



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

February 2016

## Calendar

← **New Time**

\*\*\*Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Eric & Tammy Bjorkman, 4110 NE 54th Ave., Vancouver 360-695-3116

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## PROGRAM: Bats

Speaker: Steve Clark

Steve has taught about Mammals of the NW for many years at Clark College. He will talk about BATS and how they are one of the few animal orders to achieve flight and how that has been achieved. He will compare their flight to that of birds.

He will also discuss some of the interesting facts and the natural history of bats, including hibernation vs migration, how they share habitat with insect eating birds.

Steve will also discuss how you can make your yard hospitable for bats with varied habitat and roosting sites and how habitats that benefit bats also benefit birds.



## FIELD TRIP: Bald Eagles at the Mouth of the Klickitat River



Leaders: Eric & Tammy Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

Time: 8:00 AM

Date: February 6, 2016 Saturday

Meet at: Port of Camas-Washougal parking lot (just south of Highway 14 by Westlie Ford. Take the Frontage Rd exit to the Round-a-bout at Port St. south)

**We will carpool.**

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

**We'll try to have you back to your car by 4:00 pm.**

**Experience Level:** This trip is well suited for all levels of birders, including young and beginning birders.

**Description:** We will head east to the Columbia River Gorge and the mouth of the Klickitat River where eagles gather to feast on the spawned out winter-run salmon. We should have great looks at immature and mature bald eagles perched in trees or soaring overhead. Using our binoculars and scoping scopes we'll scan the trees searching for these majestic birds while listening for their high pitched screeching calls. We'll also stop along the way to look for other wintering birds.

**What to Bring:** Snacks, lunch, drinks, binoculars, and dress for any weather. If you have FRS (two-way) radios, please bring them as this is how we'll stay in touch between cars throughout the day.

**New Meeting Time  
of  
7:00 PM**

# Vancouver Audubon

## Upcoming VAS Elections

This spring VAS members will be asked to elect officers to serve on our board of directors. Many of our current officers, including myself, are willing to serve again if we're voted in by our membership. However, we're always looking for fresh faces and new ideas.



### Maybe it's you!

If you enjoy being part of our club and feel that you'd like to help, please step forward. Do you want to be a part of a group that has a passion for volunteer work? Do you enjoy being a part of a collaborative decision making process? If the answer is yes, we encourage you to come forward and toss your name in the ring to become a director.

Soon I will name an election committee and we'll post their contact information on our website and in the newsletter. Contact any of them to get your name added to the ballot.

## Birding Without Borders: Noah Stryker Meets His Goal And then some....



Noah Stryker, a Eugene, Oregon resident, did the program for VAS in December 2014, "The Amazing Lives of Birds." Soon after that on January 1, 2015, Noah Stryker set out on his adventure to try and see 5000 species of birds around the world in one year. This is around half the world bird species. He started in Antarctica with a **Cape Petrel** off Trinity Island. The old record of species seen in one year was by Ruth Miller and Alan Davies, a couple from Britain, who saw 4,341 species in 2008.

Noah surpassed their record on September 16th in India with a Sri Lanka Frogmouth. He still had over 3 months to go, so his goal of 5000 bird species was looking like a sure thing so now the question started to arise as to how many different birds in the world Noah could see in a year.

On October 26, in the Philippines, Noah reached his goal of 5000 bird species with the sighting of a Flame-crowned Flowerpecker. He now has 2 months to go to add to that list.

Noah traveled through 41 countries, on each of the 7 continents, and flying 70 days out of the 365 days of 2015. He never took a day off and saw birds in 224 families out of 234 possible. He had only 3 ZERO days all year, one in Antarctica, one in New York airports and one making transiting from India to Myanmar.

He entered more than 36,000 entries into his eBird list (an app for your smartphone) while traveling.

Noah figured he might get burnt out on birding but the opposite happened, he wondered what it would be like to just keep going forever.

He left the last few days of the year open so he could decide where best to spend them. He ended up going back to India and this time he birded in the north.

