



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2014

Calendar

***Tuesday, June 3 6:45 pm: Free 30 minute class before the General 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

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
29	30					

PROGRAM

Birding Southeast Washington

Speakers: Mike & MerryLynn Denny

Well known birding couple, Mike and MerryLynn Denny come our way to talk about birding in their area, Southeast Washington and Walla Walla.



MerryLynn & Mike Denny

Mike has also researched the geography of Wallula, where the Walla Walla River meets the Columbia and has written about it. This unique spot is populated by waterfowl most of the winter. It will be a fun evening to talk birds with experienced birders who like to share information.

These avid birders go into the field very frequently and report their findings online at Tweeters. They always know of rare bird sightings, either because they have found a rare bird or hear from their network of birders. Come listen to their stories and hints about birding locales. They know of many migrant traps and special places to bird.

FIELD TRIP

North of Trout Lake, Skamania County



Leader: Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

When: June 28th, Saturday

Time: 7:30 AM

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

We'll visit a small section of Skamania County that has Ponderosa pine, an area just north of the town of Trout Lake. This will be an all day trip. Our target bird will be Williamson's Sapsucker but we will also be looking for many other birds including Hermit Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. We'll then continue north to a burned area of the forest looking for Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, and assorted flycatchers. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather.



We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

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Welcome: New Members (13): Jeannine Burley, Leslie Cole, Veronica Covell, Roland Eisner, Nancy Hill, Thomas Hull, Sue Kane, Sharon & Layne Brannan, Lavera McCord, Lisa & Paul Dally, Susan Flett Pomeroy, Diana Seaton, Thomas & Virgin Roseburg **Transfer Members (2)**: Jason Crotty, Arleen Leszczynski

FYI: VAS's YARD SALE on May 10th pretty much sold out in a little over 4 hours. We made \$300.

Not Just Sparrows and Pigeons: Cities Harbor 20 Percent of World's Bird Species

Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows, and European Starlings are widely known as “city birds,” and with good reason. These three species (plus Barn Swallow) occur in more than 80 percent of cities, according to a recent study. But there's way more to cities than this narrow cast of avian urbanites—a whopping 2,041 species live in the world's cities. So take heart: your next city stroll has much more to offer than just a few ubiquitous species. READ More at:

<http://blog.allaboutbirds.org/>



**The Next Newsletter will be
at the end of August**

**After our June Meeting the next
General Meeting will be
Tuesday September 2nd.**

Have a Great Summer!!!

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 a 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.

The President's Climate Change Report

And the news is dire. The White House released the latest in a series of climate change reports that was mandated by Congress in 1990. We have heard it all before: hotter summers, too much rain sometimes and too little rain at other changes, snowpack less in volume and melting sooner. This report is more specific, especially as to regions of the country. It also warns that climate change is not just some far off someday thing. It is happening here and now.

The team writing the Northwest section was Dr. Philip Mote. He used to be with the University of Washington, but joined the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, connected with the University, in 2009. He has strong professional credentials and, in fact has worked with the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Pacific Northwest has gotten off easy so far. But, the projections don't look good for salmon, people or birds. One map shows where we may expect an increase in areas burned by wildfires because of increased temperatures and decreased precipitation. The Puget Trough-Willamette Valley, the most urbanized part of Oregon and Washington, was not modeled. But the Cascade Mountains to the east of us and the Coast Range to the west of us were modeled. It looks as if there will be an increase of area burned of 400% to 500%. That's four to five times as much acreage as were burned, on average, from 1916 to 2007. Right now, there is a 5% probability that 2.2 million acres will burn each year. With the increase in temperature, that could increase to a 50% probability of 2.2 million acres burning each year. That doesn't mean that 50% of the land will burn each year, but that the chances of 2.2 million acres will burn is 50-50.

Then, there will be an increase in pine beetle damage. With all that, there definitely will be a change in forest type. Alpine and subalpine forests will be replaced by other types of vegetation. Which means some species of birds will be gone.

There will also be sea rise and ocean acidification. The latter would affect the production of zooplankton, which would affect the production of fish -- fish that are the food of sea birds. (How will the marbled murrelet fair, with its old growth forest home burned and its food source missing?) And our rivers will have less water because of reduced snow pack and melting glaciers.

At the Audubon Washington Conservation meeting (see last month's *Flyway*), the subject of Audubon's evaluation of the effect of climate change on birds came up. By the way, we are expecting that to come out in the fall. National hopes to get the study peer-reviewed. It seems that one of the birds at serious risk is the common loon. It may go extinct -- as in bye, bye, loons -- as in no more common loons. I have a hard time getting my head around that --

and my heart, too. The folks in Minnesota are quite upset. The common loon is their state bird.

The politics of climate change is something else. This issue should never have become a partisan, liberal vs. conservative issue. I heard a lecture recently from Naomi Oreskes, a historian of science and who co-wrote a book called *The Merchants of Doubt*. A number of aging, cold war warrior physicists came together to counter any scientific findings they felt would lead to government regulation. Because they were prominent physicists (of three of them, two had worked on the atomic bomb and one was a rocket scientist), the press listened to them, thus creating confusion among the public about what science was really saying about important issues. As an example, the issue of cigarettes causing cancer was one that these physicists created confusion about. The result was that the tobacco companies were able to continue to sell their product, even promoting it to children, and many people died.

