



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

December 2016

Calendar

***Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

PLEASE don't park in front Bader Beer and Wine Supply (a business)

***Monday, Dec. 5, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by George & Cindy Mayfield
George & Cindy Mayfield, 24315 NE 59th Ave., Battleground 360-687-0360

***Tuesday, Jan 31, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Eric & Tammy
Bjorkman, 4110 NE 54th Ave., Vancouver 360-695-3116

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	31

PROGRAM:

The Triple Crown of Hiking

1. Pacific Crest Trail
2. Appalachian Trail
3. Continental Divide Trail

ALL in ONE YEAR.

Speaker: Jeff Garmire

This fete is rare. Jeff just returned home to Vancouver from this accomplishment. This is not his first major hike, as he hiked the PCT in 2011. Jeff will describe his journey and give highlights. Just imagine the scenery he must have witnessed. What critters did he see or encounter? How did he resupply? What was the trail culture like as he met other hikers? Imagine the physical challenge to his body. Did the triple trek fulfill what he imagined? Appreciate the fortitude and drive it took to hike, 20, 30, or 40 miles a day. He visited 22 states and trekked 7,636 miles in 252 days.



This was so much more than "A Walk in the Woods."

Sauvie Island Christmas Bird Count

Compiler: Susan Setterberg, 360 980 0884



When: December 18, Sunday

Susan Setterberg will be arranging the Ridgefield side of the Sauvie Island/Ridgefield Circle this year.

Please email her at smsetterberg@yahoo.com (preferable) if you want to participate in the count. You can also leave a message at 360 980 0884. She will confirm all assigned areas after Dec 5th. (Continued next page)

Please Note....

There are no...

- Meetings
- Field Trips
- Newsletter

...in January

There will be a Newsletter mailed during January for the February events.

Vancouver Audubon

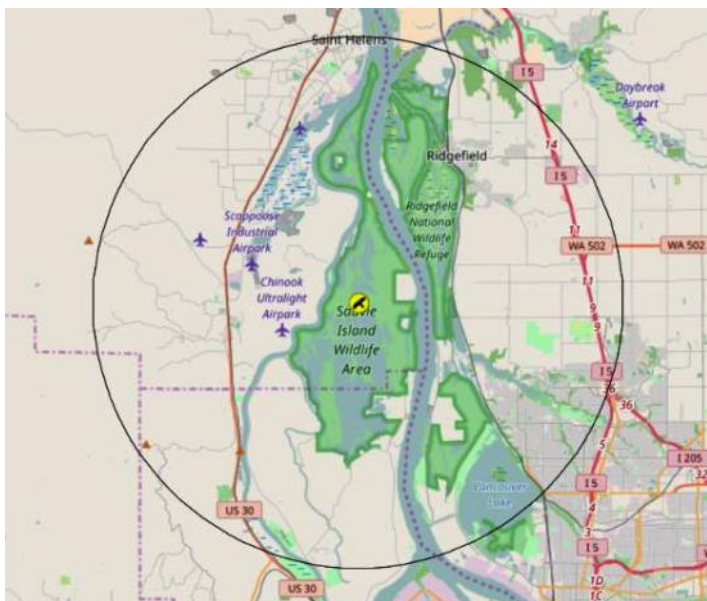
2016-17 Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18th

Why a Christmas Bird Count?



From National Audubon: *The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys,*

such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. The long-term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.



Whether it is walking a big territory or watching your feeder from an easy chair through your window, it all counts when you are in the circle. The Ridgefield (semi)circle runs from Vancouver Lake area up to the mouth of the Lewis River, mostly to the west of I-5 to the Columbia River. See [map](#).

Count results will also be turned into Susan as she is the compiler for the entire circle this year. If you have never done a Christmas count and would like to try, contact Susan. We can always find a team that needs another set of eyes and ears or a good field to count on your own if you want to give it a try.

