



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2010

## Calendar

\*\*\*BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, June 1, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

\*\*\*Tuesday, June 1, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 715 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, June 7, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Joan Durgin  
1548 NE 5th Ave., Camas 360-834-5621

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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## PROGRAM:

### Public Conservation Acquisitions in Clark County

By Bill Dygert

BILL DYGERT is an Independent Land Consultant & has been involved in many public land conservation actions in Clark County during the past 3 decades.

He will provide updates about land under current consideration for acquisition and preservation, explain about the Conservation Futures program of Clark County, and give us examples about how these deals are put together. Bill often helps build coalitions of funding sources that come together to reach common goals, including protection of bird habitat.

Bring your questions about areas in Clark County: East Fork Lewis River; Vancouver Lake Lowlands;

Fallen Leaf Lake in Camas; Washougal River; Eagle Island; Whipple Creek.....

## FIELD TRIP

\*\*\*No June Field Trips\*\*\*



### The Hummocks, Mt. St. Helens

Leader: Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

When: July 10, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: 134th St. Park & Ride in Salmon Creek

This trip will take most of the day between traveling and hiking the Hummocks trail looking for resident birds. Bring snacks/lunch and plenty of water.

July

### High Lakes, Mt. Adams area

Leader: Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

When: August 18, WEDNESDAY

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Port of Camas-Washougal, near the boat launch

This is a day trip where we will be looking for mountain residents and southbound migrants. Last year White-winged Crossbills were found on this hike. Bring snacks/lunch and plenty of water.

August

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**New Members:** Arlene Clemens • Linda Coughlin • Emma Danforth • Margot Day • Marianne Fischer • Debra Hawkins • Christine Kahn • Linda Klauber • Sarah Maxwell • Linda & Lowell Metters • Barbara Meyer • Keith Sheeran • Dawn Stravens • M. Wooden

**Transfers:** A. Armstrong • Josephine Paterek

# Last Newsletter until September

# VAS News

VAS BOARD MEETING was held on May 3rd at the home of Gretchen Starke. A quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report. Income for April was \$289.59 with \$149.49 in interest from a CD and \$115 in donations and newsletter subscriptions. Expenses were \$330.28 with \$193.68 for newsletter printing and \$107.40 for the website. Cash and investments were \$22,864.24 and the Community Foundation Fund was \$209,217.29 as of 31 December.

Membership. We have 450-460 members as of the last word from National Audubon.

New Business. Gretchen and Eric talked with Don McIvor and others about what we want in a State Office and how to support it. John Flicker has resigned as President of National Audubon. Frank Gill is acting President until a new one is found.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

## The Backyard & Beyond...

Mt. Tabor in Portland, OR is a great place to view migrating passerines in the Spring. The last week of April we took an out of town friend birding there but unfortunately, we had the drivers side window broken. It was made of safety glass and a \$400 replacement cost. We believe the culprit could not remove the window due to time and/or lack of equipment to do so. Arden used an old towel & much elbow grease to remove the broken "sheet" so that we could drive home. Needless to say, there were splinters of glass all over the front seat area. This was a real **WAKE UP CALL** not to leave valuables in your car while birding and to try to park in more congested areas even if it means hiking a little further. We now know that the lowest parking area in the northwest corner of the park next to the amphitheater & bathrooms is much safer place to park.

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 Classroom Resource Kit this year focuses on migration for grades 4 thru 6.

The topic this year is: **"Wildlife on the Move"**

(a 4 part series of migrating animals including birds, monarch butterflies, & marine animals)

An **"Action for the Planet"** component is included to help students get involved that focuses on improving habitat for migratory wildlife.

*Because of all of you, we had a successful year supporting this program last year with 53 subscriptions..*

**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 2010-11 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



## Conservation in Peru: Some Hope for the Amazon

Part of the western Amazon basin lies in Peru, just east of the Andes Mountains. As we have heard so much in this country, the Amazon forest is indeed in trouble. But, as I recently learned, Peru is doing something to conserve some of the Amazon.

