

# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2009

## Calendar

\*\*\*BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, June 2, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

\*\*\*Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, June 1, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting & Potluck at the home of Randy Hopfer, 6709 NE 232nd Ave., Vancouver 360-573-6000

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## PROGRAM:

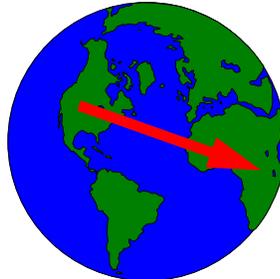
### East Africa

by John Silliman



Long time Vancouver Audubon member John Silliman will be sharing his brilliant photographs of birds as well as the wildlife of Eastern Africa. John will be narrating the so-journ of his eleventh and

most recent trip in 2008 that took him through Botswana, Tanzania, and Zambia. Africa is a large continent and each region brings new experiences and new photographs of the animals that inhabit it. Put on your safari hat and join in for this adventure.



## FIELD TRIP

2 Mini Fund Raisers are Planned for this Summer



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

Call Arden for information

# Last Newsletter until September

## Get Well Don Cannard

Vancouver Audubon charter member Don Cannard went through double heart valve replacement on May 6th. Surgery went well and we wish him a speedy recovery.

## VAS Upcoming Programs:

**Life of Birds (Movie Night)** (Sept.)

**Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement** (October)

**Show & Tell** by Members & Guests (Nov.)

**Naturally Beautiful Backyard Group** (December)

Treasurer's Report. Income for April was \$106.63 with \$60 in donations and newsletter subscriptions. Expenses were \$347.28. Printing and labels were \$193.68 and \$107.40 for website hosting. Total cash and investments were \$20,547.98. A CD that came due 25 April was renewed and \$2,000 added. The Community Foundation fund balance as of 12/31 was \$199,311.46.

Field Trips. Birdathon is this weekend. There will be no field trips this month. Wenas is later in the month. Nine people are signed up for Hanford Reach trip. The Bend trip will be either the last week in June or the second week in July.

Membership. Same as last month.

Programs. The June program will be presented by Naturally Beautiful Backyard

Conservation. Gretchen presented information from the Spring ACOW. Brian Baird, Greg Walden and Jay Inslee held a field hearing on cap and trade. The proposed bill presently excludes federal forest land. Baird is expected to try and amend it to include federal lands. The state legislature did not deal with global warming but at least included \$700,000 for WWRC.

Old Business. The Home and Garden Idea Fair was discussed. Unfortunately Eric was out of town so we did not have many of the attention getters we usually have. It was suggested that we have a feeder rather than a nest box as the giveaway. It was also suggested that we have samples of different kinds of seed, nests and different types of feeders.

New Business. The Conservation District contacted Arden and wondered if we could collaborate on bird things for home schoolers. A number of suggestions were made – hand out copies of Lee Paul's book, copies of Audubon Adventures, the school boxes, etc. We have enough information for a unit on birds and wildlife. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit



## Audubon Education

I am writing his article because I want you to know that Audubon is somewhat alive in our schools and to plea for someone to come forward as our Education Chairperson.

As the keeper of the Bird Discovery Boxes I have been able to keep them moving and in use. Most of the users are home school educators or Challenge classes in public schools. This year the art teacher, Tanya Hockhalter, at Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School, where I work, has used one of the BDB's as a tool for art projects. First through fifth grade students created a mixed media project titled "Snow Birds". I have pictures attached. The lesson introduced students to "Realistic" bird studies of John James Audubon and by contrast views contemporary advertisements that depict birds in a more simplified or "Stylistic" way. Students were encouraged to simplify the bird form focusing on line, shape, color, texture, pattern, emphasis, balance, and space. The Bird Discovery Box, Audubon prints, bird guides, nests, eggs, parts, Eye Witness bird video, and bird songs were all used to enhance the learning experience. The final works of art were also used for a PTA fundraiser to make Christmas cards and were printed individually or in classroom sets. In addition, all fourth and fifth grade students are currently creating three-dimensional clay sculptures of "birds". Students continue to learn about the elements and principles of art while integrating "ornithology" into the art curriculum.

