

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2008

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, **June 3, 6:45 PM** before the meeting.

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

***Monday, **June 2, 6:30 pm**: VAS Board Meeting at the home of Randy Hopfer
6709 NE 232nd Ave., Vancouver 360-573-6000

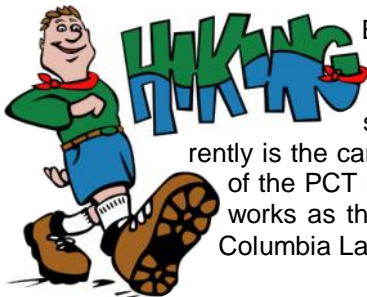
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29	30					

PROGRAM:

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

by Eric "Savant" Allen

In the summer of 2005, Eric "Savant" Allen hiked the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) solo from Mexico to Canada. The Continental Divide is where water flows on one side of the divide to the Pacific Ocean and on the other side to the Atlantic Ocean. His route of over 2,700 miles took him through the deserts, mountains, and forests of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. His presentation includes a combination of video and photography that captures the unbelievable scenery and wildlife of the "backbone" of North America.



Eric also hiked the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) from Canada to Mexico in the summer of 2004 and currently is the caretaker for an 8-mile stretch of the PCT in the Columbia Gorge. Eric works as the Development Director for Columbia Land Trust in Vancouver, WA.

Eric Allen
Development Director
Columbia Land Trust
eallen@columbialandtrust.org
(360) 213-1203
(503) 708-2532 (cell)

July & August

NO Newsletters

NO Meetings

No Field Trips

See you in

September

VAS Upcoming Programs:

Sept. **Polar Bears** by Randy Hopfer

Oct. **Ecuador Pt. 2** by the Hagens

Nov. **Show & Tell** by members & guests

Dec. **Condor Tales** by Sandy Wilsbur

Treasurer's Report. Income for April was \$339.87. Expenses were \$1,204.09 with \$612.41 spent to print the new brochures. Total cash and investments was \$19,463.80. The Community Foundation Fund was \$221,066.03. \$5,000 was taken out for a grant to the Friends of Ridgefield NWR.

Education. We will partner with Columbia Springs for three camps this summer. Camp fees are \$99. Carol Peterson will be working at the camps and needs volunteers to help.

Field Trips. There will be no field trips in May or June.

Conservation. Gretchen went to a meeting on Green Alliances held by Portland Metro. Our County Commissioners are exploring the idea. There is a proposed land exchange in Alaska for the Izembeck NWR to compensate for a proposed road. The road would be nine miles long and would connect two tiny towns (populations 807 and 80). It would go through the heart of the refuge and the proposed land exchange would not provide compatible habitat. Congress has previously turned this proposal down. Contact your Senators to oppose S. 1680. Another bill in Congress is HR 4093. This bill would make it a felony rather than a misdemeanor to intentionally kill a protected species under the Migratory Bird Act. This action is necessary because Roller pigeon fanciers have killed thousands of raptors. Ask Brian Baird to sign as a co-sponsor on this bill.

New Business. A spokesman for the Clark Conservation District attended the meeting. They are developing new assistance programs including conservation planning and technical assistance, engineering services, conservation grants and an information and education program. The programs will be funded through an assessment of \$5 per plot of land in the County. Acreage would be \$5 for the first acre and ten cents per acre after that.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

Congress finally OKs Wild Sky Wilderness, Warren Cornwall, *Seattle Times* environment reporter (Excerpt) *The Seattle Times*, April 30, 2008

Washington is on the verge of getting its first new wilderness area in more than two decades, 106,000 acres of forest in the Cascade Mountains, just a short drive from Seattle.

Congress sent the long-awaited and long-debated Wild Sky Wilderness plan to President Bush, who is expected to sign it. But when hikers return this summer to the mountains above Skykomish and Index, they probably won't notice much change.

The new wilderness designation would shield the vast area inside the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest from the kind of changes that environmentalists fear most: logging, mining, and even cars and off-road vehicles. The

federal Wilderness Act bars virtually all motors. You can't even fire up a chain saw.

The land that would wind up inside the Wild Sky boundaries isn't a top hiking destination. Still, some advocates hope the new designation will mean more visitors — and federal money to improve trails.

The legislation will direct the Forest Service to come up with a trail plan for the wilderness and surrounding land.

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, who championed Wild Sky, said it was "an example of wilderness done the right way," with support from local groups and elected officials. The Senate OK'd the designation April 10.

