



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

February 2015

## Calendar

\*\*\*Tuesday, Feb. 3 6:45 pm: 30 minute mini program or class

\*\*\*Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Tuesday, Feb. 24, 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

## PROGRAM:

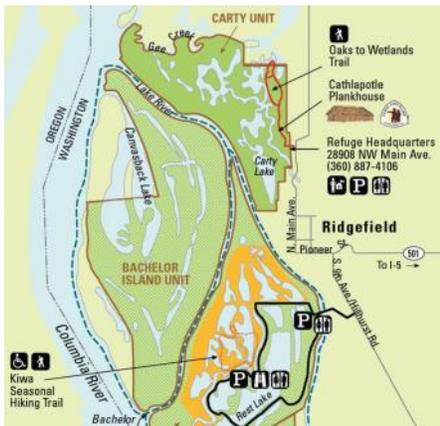
### Ridgefield NWR Complex: Updates, Goals, Projects

Speaker: Christopher Lapp, Project Leader,  
Ridgefield NWR Complex

Most of us frequent Ridgefield NWR and Steigerwald NWR, but did you know that the Ridgefield NWR Complex also includes Pierce NWR and Franz Lake NWR?

**Christopher Lapp** has been Project Leader for the Complex for nearly 3 years. He will update us on new planned bridges, habitat restoration projects, reintroduction of threatened and endangered species, land acquisition at Steigerwald, current staffing, water level management, bird populations, and the role of Friends of Ridgefield NWR.

There will be time for most of your questions. Let's welcome Christopher and build understanding between Vancouver Audubon Society and the refuges. We have our own observations and ideas. This could be an interesting, good conversation.



## FIELD TRIP

### Late Winter in the Gorge



Leader: Wilson Cady, 360-835-5947

When: Feb. 15, Sunday

Time: 8:00 AM

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

An all day exploration of the western Columbia Gorge, mostly by car with a couple of short walks depending on the conditions. Dress for the weather, bring a lunch and your bird book and binoculars. If you have an FRS radio (22 channel walkie-talkie) please bring it for communicating between vehicles. **We will carpool.**

**Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.**



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# Vancouver Audubon

**Welcome New Members:** Sheldon Barbara Somers • Elaine Barsotti • Patricia Benjamin • Phoenix Bennett • Delores Brill • Shirley Brown • Donna Chronis • Timothy Dahlin • Herbert Dennis • Kelly Eppersan • Carolyn Everts • Ross Hall • Theresa Hambro • Jean Hotchkiss • Stephen & Kathleen Hulick • Diana Jones • Sharon Joynes • Rosalie Larsen • Tom & Kelli Marinetti • Sharon Mayhew • Walter & Barbara McDonald • Jo Ann Mc Mackin • Ellen Mc Master • Richard Miller • John Nichols • Debbie O'Brien • Dawn Pratt • Bud Rhodes • David Roach • Don Rose • Doyle Satterfield • Steve & Natalie Schmick • Pam Sharp • Shanay Shipley • Robert Silverman • Elizabeth Smith • Ranae Smith • Arlene & Steve Hee • Patricia Tucker • Virginia Wilson • Eric Woodward

## GO PAPERLESS with the VAS Newsletter

If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Sherry Hagen at [littlebirder@comcast.net](mailto: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:

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

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## *The Backyard & Beyond...*

In November, 5 members of the Audubon board, (Eric & Tammy Bjorkman, Arden & Sherry Hagen [me], and Joan Durgin) went on a birding trip to **South Africa**. We were joined by a 6th person from San Diego, Janis who had traveled with 4 of us before to India. South Africa was like traveling in the United State. You could drink the water, the roads were great, modern buildings, many modern restaurants that served good food and the people spoke English. We had a great time with our guide David who sought out beautiful and endemic birds for all of us to add to our lists. This was Joan's first foreign country adventure so it was a bit overwhelming. Our final adventure of the trip ended at Phinda, a Preserve for large African animals and of course birds. This excited us all as we drove around morning and late afternoon and evening for lions, cheetahs, elephants, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, buffalo and all the deer type creatures, etc. and of course birds. Arden and I got to see our first cheetahs on this second trip to Africa. Two brothers with their tummies full after a night time kill. We all watched as a Wildebeest almost walked right into the resting boys then made a hasty retreat to a safer distance.