A Silver-breasted Broadbill was his last new species of the year putting his Grand Total at 6,042, 60% of the world species. Wow!!!

But... a young Dutch birder, Arjan Dwarshuis, started out on January 1 2016, to try and break Noah's record. He will be following much of Noah's itinerary.

Noah will be 30 soon and will spend the next year working on a book about his 2015 Quest. Hopefully in the future we can get Noah to come back to VAS and do a program on his exciting year. Yeah!!! Noah Stryker.

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**Welcome New Members:** Julie Atchley • Walker Berg • Melinda Blakemore • Beth Bryant • Joan Carroll • Laurie Chinn • David Christiansen • Virginia Clark • Ann Combe • Ken Daw • Marlene Dellsy • Jennifer Dulabon • Charisse Epperson • Carol Hall • Carrie Hammons • Norma Harrison • Tami Hess • Jenny Howd • Fae Jackson • Mark Katzele • Jane Keith • Tom And Judy Kovaric • Mary Lackaff • Edith Leslie • Hugh Lewis • Shawn Madison • Amy Martin • Irene Miller • Christopher Milner • Ilse Orthmeyer • Nancy Parham • Ed Rankin • Mildred Russell • Helen Sareen • Steven Schoen • Jenny Schrock • Larry Stryker • Betty Tandberg • Linda Ulrich • Vivian Van Dijk • Mary Vincent • Kathryn West • Anne Laura Wood • Charles Woods

**Transferred Members:** Susan Aberle • Helene Hendricks

## The Hearing on the Proposed Oil Terminal

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) came to town. The hearing was conducted at the fairgrounds and it went on for hours. The opponents of the oil terminal vastly outnumbered the proponents. Opponents were asked to wear red, so there was red all over the place.

I attended for several hours. I did not sign up to speak, but turned in written comments on a form EFSEC provided, based on what I saw in the draft environmental impact statement. There is a limit on how thoroughly I could study the document in an hour, but I saw enough to realize it was a superficial look at the environmental impacts of the proposed oil terminal. There was minimal analysis that I could see.

Because of my familiarity with the Columbia River Gorge, my comments addressed the DEIS, which didn't consider the conditions in the Columbia River Gorge. If an explosion occurred when the east wind is blowing, it would be totally disastrous. The DEIS barely mentioned salmon and did not deal with the various runs, let alone stating that there are times when an oil spill would be worse than at other times. I plan on submitting more comments on Audubon letterhead emphasizing birds. After all, the train tracks run near two national wildlife refuges, and the cars will be full of oil as they pass Steigerwald.

## What Does the New County Council Mean for the Growth Management Plan?

Hope. The addition of the two new members will have a moderating effect on the actions of the council. Make no mistake, these people are not liberal firebrands that will shut down all land division in the county. But, at least the high-handed craziness will be reined in and the final plan should at least be mostly consistent with the Growth Management Act. I believe we can work with the new council. They may not give us all we want, but I think three-fifths of the council will listen to us.

One bit of evidence of their more reasonableness was the repeal of the nine resolutions that Madore railroaded through on December 22, right before Christmas. These resolutions were on Madore's obsessions: east and west side bridges across the Columbia, light rail and C-Tran's rapid transit project, and two peculiar resolutions. One stressed support of "free market principles" and the other stated that the county would have no regulations that were more strict than state and federal regulations. (The whole thing was a pointless exercise as these resolutions had no legal authority .)

## Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

It seems so strange that a group of militants would take over a national wildlife refuge, a place for nature, for birds and wetlands and for people to enjoy. I personally have yet to go to Malheur, but of course I have heard so much about it. From a public relations point of view, the militants could have picked a better site to prove their point -- such as it is. But, they risk earning the ire of all birders in the country. They had better leave before the spring migration starts. If birders are prevented from visiting Malheur, the local community will be out a lot of money.

Gretchen Starke 

## 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)

## 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.

Nov. 4, Sherry Hagen spotted a **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** near Van Mall, a bird that had never been confirmed in the county before.