At the end of March and the beginning of April, I spent two weeks on a riverboat on the Samiria River in Peru. The Samiria is a tributary to the Marañon, which is one of the forks of the Amazon. The Samiria runs through the Samiria-Packaya National Reserve, one of the biggest reserves in Peru. This was an Earthwatch expedition, in which I was part of a group helping the biologist who is monitoring the population of animals.

The monitoring is a part of the management of wildlife in Peru. In the past, Peru set up reserves that aimed to keep people out. Period. The local people, the indigenous people, resented this because they lived off the forest. The result was poaching, big time, and a sharp decline in animal populations. Peru changed course, deciding to work with the indigenous people, rather than against them. The villagers are now allowed to hunt and fish for their subsistence. In addition, they may sell bush meat to cities of 3,000 or fewer in population in order to earn a bit of cash. They may not sell such meat in the large cities, in order to prevent a big market from developing. Of the meat hunted in the Samiria-Pacaya reserve, 6% is sold in Iquitos the capitol of the Department of Loreto, and the rest is used in rural areas.

Each community within the reserves (and the people do live within the reserves) develops a management plan to work toward balanced sustainability. The plan must agree with local customs and the local economy. It is not just a paper exercise. The document is signed by members of the community and filed in the local register. The communities then approached researchers, asking them how they were to conserve the animals. The communities do not want to lose the forest. They depend on it for food and building materials.

On sustainable hunting: animals vary in their reproduction rate and the populations vary in their ability to recover from intense hunting pressure. In general, the prey animals, such as deer, that are hunted by other animals, are more resilient. A good management plan should focus on hunting these common, more abundant animals. The principle investigator (called the PI), Richard Bodner, told us that, indeed, the monitoring shows that the conservation plan is working. The animals are coming back.

We monitored a variety of animals: mammals, birds, reptiles, fish. To determine the general health of the rivers, the project monitors the fresh water dolphins. There are two species: gray river dolphins and pink river dolphins (yes, there are such things, and yes, I saw them).

Because of a taboo on eating them, the dolphins, especially the pink river dolphins, are left alone. Macaws are monitored to determine the health of the forest. Land surveys monitored large bodied animals, including primates. (This was the only activity I did not participate in. Slogging three to four kilometers through mud, heat, and humidity out and slogging the same distance back was beyond my physical ability.) Catching fish, using the same techniques the villagers use, was the method used to monitor abundance of fish. And, to sometimes provide for our dinner table. I caught a white (referring to the white belly) piranha. Caimans are monitored to determine their recovery. In addition to these animals the volunteers helped monitor, the researchers are monitoring the cats (mostly through camera traps), river turtles, and the giant river otters.

Additional threats to the Amazon include global climate change. It is being felt in Peru. There are greater variations and more extremes in the seasons now. About 2005 or so, there was the lowest water year on record. But in 2009, there was the highest water year on record. These extremes will affect the forest, the animals, and the people.

A final word on Peru conserving the Amazon forest. In negotiating the trade agreement between Peru and the U.S., Peru insisted on the rights of the indigenous people in managing the reserves. As a result, the villagers were able to successfully fight a multi-national corporation. When one such wanted to explore in the northern part of the Samiria-Pacaya Reserve for oil, the people said, "no," and they won.

## The Shorelines Inventory

The draft shorelines inventory for the county and cities has been done. Vancouver's will be done in a couple of weeks from this writing. We, on the stakeholders group, were not given much time to review it and comment on it. Apparently, gray wolves and wolverines are still in Clark County. Not. I sent in corrections on that and made a few other comments and suggestions. This will be an on-going process.

*Gretchen Starke*



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**April 15,** A **BLACK-HEADED GRAY WARBLER** was seen by Lyn Topinka along the entrance drive into Ridgefield Refuge.

**April 16,** Randy Hill had a **SNOW GOOSE** on Bachelor Island and a **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** on the Carty Trail of the Ridgefield Refuge.