After South Africa, everyone went home while Arden and I went on to the island of **Madagascar**. Why not? It was right next door, a flight away. Right? Well South Africa is modern and like home. Madagascar is 4th-3rd world country depending where you are. We were greeted the next morning by a beautiful Madagascar Red Fody in downtown "Tana"

on the hotel grounds. Good start. We flew north, birded, traveled by car, sweated in the heat, traveled by car, planes, boats, cars, etc. Lots of travel and lots of sleeping by me in the cars as we dodged very large pot holes. Roads were not good. We soon found out the guide only knew the larger birds and we were back to IDing a lot on our own. We also learned this trip was not what we paid for. But the country was beautiful, the birds were fascinating, and the lemurs were intriguing.

Back home on Dec. 8th, I knew I would be hit with jet lag and after PNG this past summer it took 2 weeks so I assumed the same. I had 2 cataract surgeries scheduled. The first one 2 days after getting home. Piece of cake and since I was already tired, rest was easy. Next week same thing. But then something happened and I started having stomach cramps, severe nausea and woke up one morning with absolutely no appetite at all. Even for water. Arden hauled me into the doctor who thought I just had the tail end of "traveler's diarrhea" even though I didn't have that. So she prescribed some meds. By Monday I did have some "D" and went back but felt better so we thought I was on the right track. We traveled to Spokane for Christmas and I did pretty good each day but on the day with left I was back to **No Good and got worse** and worse and **hit rock bottom**. So next day it was into **ER** for tests and CAT scan. The ER doctor called back the next day to say the tests were negative for bacteria but that he **over looked** doing a O&P test. The very test I wanted for parasites for what I called "alien babies". So next morning I was drug back to ER for the more tests and waited 2 more days and called the ER lab Jan. 2nd. They had not done the test but I got a lab lady that made sure it WAS done that day and called with the results and the drug. I had Giardi from Madagascar. This the parasite that you get in bad water carried their by infected people or animals. You can drink it or get it on food that has been wash with bad water. We are very careful not to drink anything but bottled water and use it to brush our teeth. We do not eat fruit or veggies that cannot be peeled. But you just never know when someone else makes your meals. We had a couple things that happened on the last couple days that could have done it. The drug was awful and I quickly learned to take it buried in a teaspoonful of strawberry jam with juice. You have to eat something when you taking it (nausea). No dairy products either for a month or so (lactose intolerance is a possibility). As I write this on January 12th, I took my last med this morning and I hope the cycle of the parasites has been destroyed. I am on the mend and it has been a slow process. Will I travel again. Yes!!! But I will even be more careful than before. You can get Giardi here in the states so **DON'T DRINK STREAM WATER** or any water outside without boiling it first.

*Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding 😊*

Oh yea! Cataract surgery left me with astigmatism again! Yuk! And we did get some of our money back from the trip by complaining.

## Inslee's Proposed Carbon Tax and Transportation

Thanks in part to senators Benton and Pike, Washington has not had a transportation budget for over a year. The legislature could not agree on how to pay for transportation improvements. Some in the legislature seemed to not want to pay anything at all. This has affected public transportation as well as roads. So, as the legislature starts its 2015 session, the transportation budget is a big deal.

Governor Inslee has come up with a plan that would pay for transportation and, at the same time, discourage carbon emissions. Considering the idea that we should tax the things we don't want, Inslee proposes Washington tax carbon. The money would be used for road repair, but not big highway projects. Some of the revenue would be used to encourage sustainability initiatives related to transportation. These could include public transportation projects and incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.

Included in Inslee's proposal is a provision to cap carbon emissions from the state's biggest carbon polluters, those that, according to the governor's office, contribute 85% of Washington's carbon emissions. Over the years, the cap would be lowered, thus forcing these businesses to look for cleaner sources of energy. The total plan, if enacted, would certainly help in reducing carbon emissions, thereby helping to slow climate change.

The governor can propose, but the legislature disposes. From the viewpoint of those of us that want to limit global warming if at all possible, Inslee's proposal should become law. Members of the legislature, however, do not necessarily agree. Some disagree vigorously. Even Moeller said that Inslee was being an "eternal optimist." One problem is tax phobia, a serious disorder afflicting the population as well as the legislature. In other words, there is great resistance to Inslee's plan.

That's where we citizens come in. If we are serious about slowing global warming, if we want

a future world compatible with civilization, *if we really want to protect birds and their habitat*, then we must speak to our legislators and ask them to support Inslee's carbon tax plan. Even if you have never done so before, now is the time to lobby your legislator.