My second topic is Education Chair. It is very disappointing that someone has not filled this position. This is one of the most fun and rewarding jobs our chapter has. For a few years it seemed that teachers were very excited about using the BDBs, but now they have less time to do science, except for the science kits the district dictates they use. Now it is important again that we have a person or persons who will visit schools with shorter presentations that can keep Audubon and environmental education alive in our schools. We have many resources on hand that are ready to go. You don't have to be an expert. I am certainly not. If you want more information please call me at 892-2886.

Also, I would love for someone to help with summer camp at Columbia Springs. I would like to be more of a consultant and would appreciate if someone would volunteer to help lead bird walks, and other activities with children 7 – 12. Training is available. All you need is enthusiasm and like working outdoors with kids. There will only be one week of camp this year, July 13 – 17. Again please call or email: chickadeetalk@comcast.net.

I give a big THANK YOU to Colene Koehler for keeping Audubon Adventures going.

Carol Peterson, Past Education Specialist

**Summer Camp:  
July 13-17  
See the website  
for details**



## The Legislative Session, Alas

One word can describe the past legislative session: dismal. The sagging economy took precedence over everything else. This gave legislators excuse to not act on many bills important to solving our environmental problems. Most disturbing is the failure to act positively on bills designed to deal with climate change. Even one of the governor's priorities, cap and trade (a mild way to deal with a serious problem) was first watered down and then sent to the rules committee to die. About the middle of the session, I had a talk with Deb Wallace (17<sup>th</sup> district) about my concerns on climate change. She did vote for the final version of the bill as did Moeller and Jacks (both 49<sup>th</sup> district). The other legislators voted no. The only one of the four environmental priorities to make it to the governor's desk was the bill to improve efficiency in building standards.

One bright spot was the passage of the bill to limit further urban expansion in flood plains. Excluding the 15<sup>th</sup> district, all Clark County senators voted for the bill. In the house, only Herrera and Orcutt, both 18<sup>th</sup> district, voted against it. We also managed to salvage the Wildlife and Recreation Program. We got \$70 million, less than the \$100 million requested, but more than expected. The legislature also made a small step (by providing grants from the capital budget) to prepare Washington for climate change.

## Forest Biomass: What Does That Mean for Habitat?

I attended a field hearing run by Congressman Brian Baird, with Greg Walden from Oregon and Jay Inslee from the Seattle area, on the potential of forests in using biomass for energy production. There were two panels, one on the supply and regulation of forest biomass and one on the technology of how to do it.

At the hearing, Walden was fixated on the definitions of renewable energy in the proposed Cap and Trade bill. Under the present wording, biomass harvested from mature and old growth forests is excluded from the definition of renewable energy for carbon offsets. Biomass such as slash and thinning incidental to forest management can be used as carbon offsets. Walden intends to introduce an amendment next week that would change the definition. My impression of Walden's remarks and questions (his remarks were sometimes snide) is that he wants to get into timber harvesting using combating climate change as an excuse to get more wood out of the federal forests. His proposed change to the definition would probably allow harvest of mature and old growth trees to be counted as a carbon offset.

## Audubon Council of Washington, Spring in Leavenworth Wind Power? Near the Columbia River Gorge? In the Spotted Owl Habitat?

Maybe. The Washington Audubon Conservation Committee met just before the Council meeting and I learned more about an issue close to home. The SDS Lumber Company wants to put a wind turbine farm on a ridge in Skamania County a mile outside the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area. Half of it would be on SDS land and half of it would be leased from DNR. And, apparently it would be in spotted owl habitat. Because half would be on DNR land, there must be an environmental impact statement under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Because SDS wants to transmit the power through Bonneville Power Administration power lines, the federal government will also be involved. Comments on scoping for the EIS ended in mid-April. Further, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has filed a lawsuit to stop the project.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has recently approved guidelines for siting wind power projects, guidelines that were developed by a task force (there was an Audubon Washington presence on the task force). The guidelines appear to be comprehensive, but the emphasis was on eastern Washington. Western Washington and the coast were pretty much ignored. There is a goldrush mentality out there and we need to be vigilant on this issue, especially where shorebirds may be involved.