**April 17,** Scott Carpenter photographed one **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** on Post Office Lake in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands.

**April 20,** Carol and Don Kohler reported an influx of **WHITE CROWNED-SPARROWS** in Camas. Carol counted 20 that she could see and there were more in the bushes.

**April 24,** In the Grass Valley area of Camas, Elaine Armstrong had her first **EVENING GROSBEAKS** of the season and a **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER**.

**April 25,** Lyn Topinka had three species of warblers at the Steigerwald Lake NWR in Washougal, **ORANGE-CROWNED, YELLOW-RUMPED** and **NASHVILLE**.

**April 28,** Al Larrabee and Roger Windemuth sighted three **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** in Long Lake on the Ridgefield NWR. A **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER** was at Arden and Sherry Hagen's home in Cascade Park.

**April 29,** While birding in Skamania County, Arden and Sherry Hagen found **HUTTON'S VIREO**,

**April 30,** Tyler Hicks had a male **BLACK-AND-WHITE WABLER** in a mixed flock in his yard above Lake River on the south side of Ridgefield. Also in the flock were 7 **YELLOW-RUMPED** (4 Audubon's, 3 Myrtle), 2 **WILSON'S**, 1 **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**, and 1 **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, 1 **WARBLING VIREO**, and 1 **LAZULI BUNTING**. He also continues to get several **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS** at his feeders. Les Carlson had a returning **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** on Sauvie Island.

**May 1,** A birding trip into Skamania County provided Les Carlson views of **RED-**

**BREASTED SAPSUCKERS** at Beacon Rock and a **WESTERN KINGBIRD** on Hamilton Island below Bonneville Dam.

**May 2,** Randy Hill located a **NASHVILLE WARBLER** on the Oaks to Wetlands Trail on the Carty Unit of the Ridgefield NWR.

**May 3,** **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER** and **NASHVILLE WARBLERS** were the new arrivals in Steve Clark's yard in Washougal.

**May 5,** While at the Orchard Hills Golf Course in Washougal, Eric Bjorkman saw literally hundreds of **WESTERN TANAGERS**. Nearly every evergreen tree was bursting with them. Also, there were quite a few singing **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**, probably at least 100 of these too.

**May 7,** Robert and Pam Garlett found another **BLACK-NECKED STILT** in one of the ponds beyond Vancouver Lake Park.

**May 9,** A **WESTERN TANAGER** was at the Washougal home of Steven Clark, he also has **LESSER GOLDFINCH** coming to his feeders. Barry Woodruff and I spent 17 days birding in Texas and put 3,400 miles on the rental vehicle. We came up with a list of 274 species seen including eleven species of herons, eighteen raptors, twenty-nine shorebirds, eight terns, eight doves, fourteen flycatchers and kingbirds, nine vireos, twenty-nine warblers, fifteen sparrow species and four orioles. For me the highlight birds were **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD, ROSE-THROATED BECARD, RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER, BLACK-CAPPED VIREO, CERULEAN WARBLER, SWAINSON'S WARBLER** and the unbelievable fallout of birds at High Island. There were days there where we were seeing hundreds of warblers of up to twenty different species along with all of the other migrants. My visual treat came on South Padre Island where we had male **INDIGO BUNTING, PAINTED BUNTING** and **LAZULI BUNTING** standing next to each other on a rock in a stream.



Western Tanager



Evening Grosbeak



Yellow-rumped Warbler

The cumulative list of bird seen by anyone in 2010, as of the end of April, for Clark County was 166 species and for under-birded Skamania County stood at 122 species. There is a link on the Vancouver Audubon web-page that will take you to this list so that you can check to see if you can add any species missed by others so far this year. Please check it out and update the lists as many common species go unreported. Have a great summer and continue to share your sightings with me through the summer.

To see the yearly Washington Counties Checklist as it progressive, go to the following website and click on "**Cumulative County Checklist Project**". It is an MS Excel file that you can download.