### Audubon Advocacy Day: Feb. 18th

Audubon Washington will have our own advocacy day!! We will go to Olympia on February 18. Our focus will be on climate change, forage fish (for the marine birds), carbon emissions reduction, and fossil fuel transport and export. We will be collaborating with several other environmental organizations. If anyone wants to go with me, please let me know. For connecting with our legislators, nothing beats a personal visit. It is helpful, even with those legislators that disagree with us.

## Legislative Information

Following are Clark County's legislators.

### 17th Legislative District

- Senator Don Benton, (360) 786 - 7632, don.benton@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Paul Harris, (360) 786 - 7976, paul.harris@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Lynda Wilson, (360) 786 - 7994, lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov

### 18th Legislative District

- Senator Ann Rivers, (360) 786 - 7634, ann.rivers@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Liz Pike, (360) 786 - 7812, liz.pike@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Brandon Vick, (360) 786 - 7850, brandon.vick@leg.wa.gov

### 49th Legislative District

- Senator Annette Cleveland, (360) 786 - 7696, annette.cleveland@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Jim Moeller, (360) 786 - 7872, jim.moeller@leg.wa.gov
- Representative Sharon Wylie, (360) 786 - 7924, sharon.wylie@leg.wa.gov

Gretchen Starke 

Oct. 31, Jim Danzenbaker had a surprise in his Battle Ground yard, a bright NASHVILLE WARBLER. These warblers usually have finished migrating through here by the end of September.

Nov. 1, A female SURF SCOTER on Rest Lake, at the Ridgefield NWR, was reported by Bob Flores. Scoters are a species normally found on saltwater but during recent winters a few of all three species have been spotted in the flocks of diving ducks that are feeding on freshwater clams and mussels in the Columbia River.

Nov. 3, Les Carlson, Khanh Tran and I spent two days birding at Neah Bay on the Olympic Peninsula, hoping for a glimpse of an Eurasian Hobby that had been reported there. We missed that bird but see a CATTLE EGRET, NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL, 7 TROPICAL KINGBIRDS, PALM WARBLER, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, ORCHARD ORIOLE, BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, PINE GROSBEAK and a BRAMBLING.

Nov. 5, At Frenchmen's Bar Park, Bob Flores spotted two more SURF SCOTERS in the Columbia River.

Nov. 7, Very rare for Clark County, PINE GROSBEAKS were found by Bob Flores in the area east of the Larch Mountain Honor Camp. This is a winter when more of these birds are being seen all over the state than I can remember. The next day, Ryan Abe found them or others about a mile away from the original location.

Nov. 9, Randy Hill found a SNOWY EGRET at Post Office Lake at the end of Lower River Road, it was visible from the parking lot. Randy then headed upstream to the Vancouver waterfront off of Columbia Way, where at Marine Park he had a RED-NECKED GREBE and both golden-eyes. At Wintler Park he spotted COMMON LOONS, a PACIFIC LOON and a male SURF SCOTER off-shore from the parking lot. This Snowy Egret was enjoyed by many birders from all over the state as it remained through Nov. 24.

Nov. 10, From the McMinnamans parking lot, Randy Hill and Bob Flores watched 4 BLACK SCOTERS swim from Columbia Point, on the Oregon side to the Washington side. Also seen on both sides was a single male WHITE-WINGED SCOTER and several SURF SCOTERS on the Oregon side.

In Battle Ground, Antoinette Verne reported the return of a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW and PINE SISKINS to her feeder.

Nov. 10, Susan and I made a quick run to the Nestucca NWR, near Pacific City, Oregon, and saw a TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE that had been found there. This is the first record of this Asiatic species in the Lower forty-eight

states. There was a sighting of a Bean Goose at Hoquaim, Gray's Harbor County, in 2002, that several VAS members got to see, but that before the species was split and it ended up being a Taiga Bean Goose.

Nov. 13, Les Carlson and Barry Woodruff arrived at the Nestucca NWR at 0901 and saw the TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE at 0902.

Nov. 15, The first WHITE-THROATED SPARROW of 2014 in Skamania County was at the home of Matt Shroeder, in Stabler, where the Broad-billed Hummingbird was earlier this fall.