Compiler & arrangements: Susan Setterberg
Contact info: smsetterberg@yahoo.com (preferable) if you want to participate in the count.

You can also leave a message at 360 980 0884. She will confirm all assigned areas after Dec 5th.

Birds and Buildings and Lighting the Night:



There have been many discussions in various journals about the effect of night lighting on wildlife, particularly relative to bird migration. With all the building happening in Clark County and the greater Portland area, there are many opportunities for us to weigh in on projects to make sure consideration is given

to approaches which have the least impact possible on our birds. Vancouver Audubon wants to join the conservation and is looking for someone who might be interested in learning about these issues to help develop appropriate positions for builders, developers or even projects where small changes can make a big difference. Port of Vancouver and Portland Audubon already have staff engaged in discussions involving waterfront projects. They are willing to share their knowledge to bring Vancouver Audubon up to speed. Sydney Reisbick has been working with City of Ridgefield, successfully reminding them of what can be done to minimize impact on the refuge and they have incorporated her suggestions into planning guidance for builders in the city. If you are interested in gaining more insight into this area of conservation and could serve as Vancouver Audubon's eyes and ears, please contact Sydney at reisbicks@comcast.net. She will get you into contact with all the right folks to start exploring this interesting topic.

Welcome New Members: Ryan Abe • Larry Alexander • Jean M. Avery • Betty Jill Berry • Linda Brazie • D. Burbank • Jill Callahan • Carlee Clark • Joseph Cole • Larry Dortmund • Tim Felegy • Chuck & Jan Ferguson • Albert Hensley • Elaine Hill • Ryan Largura • Carl & Margaret Matthews • David Meyers • Jeff Nielson • Joyce O'Leary • Carla Powell • Kathleen Sandy • Joy Schultz • Catherine Shawley • Mary Ann Sliero • Raye Smith • Lynne Stacy • Linda Thompson • Marjorie White • Jerry Willbur
Transfer Member: Lynne Stacy

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Did You Miss It?

Twenty birders experienced blustery wind and scattered showers during the Nov. 12th field trip to Steigerwald NWR in Washougal. We were only five minutes into the walk when we spotted a nicely perched Peregrine Falcon in what turned out to be a pretty good day for raptors. In addition to the Peregrine, we had great looks at an adult Bald Eagle, numerous Northern Harriers (in both plumages), Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel, and a fly-by Merlin. Oddly enough, no Red-tailed Hawks were seen when normally they are abundant. Other highlights of the twenty seven species seen were two Tundra Swans on the lake and a fly over of nine Snow Goose.

GO PAPERLESS with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Sherry Hagen at littlebird-er@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

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 or Sherry Hagen for information: 360-892-8872
If they are available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then they ask that they receive 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.

Anna's Hummingbirds are year around residents in our area



Using spider web to affix its nest to a single bulb in a strand of holiday lights, this tiny Anna's Hummingbird successfully hatched two chicks from Cornell Lab

Watch for this winter visitor which migrates from higher elevations to our backyards.

Do you know which species this is?



Varied Thrush

Oct. 10, We had a pair of **LESSER GOLFINCHES** feeding on Shasta Daisy flower heads, although common in Clark County, this was only my third record in Skamania County.

Oct. 11, Randy Hill found a **BLACK PHOEBE**, his first in Clark County in more than 2 ½ years, it was opposite the Shillapoo Lake access near the north end of SR501 beyond Vancouver Lake Park.

Ken Knittle had a female **RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** in his Hazel Dell yard, this is a very late date for a bird that winters in the Yucatan.

Oct 12, Jim Danzenbaker decided to try his luck at some hawk watching in Clark County, he had never found a very good spot in the county before to watch hawk migration but I headed up to Larch Mountain, Here at the highest point in the county he lucked out in that I had birds flying for the 2.5 hours he was there. He counted 1 **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** his third for in the county and first for Larch Mountain, 2 **COOPER'S HAWK**, 6 **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**, 8 **RED-TAILED HAWK**, 1 **MERLIN** and 2 **BALD EAGLES**.