Creation of the wilderness had been blocked in the House for years by Congressman Richard Pombo, a powerful California Republican who said some of the land wasn't pristine enough to warrant wilderness protection. But Pombo was unseated in 2006 as Democrats regained a majority in the House, and Wild Sky was revived.

*Warren Cornwall: 206-464-2311 or
wcornwall@seattletimes.com
Information from The Associated Press
was included in this report.*

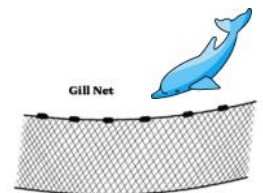
GILLNETS!!! WHAT ARE GHOSTNETS?

Gillnets are made by knotting nylon or monofilament lines together to make a web or mesh to catch fish. Gillnets in the Columbia River are often 2-3 football fields long. In the Puget Sound they can be twice that length. They can either drift in the water or they can be anchored or tied off at one end, the net suspended at varying depths with floats at the surface and weights at the bottom. Gillnets are equal opportunity killers, catching threatened species and undersized and protected fish with the same vigor and certainty: **DEATH TO ALL.**

Gillnets are often lost, snagged on the bottom or simply abandoned, causing even further damage by becoming "ghostnets". **GHOSTNETS** sink and continually entangle and kill not only fish but other forms of sea life including **birds** and **sea-going mammals**, for weeks, months or even years, creating a growing graveyard.

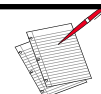
Become part of the solution & let your voice be heard, send a message to:

Governor Chris Gregoire
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
360-902-4111
www.governor.wa.gov/contact



View the program on ghostnets at the website:

www.opb.org/programs/ofg/video/view/64-Ghost_Nets



Connecting Green Alliance

On April 23, I represented Vancouver Audubon at a serious meeting in Portland. At the Bridgeport Brewpub. Seriously, it was a party and celebration with a serious undertone. The event was for all those interested in green spaces, trails, and parks. Places for people and, yes, wildlife. Wild in the city. The driving force behind this movement is Mike Houck, a member of Portland Audubon and all around activist for green spaces, who started his own organization that promotes parks and open spaces. The idea is to create a network of green spaces and trails throughout the metro area. Including north of the Columbia. And, by the way, at the event there was a large contingent of people from Clark County including board members of Friends of Clark County and a representative of the Chinook Trail Association, our own Don Cannard. The idea is to create an alliance that will work toward that network of green spaces. At the moment, it is an informal alliance, a coalition, but it may become more formalized. There may be meetings – not too frequently (at the Bridgeport Brewpub?). There may be dues. I signed up Vancouver Audubon to work for parks, green spaces, and wildlife habitat (maybe it was enthusiasm or maybe it was the wine). Heck, that is what we are doing anyway. If we can get help and advice from Portland, that is great. In return, maybe we can help Portland.

The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee Meeting and Spring Audubon Council of Washington Meeting: Highlights

The combined state conservation committee and spring council meetings were held in Leavenworth this year at Sleeping Lady Resort (if any of you ever have a chance to go to Sleeping Lady for a conference, do so).

- Although we were successful in getting the Evergreen Communities bill passed (see last month's *Flyway*), much work remains to be done. For one thing, we need to have more money appropriated by the legislature in 2009. Audubon will be working with the state to implement Evergreen Communities.
- On the northern spotted owl, Audubon is in court with Weyerhaeuser. The trial is in June. Heath Packard policy director of Audubon Washington, said that the Federal recovery plan is getting better, but it still is flawed. The public process is a mess. The recovery plan emphasizes competition with the barred owl, which is moving into the Pacific Northwest, as being the problem for the spotted owl. Seattle Audubon wants this emphasis to be sharply decreased. Emphasis should be on habitat protection.

- Washington has an Invasive Species Council which has been assigned the job of producing a plan to deal with exotic invasive species. The plan is done and we were told that it is a good one. There is a protocol in place for action when it is needed. Implementation may be difficult, mainly due to lack of dollars.
- On wind power, there are about a dozen sets of guidelines throughout the country. In Washington, the state has now ornithologists and other biologists to work on updating our guidelines. The process to consider cumulative effects of wind power has started.
- The climate change campaign director from National Audubon, Julia Levin, gave a lecture for the council on climate change and what to do. She pointed out that 928 peer-reviewed studies on climate change have been published in respected scientific journals. No peer-reviewed studies on denying climate change have been published. According to the British Secretary of the Treasury the impacts of failing to do anything about global warming will be twenty times more costly than doing something about it now. The world needs to reduce carbon by 80% within 40 years to avoid catastrophe. (Compare this with the recently announced plan by the president.) Carbon capture and storage is expensive and unproven. On what to do: 1) work to pass laws that will counteract global warming; 2) take individual action reduce your own carbon footprint; 3) convince others to do so; and 4) vote for good candidates who will work for the right laws and will enforce them. On a personal note, it would also be helpful to work to get good candidates elected.