<http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html>

The Washington Birders Website has lots of good information about the birds in our beautiful state.

Check it out at: [www.wabirder.com](http://www.wabirder.com)

Wilson Cady [gorgebirds@juno.com](mailto:gorgebirds@juno.com)

# The Value of Field Notes or a Study of Persistence

by Al Larrabee

On January 1, 1983 I was birding the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge in California. Late in the afternoon I saw a single bird that appeared to be a pipit, but clearly not an American Pipit (in those days the American Pipit was named Water Pipit). It had dark stripes on its back and front, little or no white in the outer tail, yellowish legs and yellow on the bill. I could not identify it, but I made extensive notes and on leaving the refuge I found that there was a notebook of recent rare sightings.

One day earlier, a person named Mark Swister and two days earlier a couple named Ken and Peggy Horn described a bird which matched my observation. They both said it was a Red-throated Pipit! After arriving home I could not find a decent picture of such a Pipit (less books available then and no internet in those ancient times). Further research revealed few records for this bird that were not between September and early November and few records that were not closer to the coast than the Sacramento refuge. Later, I found pictures of the Red-throated Pipit and they matched my observation notes....but I hesitated.



Through the years I tried to find Mark Swister (he gave his hometown as Canyonville, OR), but was not successful. I did not try to find the couple named Horn, but rather chose the more unique name. Years ago, I dropped my inquiries. However, this April 26 after an extensive Google search for an old friend, I decided to search for Ken and Peggy Horn (in the refuge notes, they gave their hometown as Davis, CA). The internet provided me with the names, ages, and hometowns of over 100 Ken Horns in the US. I knew that the age of the one I wanted had to be at least 43 since 2010 - 1983 + 16 = 43 (he probably wasn't married at 15!). There was only one Ken Horn with a relative named Peggy and was older than 43 and he lived in Springfield, MO. The computer "White Pages" wanted a \$30 membership fee to send me the address of that Ken Horn. However, further sleuthing led me to a blog website of the Ken Horn in question. This guy (and his wife Peggy) had been in 60 countries and his site was loaded with bird photos he had taken. This looked good! I sent him an email & asked if 27 years ago he was birding the Sacramento National Refuge. He answered the same day and was flabbergasted.

Yes, he remembered the day because the Horns were serious birders" and had seen a Red-throated Pipit on that day. Of course he wanted to know who I was and how I found him. Another birder had contacted him without giving his

name (in 1983) and also stated that he had seen a Red-throated Pipit the day after the Horns (it must have been Mark Swister). That was enough!

I no longer hesitate....27 years ago I saw a Red-throated Pipit at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. It is probably too late for anyone else to go there and see it!

So...if you see a bird you cannot ID and you are alone...take notes...of course in today's world...  
....take pictures. So there! Al Larrabee



## All About Birds: Best Lifestyle Website in 2010 Webby Award Honors Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Interactive Site

Ithaca, NY—The 14th Annual Webby Awards judges have chosen the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website as **Best Lifestyle Site** of the year. Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by *The New York Times*, the Webby Awards is the leading international award for excellence on the Internet.

The All About Birds website ([www.AllAboutBirds.org](http://www.AllAboutBirds.org)) helps people identify and learn about nearly 600 species of North American birds. The site features photos, sounds, and video of birds, bird-identification tutorials, bird-feeding tips, gear reviews, and an online magazine about birds and bird watching.

"The All About Birds website helps satisfy people's curiosity about birds—and invites them to explore more about their diversity, beauty, and fascinating behavior," said Cornell Lab communications director Miyoko Chu. "We know that bird watchers are enthusiastic about our site, but we were so thrilled that it appealed to the Webby judges too, who considered sites on every topic from food to fashion."

Check out the website at:

[www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1189](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1189)

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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.*



**June 2010**

**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 \*\* NEWSLETTER & DONATION COUPON**

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date:**  
November 1st  
every year

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 I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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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