderman was delighted to find the two **SAY'S PHOEBES** at the Steigerwald NWR. These phoebes are a West Coast specialty.

March 6, Our first of the year **BAND-TAILED PIGEONS** returned to our feeders, although there were only two birds now that number will soon swell to about three dozen coming to the feeders at one time.

With Spring now upon us it isn't too early to start thinking about planning on attending the annual Wenas Audubon Campout on Memorial Day Weekend. For more information go to: <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>

Sherry Hagen saw a very brightly colored **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** sitting on the freeway sign above SR500 near Thurston, across from the Vancouver Mall. And one that was calling frequently was reported by Randy Hill, from near the Carty office at the Ridgefield NWR. This is breeding season for these hawks and they are very vocal now, but as of yet no nest has been found in Washington.



Vancouver Audubon

Migration is starting to pick up and you can expect to see newly arrived species almost daily from now until the end of May. As of the writing of this column there had been 139 species of birds reported from Clark County and only 83 species reported from Skamania County for the 2014 Cumulative Year List project. Skamania County has very little lowland areas where birds congregate in the winter and few birders venture there in the cold and wind. For more information on this list go to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> If you have seen a bird not checked off for this year please let me know. And please continue to send me your sightings for this column.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

Annual Wenas Campout

Memorial Day Weekend in May



Annual 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.

For more information go to:

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

Migration by the Numbers

At least 40 percent of all bird species are migratory. In North America more than 300 bird species migrate. Here are just a few amazing facts about the planet's migratory marvels:

- High flyers — **Bar-headed geese** routinely traverse the Indian Himalayas, reaching altitudes of nearly 30,000 feet.
- Far flyers — **Arctic Terns** are the globetrotting champs. Their annual round-trip transit amounts to nearly 50,000 miles per year.
- Fast flyers — **Great Snipes** routinely maintain speeds of 60 mph or more on their 4200-mile migrations. And that's without tailwinds.
- Tireless flyers — the **Bar-tailed Godwit** exhibits world spanning feats of non-stop flight, able to cover 7,000 miles across the central Pacific without food or rest.
- Fat flyers — feats of migration take a lot of calories, and birds often gorge themselves in preparation for the journey. **Blackpoll Warblers**, for instance, nearly double their body weight before embarking on their nonstop 2300-mile trip.



Blackpoll Warbler



message/fax (360) 253-5771

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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 2014

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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I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$_____

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**Flyway Renewal
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