Another very rare in Washington bird, a **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD**, was at Terry Potter's Battle Ground feeders.

Nov. 5, Rich and Ollie Young had a **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** consuming a Pine Siskin that it had caught in their backyard on Prune Hill in Camas, a first for their property.

Bob Flores had a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** along Lower River Road between Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar trail parking lot.



Nov. 6, Ginger Kafel found a **WHITE-FACED IBIS** at Post Office Lake, with the new closure on Lower River Road, it is a 1.3 mile walk to this lake.

Nov. 7, The **WHITE-FACED IBIS** was relocated at Post Office Lake by Randy Hill.

Nov. 10, Visiting birders Paul and Barbara Webster and Penny and David Koyama birded the Ridgefield NWR where they enjoyed great looks at **WILSON'S SNIPE**, **COOPER'S** and **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS** and numerous ducks.

At the Steigerwald NWR they saw a handsome male **RING-NECKED PHEASANT** and a flock of about 10 **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**. In Skamania County, a stop at the Franz Lake NWR Overlook produced **TUNDRA SWANS**, **1 SNOW GOOSE**, **2 GREAT EGRETS** and a flock of **BUSHTITS**, which are scarce in the county. The next day they found a very rare in the county, **BLACK SCOTER**, at Rock Creek Pond in Stevenson.



Nov. 13, Susan and did some birding in Skamania County finding 2 **TRUMPETER SWANS** at Franz Lake and a **RED-NECKED GREBE** at the Stevenson waterfront.

Nov. 15, Tom Mansfield was birding Skamania County and found a juvenile **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** at the mouth of the White Salmon River at Underwood. There are only a handful of records of this sea duck from the county. He then found a **SURF SCOTER** at Drano Lake, another sea duck that is only slightly more common than the White-winged Scoter. Two Code 5 birds in a day is very good. Kevin Black reported the continuing **SNOWY EGRET** at Post Office Lake at the end of the closed to vehicles, Lower River Road.

Nov. 18, A visit to the Botanical Gardens in Brush Prairie by Michelle Maani provided her with an encounter with a huge mixed flock of blackbirds and cowbirds that she estimated at over a thousand birds. It would be a good flock to check for Rusty or Tri-colored Blackbirds.

Two **WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** in Vancouver Lake, were seen by Bob Flores, from the Flushing Channel.

Nov. 19, A **RED-NECKED GREBE** was in the Columbia River, just above the I-5 Bridge, according to Bob Flores.

Nov.20, Luke Hanes located a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** at the Shillapoo Wildlife Area at the end of La Framboise Road, in the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

Nov. 22, A male **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** was the latest record we have ever had at our place east of Washougal.

Nov. 24, It was a productive day of birding for Bob Flores, at Marine Park, he found his 225th bird of the year in Clark County, a male **SURF SCOTER** with 2 **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**.

At Wintler Community Park he saw another **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER**, The 14 **BARN** and 4 **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** he had along La Framboise Road were very late migrants and he then ended the day with a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** near the parking lot the end of this road.

Nov. 28 In the Vancouver Lake lowlands, Scott Carpenter found at least 4 **SHORT-EARED OWLS** flying over the fields north of Shillapoo Lake. Bob Flores also was able to enjoy seeing these birds that winter here yearly.

Nov. 29, At the Ridgefield NWR River S Unit, Barry Woodruff found a bright male **WILSON'S WARBLER** along the trail to the bird blind. Bob Flores also got to see this bird.



Dec. 2, A very late **CHIPPING SPARROW** came to Arden and Sherry Hagen's bird feeders. This used to be a fairly common breeding bird in the open oak forests of Clark County before they were covered with houses, but this is the first winter record that I have heard of from here. It returned again on Dec. 17th and has fed daily.

Dec. 10, Another wintering **CHIPPING SPARROW** was found at Vancouver Lake by Jim Danzenbaker.