Gretchen Starke

Congratulations to the newly installed Vancouver Audubon officers.

President: Eric Bjorkman
 Vice Pres: Marilyn Hall
 Secretary: Nancy Ellifrit
 Treasurer: Joan Durgin



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April 4, Roger Windmuth spotted two early **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS** on canyon road leading to River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield Refuge.

April 5, Vancouver Audubon field trip to the Astoria area produced: **3 MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS** in the field across from parking lot C at the South Jetty of the Columbia River. **CASPIAN TERN, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** and an **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** were at parking lot D. A **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** was at the Warrenton Boat Basin and a **WHITE-TAILED KITE** at the Astoria airport fields. A male and a female **REDHEAD**, were seen on the south end of Long Lake by Adrian and Christopher Hinkle and Em Scatregia. At the Carty Unit they found a singing male **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**.

April 9, A **WILSON'S WARBLER** was seen by Marilyn Hall at her Orchards area home. A male **CASSIN'S FINCH** was at our sunflower seed feeder. This species of finch is normally associated with the east of the Cascades forests though we get a few locally in migration.

April 10, There was a **GREAT GRAY OWL** at the Conboy NWR. My other sightings of this forest owl in Klickitat County have been in the Satus Pass area.

April 11, Jim Danzenbaker of Battle Ground had one **GREEN HERON** two **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** on his property. Jim has the largest yard list of birds in Clark County.

April 12, **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** was a new property bird for Jim Danzenbaker of Battle Ground. Lynn Withers saw a frigatebird soaring along the Columbia River near Multnomah Falls. There are two inland records for Magnificent Frigatebird in Washington, but there is the possibility of it being another species of frigatebird.

April 13, Bob Flores had a **PURPLE MARTIN** fly across their yard and a **CHIPPING SPARROW** in the yard. Both were County first sightings for the year. A male **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** in Ken Knittle's yard in the morning but not seen later. This is the smallest North American hummingbird and nests east of the Cascades. Susan and I found twelve **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** on the sandbar at the mouth of the Klickitat River.

April 15, Leora found the county's first of 2008 **White-tailed Kite** near Hwy 500 & 54th.

April 16, Jim Danzenbaker had a good movement of warblers in Battle Ground. Of the 85 individuals, 84 were **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** (50-50 Audubon's-Myrtle) and one **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**. A brightly colored **HERMIT THRUSH** was in Marilyn Hall's bird bath. A **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER** was found on the Canyon road going down to the River "S Unit by Roger Windemuth. The frigatebird was seen by three biologists attending a conference at Skamania Lodge, species still unknown.

April 19, Jean Dunlop, Marilyn and Bill Feddeler took a 4 mile hike from Frenchmen's Bar Park south and along the Flushing Channel in the morning and spotted a **CASPIAN TERN**, the first of the season. Bob Flores observed a **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** at the flowers at Bird's English Garden Nursery in Ridgefield. He had quite a few **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 5 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** and one **NASHVILLE WARBLER** along Lower River Rd. in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands

April 20, Al Larrabee and Roger Windemuth birded on the River "S" Unit and found a **ROSS GOOSE** and **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**.

APRIL 23, Paul King, who lives west of the fairgrounds photo-

graphed a **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** at his feeder. This was most likely a migrant headed to the Ridgefield NWR where they have a small colony.

April 24, A singing **NASHVILLE WARBLER** was located on the Clark College Campus by Ray Korpi. Marilyn Hall and Cory Samia were at the Water Resources education Center when they spotted a huge bird flying really high. She saw the forked tail and they concurred that it was the **frigatebird**. This has to be the sighting of the year and it is too bad no one was able to find it perched or flying low enough to confirm the species. Both **PRAIRIE and PEREGRINE FALCON**, along with **6 TURKEY VULTURES** and **4 WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** were seen on the River S Unit by Bob Flores. Maggie Bates reported a **BALD EAGLE** at Hockinson High School and she heard an **AMERICAN BITTERN** "gulp-oinking" from the high school's front bio-swale along 159th. A male **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** showed up at our feeders on Mt. Pleasant and remained through at least May 6. This is an annual species in western Skamania County during the spring and fall migration.