## International Bird Conservation: Where do Our Birds go in Winter?

And, what happens to them there? The western sandpiper, for one species, winters in Mexico at Bahia San Quintin. A luxury resort is planned for the area. Think what that would do to our birds.

Craig Lee from the Audubon national office gave a presentation on neotropical migrants and forming partnerships with groups in Latin America. There are more than 360 species of neotropical migrants in the U.S., of which 99 are on the Birds of Conservation Concern watch list. Habitat is being destroyed faster in Latin America than in the U.S. Latin America has few resources for conservation. Nevertheless, there are groups forming in a number of countries (even in Cuba!) that are working to save birds. Audubon is forming partnerships with these groups, forming Bird Life Partners. Lee would like to link more Audubon members and chapters with groups in Latin America. His idea is to link Important Bird Areas in Washington with Important Bird Areas in Latin America. I think it is important to do what we can to save habitat wherever our birds go – on the breeding grounds, in their wintering area, and the important stopping points in between.

*Gretchen Starke*



April 10, A **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** made a brief stop at our home in the west end of the Columbia Gorge.

April 18: In Battle Ground, Jim Danzenbaker spotted a flying **GREEN HERON** that eventually landed on his neighbor's roof. This was most likely a migrant that had just arrived and had yet gotten to the proper habitat.



April 21, An adult **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** was spotted about 1/4 mile north of the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit entrance by Bob Flores for a first record of this species in Clark County.

April 22, 4 **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS**, a **FOX SPARROW** and a **CHIPPING SPARROW** were under the Bob Flores's feeder in Ridgefield where he gets few of these birds. In a few days the number of Chipping Sparrows increased to five.

April 24, a new life bird for Colene Woodruff was a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** that she spotted in her yard in her Felida neighborhood.

April 25, 3 **WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** with 4 **GREATER SCAUP** were seen by Bob Flores as they flew upstream near the end of Lower River Road. On the Ridgefield NWR he had the first **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLY-CATCHER** and **SWAINSON'S THRUSH** for the county this year.

April 26, Bob Flores birded Long Meadows adjacent to Lake River at the Ridgefield NWR, Carty Unit. 3 late **SANDHILL CRANES**, a **WESTERN TANAGER** and the following eight species of warblers; **ORANGE-CROWNED**, **NASHVILLE**, **YELLOW-RUMPED**, **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**, **TOWNSEND'S**, **MCGILLIVRAY'S**, **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** and **WILSON'S**.

A female **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** was visiting our feeders. After being alerted by Jack Ritter to the presence of at least eight **EUROPEAN COLLARED DOVES** in his Washougal neighborhood I finally added this species to my Clark County list.

April 27, In Washougal, Steve Clark noted **BLACK-THROATED WARBLER**, **WESTERN TANAGER** and **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** in his yard.

April 28, Sherry Hagen got a call from Donna Goddu at the Tidewater office near the Vancouver Lake lowlands. She had what she thought to be a female **NORTHERN CARDINAL** coming to the office bird feeders. Sherry and Arden drove down to verify and photograph this first Washington State record.



April 29, Ray Korpi got a new yard and county bird when a **CHIPPING**

**SPARROW** showed up at his home in Vancouver. April 30, Our first of the year **CASSIN'S VIREO** and **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS** arrived but the treat for the day was when a large **BOBCAT** made an attempt at the rabbits under our bird feeders.



May 2, A new yard bird for Bob Flores was a **RED CROSSBILL** that was visiting their feeders in the Ridgefield area.

May 8, Sherry & Arden Hagen counted 16 **BALD EAGLES** at Ruefner's Pond near Vancouver

Lake.

Joan Durgin counted **415 VAUX'S SWIFTS** entering the chimney of the Adams Bar and Grill in downtown Camas.

Please continue to send me your sighting information for this column and the "Cumulative County Year List" through the summer.