After home to Battle Ground he scanned the sky for about 45 minutes this and spotted 2 **COOPER'S HAWKS**, 1 **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**: 1 **RED-TAILED HAWK**, 1 **BALD EAGLE** and an **AMERICAN KESTREL**, rarely seen from his yard.

Oct. 15, A different **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** showed up at our feeders and was there for two days..

Oct. 16, A single **EARED GREBE** was seen on Vancouver Lake by Jim Danzenbaker. Other notables included 45 **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** and at least 400 swallows equally split between **BARN SWALLOW** and **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW**.

Oct. 22, Les Carlson, George Mayfield, Barry Woodruff and I birded Skamania County finding a **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** on Fitzgerald Road, 1 **COMMON LOON** and 2 **PACIFIC LOONS** at the St. Cloud Recreation Area.

Oct. 28, Jim Danzenbaker headed to the Columbia River with Luke Hanes and enjoyed some great birding. They started at Vancouver Lake where the only notable sighting was 4 **TUNDRA SWANS** - the first of the season for Jim. A stop along the river south of Frenchman's Bar Park yielded a **RED-NECKED GREBE** on the Oregon side of the river and a few notes from a **HORNED LARK**. Wintler Park yielded a few **HORNED GREBES** a **SURF SCOTER** which they believe was in Oregon waters and a far off **COMMON LOON**.

Moving on to the Washougal Waterfront Park, they hit the jackpot, first finding a **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER**, only the second one Jim has seen in the county. That sighting was

closely followed by a single **EARED GREBE** and finally a **PACIFIC LOON**! All three of these species are code 4 birds in Clark County.

Oct. 29, Jim Danzenbaker and John Bishop headed down to Washougal where the day before Jim and Luke Hanes had found **PACIFIC LOON**, **EARED GREBE**, and a **WHITE WINGED SCOTER**. They relocated the **PACIFIC LOON**, first on the Oregon side then on the WA side. The **WHITE WINGED SCOTER** was there but stayed in Oregon waters, along with at least 7 **SURF SCOTERS** and 2 **EARED GREBES**. Several **COMMON LOONS** were seen on both sides, two **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** were spotted flying up river and a third on the water, all in OR. A **RED-NECKED GREBE** stayed just east of Steamboat Landing the 2 hours they were there. The big find was a **PELAGIC CORMORANT**, that Jim spotted on a swim platform just west of Steamboat landing, they alerted Randy Hill and I to their finds and we along with Les Carlson were also able to see these rare for the county birds. Randy then continued on downstream to Wintler Park where he found **COMMON** and **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** and **COMMON** and **RED-THROATED LOON** in the river and Tidewater Cove marina area.

Oct. 30, The **PELAGIC CORMORANT** and 2 **RED-NECKED GREBES** were still near Steamboat Landing Park when John Bishop visited Washougal again.

Oct. 31, Michelle Maani went birding along Lower River Road and Vancouver Lake, and saw, a few **AMERICAN KESTRELS**, a dozen **CAACKLING GEESE** and some chickadees and crows. On Old Lower River Road she found another dozen **CAACKLING GEESE**, 15 **EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES** in a tree, and her first ever **RING-NECKED PHEASANT**.

Nov. 2, An all white goose was photographed in a flock of **CAACKLING GEESE** on Prune Hill, by Jeff Wynn. This could be either an albino or a leucistic Cackling Goose by body size or perhaps some other species, the lack of black wing tips eliminates it being either a Snow or a Ross's Goose.

Nov. 4, The continuing Washougal **PELAGIC CORMORANT** was seen by Lyn and Gene Topinka.