Nov. 21, While checking on the Post Office Lake SNOWY EGRET, Bob Flores counted 416 CANVASBACK, 4 REDHEAD and a male EURASIAN WIDGEON. Hopefully they will stick around for the Christmas Bird Count.

Nov. 24, During a break in the cold weather and strong east winds, Les Carlson and I did some birding in Skamania County. We found a COMMON LOON, 2 GREAT EGRETS, and a GOLDEN EAGLE, the latter was Les's 200th species seen in Skamania County.

Nov. 26, 12 TRUMPETER SWANS were seen and heard by Lyn and Gene Topinka arriving at the Franz Lake NWR. This was the first report of this species from Skamania County this fall.

Carol and Don Kohler went to the Nestucca NWR in Oregon to see the TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE and then on to Newport for a BROWN BOOBY, getting two very rare life-birds in the same day.

Dec. 8, Lyn and Gene Topinka had a "Black-backed" LESSER GOLDFINCH at their Vancouver feeders. This is a rare color form in the Northwest and more common in Texas.

Dec. 12, Cindy McCormack found a SWAMP SPARROW at the Ridgefield NWR among a group of 8-12 Song Sparrow in the dead Reed Canary Grass. Also at the same location was an overwintering COMMON YELLOWTHROAT.

Dec. 14, At the Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery in Skamania County, Stefan Schlick heard then saw 3-4 PYGMY NUTHATCHES, there is only one other record from the county. Also within the flock was a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. A first-cycle THAYER'S GULL was among the about 15 GLAUCOUS-WINGED and hybrid gulls. 10+ BALD EAGLES and several calling AMERICAN DIPPERS near the fish hatchery. Lyn Topinka saw the nuthatches the next day for her 100th Skamania County bird.

Dec. 15, A BURROWING OWL spent the day under Joe

# Vancouver Audubon

Engler's Columbia Tech Center office window.

Dec. 17, A MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE at Jim Johnson's Fruit Valley home stayed around through the New Year and was a welcome addition to the Christmas Bird Count.

Jan. 4, The ongoing RED-BREASTED MERGANSER at Vancouver Lake was seen from the County Park by Bob Flores. An ACORN WOODPECKER was found by Cindy McCormick at the corner of C and 11th streets in Vancouver at The Academy, with a second bird there later. The bird was also seen by Bob Flores.

A juvenile WHITE-TAILED KITE was located at the Steigerwald Lake NWR by Rick DeTroye This bird stayed around for several days allowing numerous birders to see this rare visitor to Clark County. Kites have been very rare in Washington for over a decade.

A SORA along with 2 VIRGINIA RAILS were found by Barry Woodruff at the Ridgefield NWR, both of these are migratory species with a few Virginia Rails wintering locally but Soras are practically unheard of in the winter.

Jan. 6, While unable to spot the Kite at the Steigerwald Lake NWR during his lunch break, Ray Korpi was returning to Clark College when he was rewarded with a NORTHERN SHRIKE on 192nd, just off of Highway 14.

For the fourth year in a row, a TUFTED DUCK is at Wintler Park in Vancouver, reported by Randy Hill and continued through the period.

Jan. 7, A MERLIN was seen chasing doves in Les Carlson's yard in Vancouver.

Until migrants begin moving north at the end of February the birding focus will remain on waterfowl and raptors and hopefully some more vagrants. We have had a fantastic number of out of place birds this winter, the latest one in our general area was a MARRBLED MURRELET found at Hood River. You may have noticed that Bob Flores's name is connected to many of these birds. Bob is doing a 2015 Clark County Big Year and would appreciate tips on any unusual or hard to find birds, for now, let me know if you find something and I will pass it on to him. In the first week and a half of the year he had already seen over 100 species in Clark County. And if you do find an unusual bird please call me, Arden & Sherry Hagen or Eric & Tammy Bjorkman as soon as possible.

By the end of the year, the County Cumulative Bird Lists was at 239 species reported as seen in Clark County in 2014 compared to 218 seen in 2013. In Skamania County the 2014 count was 196 while the 2013 count was 199.

Wilson Cady, Afield 360-835-5947

## Do you recognize this duck?

*This is a duck that shows up in the Pacific NW almost every year. Often a few may be found together but usually only one in a group of other duck.*

*Answer at the bottom of the page.*



## 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.

Answer to Duck Question: Eurasian Wigeon

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promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
stewardship, enjoyment  
and advocacy.*



**February 2015**

**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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