*Wilson Cady* gorgebirds@juno.com

## Work Parties at Steigerwald Lake NWR

For the convenience of our volunteers, we are scheduling regular work parties at Steigerwald Lake NWR the **third Saturday of each month**, rain or shine, starting Saturday November 15. Work parties will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They may involve planting native trees, shrubs and plants; removing invasive species such as blackberries or ivy; or other hands-on, habitat restoration projects. Later, we will probably schedule work parties at Pierce NWR. We'll let you know when those opportunities arise.

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

**Volunteers Needed**

### \*\*\*\*\*MEMBERS TRADING POST\*\*\*\*\*

If you have art work or books to sale 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:

Sydney Reisbick 360-887-7880

# The Backyard & Beyond...

You may have read about the couple who were "Search and Rescued" up near Silver Star Mountain on Mother's Day.... Well, that couple was Arden & I. The full report along with photos will be available on the website in .pdf form entitled "The Mother's Day from Hell".

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

It was one of those things that happen and then later you wonder where your head was at. Arden wanted to take me for a Mother's Day picnic along with a little birding for Birdathon (I'm not sure he realized that Silver Star itself is actually in Skamania Co.!!! Not Clark Co. where the count is suppose to be done.) I also don't think he realized how much snow was still up on the mountain. A Lot!!! I don't think he realized that the hike is very strenuous even on a nice summer day. I don't think he realized how wet, sore and unhappy I could get in just a short time. OK, yea he could probably tell you about other times that has hap-



pened but back to that day. When I saw the snow I should have said that is enough but I didn't want to burst his bubble so I trudged on and as I did so, my hiking shoes got wet, my feet got wet, and my spirits dampened to go along with them. After 3 ¼ hours we made it to the top to have our little picnic about 1:45 PM. At 2:30 PM, we headed down the mountain. He had talked to another hiker about taking the lower trail back to the parking lot. He hoped it would be free of snow and a little easier since we were tired from the hard hike up the mountain. Even though there were a few hikers that day, there hadn't been that many people braving the elements to hike to the summit so there was not a beaten path to the lower trail. We followed some foot prints for a ways down the steel slope but soon became caught up in the forest and no trail to follow. We worked our way down sliding in snow and fighting to stay upright all the time getting further into the forest and as we learned later, further away from our vehicle. Of course, cell phones in the forest are useless until you find a high point with a clearing. At 8 PM we were able to call out for help and at 9:30 PM we were rescued.... Whew!!!!

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

## OUR CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE Sponsor ... AUDUBON ADVENTURES

It is that time of year again the recruitment for Audubon Adventures sponsors for the next school year. The price is the same as last year. This is such a versatile program and reaches more students and families than we can in impact in person, I hope we can reach 60 classes this year.

For those of you that are new to Audubon Adventures this is a set of award-winning newspapers which feature readings and investigations; activities and puzzles; and suggestions for involving families. Students explore principles and processes such as adaptation and interdependence of species. Each teacher receives a copy of each newspaper for each student plus posters, videos and a activity guide.

Audubon Adventures is coming out with an all new Classroom Resource Kit for grades 4 thru 6, and the topics that will be covered include:

### "Action for Planet Earth"

**Water**  
**Energy**  
**Habitats**  
**Pennies for the Planet.**

***Because of all of you, we had a successful year supporting this program last year .***

**If you gave last year please consider giving the same amount or more. If you have never supported Audubon Adventures, this is your chance to get involved in the environment education of our children... the future leaders of our country.**

## Sponsor Audubon Adventures

Please give us your support. This very versatile environmental education material really gets the Audubon message to lots of students, teachers and parents. To sponsor a classroom starting next fall the cost is \$38.50 + \$7.15 postage = **\$45.65 per classroom.**

For more information, call: Colene Koehler 360-574-5220

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor Audubon Adventure Classes for the 2009-10 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please use my gift for general support of Audubon Adventures (give any amount towards a sponsorship)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please use my contribution of at least \$45.65 to fund AUDUBON ADVENTURES in this school:

\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ (School)

Please make checks payable to "Vancouver Audubon Society" and send them to:

Colene Koehler , 3013 NW 106th Cir., Vancouver, WA 98685

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



**June 2009**

**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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every year

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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* \*\*\*

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