Nov. 8, A **GOLDEN EAGLE**, which are seldom reported from Clark County, was seen by Bob Flores in the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

Nov. 10, A couple of hours spent in the Vancouver lowlands provided Les Carlson with views of **WHITE PELICANS** on the lake, about 100 **SNOW GEESE** in the air with several hundred other geese at the north end of the Shillapoo Lake area. He viewed them from the feed lot area of Lower River Road where there were **SANDHILL**

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CRANES not far away. And a **MERLIN** was seen near the feed lot.

Nov. 11. Russ Koppendrayer reported **PELAGIC CORMORANT** that the Washougal **PELAGIC CORMORANT** was still at Steamboat Landing Park.

Nov. 12, Both the continuing **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** and **PELAGIC CORMORANT** were seen again by Randy Hill at Steamboat Landing Park.

In Camas, Carol and Don Kohler have had more **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS** this fall than they can remember having there, even with three feeders up they say that they are filling them more often than ever before. They said these birds seem much more mellow and sometimes you can find two at a time sitting on a feeder.

At the end of October, Bob Rowe reported having **BAND-TAILED PIGEONS** coming to his feeders where he says they are very uncommon. This are an early migrating species that is usually gone by early October.

The wintering waterfowl and raptors are now back and will provide great opportunities for study in places like the Ridgefield NWR, Vancouver Lake and along the Columbia River. Among the numerous Cackling and Canada Geese you may spot unusual birds such as Emperor Goose or Ross's Goose. Large flocks of ducks can contain surprises like Long-tailed Duck or a scoter or maybe Tufted Duck, Baikal Teal or other stragglers from Asia. Winter finches such as Snow Bunting, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch or Common Redpoll can appear anywhere, including at your feeders. If you find anything unusual please contact me or Arden and Sherry Hagen as soon as possible to share your find.

As of the end of October the cumulative year list of species reported from Clark County was 222 species and in Skamania County people have reported seeing 186 species this year. You can see the lists on line at: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> If you have seen anything in the counties this year that hasn't been checked off please let me know. *Wilson Cady*

VAS Budget will be voted on at the General Meeting on December 6th by the voting membership.

Operating: 2016 Budget vs. 2017 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Bank Interest	25.00	25.00
Refreshments	30.00	15.00
Membership	1,300.00	800.00
Donations	1,450.00	1,300.00
Audubon Adventures	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fundraising Trips	2,400.00	3,200.00
National Audubon Society	1,785.00	1,785.00
NAS-Members	250.00	0.00
Store Sales	500.00	300.00
Retained Earnings	1,435.00	1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,175.00	9,925.00

EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION		
Postage	0.00	80.00
Supplies	150.00	150.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	85.00	82.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	250.00	0.00
Bank fees	60.00	0.00
REFRESHMENTS	80.00	80.00
CONSERVATION Conferences	400.00	600.00
DONATIONS		
Washington Audubon	2000.00	2,000.00
PDX Wildlife Care Center	250.00	250.00
Intertwine Alliance	250.00	250.00
Unidentified Needs	0.00	615.00
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		
Supplies	50.00	50.00
Printing	2,200.00	2,100.00
Postage	1,200.00	600.00
Bulk Mail Permit	240.00	215.00
OUTREACH		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	1,500.00	1,000.00
Audubon Adventures supplies	0.00	25.00
Home and Garden Show	150.00	150.00
PROGRAMS		
Speaker Travel	450.00	700.00
PUBLICITY (Web page, search engine)	110.00	108.00
RENT	300.00	360.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,175.00	9,925.00
NET INCOME	\$(0.00)	\$(0.00)

2016 Bequest Funds* vs. 2017 Budget

<u>REVENUE</u>	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Community Foundation Earnings	7,000.00	7,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,000.00	\$7,500.00
BEQUEST EXPENSES		
Misc Grants	10,000.00	5,000.00
Community Foundation Fees	2,400.00	2,400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,400.00	7,400.00
NET INCOME	\$ (-5,400.00)	\$100.00

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



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Everything for the Wild Bird enthusiast™

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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.*

December 2016

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)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

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