April 25, Bob Flores reported the spring arrival of **VAUX'S SWIFT** with two flying around his house today.

April 26, On the Ridgefield Refuge, Bob Flores encountered a strong movement of migrant birds including **250 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 11 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 1 NASHVILLE WARBLER, 2 WILSON'S WARBLERS, 2 YELLOW WARBLERS, 1 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, 40 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, 1 WARBLING VIREO, 1 WESTERN TANAGER** and a **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**. The flycatchers also showed up with **4 WILLOW, 1 PACIFIC-SLOPED** and **2 HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHERS**.

April 29, On the River "S" Unit, Eric Anderson saw a **WESTERN KINGBIRD**.

May 2, Bob Flores birded the Bachelor Island Unit of the Ridgefield Refuge and spotted **CASSIN'S and WARBLING VIREOS, YELLOW, MCGILLIVARY'S, YELLOW-RUMPED, and WILSON'S WARBLERS**. Had **WHITE-BREASTED NUT-HATCHES, BROWN CREEPERS**, a single **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** along with **1 PACIFIC-SLOPED FLYCATCHER**.

May 3, Bob Flores checked south of the Office on the Refuge. From Gee Creek to the footbridge that crosses the RR tracks he found the following highlights **38 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 2 NASHVILLE WARBLERS, 53 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 1 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER 2 WARBLING VIREOS** and **2 CASSIN'S VIREOS**. Nancy Ellifrit spotted a **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** at her house. Bill Feddeler reported **CINNAMON TEAL** at Salmon Creek, while a few wintered at Ridgefield most of these gorgeous birds migrate out in early fall and then return to nest here.

May 4, Carol Kohler reported that **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS** had returned to her Camas feeders, this was the same day they returned to our feeders on Mt. Pleasant about ten miles east of their place. Arden and Sherry Hagen birded Steigerwald Lake NWR during the Birdathon and found the county's first **GRAY CATBIRD** and second **BREWER'S SPARROW**. Carol and Kevin Healy saw a **LESSER GOLD-FINCH** at their feeder near Paddon Parkway and 152nd Ave and there was a **WILSON'S WARBLER** in a tree in their yard. Susan and I had an half an hour long view of a **GRAY FLY-CATCHER** from our deck, this was the first record of this species for Skamania County.

("Afield" Continued on next page)

("Afield" Continued)

May 5, Ray Korpi received a photo of a **BLUE JAY** at a private residence here in Vancouver. This was the first report of this east Coast species in Clark County this year. Bill Clemons, Barry Woodruff and Scott Carpenter reported that the **BULLOCK'S ORIOLES** were back at the River "S" Unit where they also found the **BARRED OWL** in canyon at the entrance to the refuge.

May 6, Birds seen along the Salmon Creek Trail by Bill Freeman included, **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, YELLOW WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, WILSON WARBLER**, And his "life" **NASHVILLE WARBLER**. Also noted were **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, WARBLING VIREO, WESTERN TANAGER, and a GREEN HERON** doing a flyby. George Mayfield identified a **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** his house. This is one of the locally breeding flycatchers and has any easy call to learn- "Fitz-beew".

Spring migration will have about ended when this newsletter goes out but there will still be plenty of opportunities to observe our local nesting species and perhaps a stray or two. As of May 1st 149 different species of birds had been reported from Clark County this year and 105 species from Skamania County. Please contact me or Arden and Sherry Hagen if you come across any bird you feel is out of the ordinary. Randy Hopper was lucky enough to have both **BLACK-HEAD** and **EVENING GROSBEAKS** come to his feeder at the same time.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members: Alene Adele • Wayne Chadwick • June Clark • Syble Crow • S Dwight Curtis • Ben Dennis • Gary Hermes • M. James La-Rock • Joanne Monthey • Annie Myers • Michelle Omalley • Melanie Quick • Moira Reynolds • Earl Roberts • Kathleen Root • Deborah Stevison • Michele Stults • and Marylou Waterman.

*****MEMBERS TRADING POST*****

If you have art work or books to sell that have to do with Nature, Wildlife or Science, you may bring them to the General Meeting but you **MUST** donate **at least** 10% of the sale price on books and **at least** 15% or the sale price on other art work. For more information call:

Tracy Snow 503-335-5361



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



June 2008

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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