Dec. 11, Les Carlson and I explored Skamania County, at Franz Lake we heard then saw five family groups of **TRUMPETER SWANS** for a total of 19 birds, at Skamania Landing we began seeing more wintering waterfowl includ-

# Vancouver Audubon

ing my first of this fall's **COMMON GOLDENEYE** and Les spotted the county's first **HARISS'S SPARROW**. Both Common and **BARROW'S GOLDENEYES** were numerous below the hatchery at Drano Lake. The best bird of the day was a **WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** at the mouth of the White Salmon River, another new county bird for Les.

Dec. 13, Tammy and Eric Bjorkman got two life birds on the Oregon coast, a **MOUNTAIN PLOVER** at Newport and a **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** at Boiler Bay. The first species is from east of the Rocky Mountains and shouldn't be here in the winter and storm-petrels are seldom seen from shore except near their nesting areas when they fly at night.

Dec. 14, a **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**, a bird of the southern states, was found in Longview and stuck around for a couple of weeks allowing many birders to see this third record for Washington State.

Dec. 15, Two **WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS** were heard calling by Ken Knittle, at Wind Mountain, in Skamania County.

Dec. 16, Bob Flores was birding with Ryan Merrill at Post Office Lake when they heard a **COMMON REDPOLL** calling as it flew over headed toward Sauvie Island.

Dec. 19, Along with the continuing **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** in Longview, there was also a **NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD** that I got to see.

Dec. 22, The first record of a **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** in Clark County came from the Oregon side of the Columbia River when Jay Withgott spotted one flying near Whittler Park. Bob Flores was able to get this bird for his 227th species in Clark County this year. The old record of 207 in one year had been set by Randy Hill in 2011.



Dec. 23, Michelle Maani saw a **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** in the north parking lot at Vancouver Lake Park. Someone puts bird feed out there every winter that attracts a lot of birds, it makes a perfect spot to watch birds from your car. Bob Flores counted four White-throated Sparrows there on Dec. 31st.

Dec. 27, a first for Rich Young's yard in Camas, was a **RED CROSSBILL** that visited their feeders. He also had two there on Dec. 31st.

Dec. 28, Along La Framboise Road to the south entrance to Vancouver Lake, Randy Hill found a **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** and a **NORTHERN SHRIKE**. At the Flushing Channel he saw a **EARED GREBE** and 3

**BARN SWALLOWS**. And on the SR501, past Vancouver Lake Park there were **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS** and a **MERLIN**.

In the deep snow, a **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** took a Junco in front of our front window.

Dec. 29, John and Loraine Allinger relocated and photographed the **HARRIS'S SPARROW** at Skamania Landing where it was now coming to a feeder. This bird was enjoyed by many birders while it fed next to the road.



Dec. 31, A visit to the Woodland Bottoms provided Randy Hill with a lot of good birds including **MERLIN**, **SHORT-EARED OWLS**, **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS** and a **RUSTY BLACKBIRD**.

2015 was an interesting year for birding in Clark County, Bob Flores birded nearly every day and several other very dedicated birders helped a cumulative list of birds seen by anyone in Clark County reach 232 species including two never before seen in the county, the record is 239 species set in 2012. In Skamania County there were 193 birds reported with two new birds add to that list too, the record is 210 set in 2012.

Please send me your sightings to be added to the 2016 Cumulative County Lists or post your sightings on either eBird or TWEETERS where I will see them. By mid-February we will begin getting the first Spring migrants including Say's Phoebes, Tree Swallows and Turkey Vultures.

Wilson Cady  
gorgebirds@juno.com  
360-835-5947



message/fax (360) 253-5771

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Vancouver Audubon  
believes in the wisdom  
of nature's design and  
promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
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and advocacy.*



**February 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.

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**Renewals:** please send your renewal directly to National Audubon with the forms sent to you. Thanks!  
\*\*\* This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* \*\*\*

**Flyway Renewal  
date:**  
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**C9ZY130Z**

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