The same doubts were created by these contrarians on climate change. The press and the people, being naive about science, did not distinguish among the branches of science. Most people would not trust their dentist, as excellent a dentist he may be, to care for them after a heart attack. But, they don't realize that a rocket scientist cannot speak with any more authority about the climate than any lay person. The result has been that fewer than half of the American people understand that climate change is real and that it is caused by human activities. And because people are reluctant to make changes, especially changes that might mean driving less or making other life style changes, it was easy to believe the contrarians that there was no problem.

A Reminder: The primary election is in August. Races important to conservation and to birds are our member of Congress, all of the house seats in the legislature, and one county commissioner seat. The county commissioner race is particularly important, if you are concerned about our local open space and habitat. Remember, we have a top two primary. The top two vote getters in each race goes on to the general election in November, whatever party they are. We could have two people of the same party facing each other in November. It happened two years ago. So, if you want a decent choice in the general election, be sure to study up on the candidates and vote, with knowledge, in the primary.



April 13, Fran Lenski saw his first of the year (FOY) **LAZULI BUNTING** near the Dalles, while he was bike riding. He heard others singing along the way and also espied a few **WESTERN BLUEBIRDS**.

April 14, **2 SANDHILL CRANES** flew low heading west over our property in the Columbia River Gorge, this was only our sixth record here in forty years, and second sighting in 2014. Jim Danzenbaker had a good passage of northbound **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** in his Battle Ground backyard, counting 133 in a couple of hours. He also saw his FOY-yard **VAUX'S SWIFT**, **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER**, and **BARN SWALLOW**. In Ridgefield, Bob Flores counted **51 YELLOW-RUMPED** and **2 TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS** and two **EVENING GROSBEAKS** were of note after being scarce this winter.



April 16, Tammy and Eric Bjorkman took a quick trip up the Gorge finding a pair of **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** just above the spillway at the Little White Salmon River fish hatchery. The **AMERICAN DIPPER** there were quite active and gave them great views. In Klickitat County, they reported hundreds of **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** at the Lyle Balch Cemetery and a **WILD TURKEY** was seen on the way back down to Hwy 14. Another thing that caught their attention was the numbers of **TURKEY VULTURES** seen, they can't recall ever seeing so many between Vancouver and Lyle before.

April 18, Les Carlson had his FOY **VAUX SWIFTS** and **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** on his morning bike ride in north Vancouver.

April 19, Susan Setterberg was at the Ridgefield NWR when a small flock of **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** flew in with **DUNLIN** on Rest Lake.

April 20, New arrivals at the Ridgefield NWR reported by Jim Danzenbaker were: **AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN**, **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** and **PURPLE MARTIN**. **100 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** flew high over Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground yard. We also had several flocks over our place in the Gorge.

April 21, Jim Danzenbaker Battle Ground, was in his backyard and heard a **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, a **MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER** (earliest for the yard by three weeks) and a **HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER** (the first since May 22, 2011). All of these were FOYs for the yard. Arden and Sherry Hagen had their first sighting of a **CHIP-PING SPARROW** in their neighborhood since 1986 when one nested nearby. Once they were a common nester in the oak prairies of Clark County but their numbers plum-

meted when those prairies were covered with homes.

April 24 -May 6, **Les Carlson, George Mayfield and Barry Woodruff and I** birded south Florida looking for additions to our life lists. It was very warm and muggy for most of our visit and we seemed to have been there in a lull in the migration. But we did manage to find 159 species including 20 "lifers" for Les, 24 for George and 25 for Barry, while I added 2 birds to my list. Barry hit the 600 species level with **MASKED BOOBIES** on our visit to the Dry Tortugas. The most unusual bird we saw was a **BAHAMA MOCKINGBIRD** that had strayed from the Caribbean islands. We targeted other Florida birds that are rare elsewhere and saw, **BROWN BOOBY**, **ROSEATE TERN**, **SOOTY TERN**, **BROWN NODDY**, **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**, **SNAIL KITE**, **SHORT-TAILED HAWK**, **PURPLE SWAMPHEN**, **NANDAY PARAKEET**, **WHITE-WINGED PARAKEET**, **MONK PARAKEET**, **MANGROVE CUCKOO**, **GRAY KINGBIRD**, **RED-WHISKERED BULBUL**, **FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY**, **COMMON MYNA**, **SHINY COWBIRD** and **SPOT-BREADED ORIOLE**. Some other east coast species seen were **COMMON EIDER**, **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER**, **NORTHERN GANNET** and twenty species of warblers.



Jen Sanford birded along LaFrambois Road in the Shillapoo Wildlife Area at Vancouver Lake, finding a calling **SORA**, a **WESTERN KINGBIRD**, and a hybrid **GOLDEN-CROWNED X WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** that she photographed.

April 25, a male breeding plumage **RUSTIC BUNTING** was seen and photographed by a number of birders in Mt Tabor Park, Portland. This was a stray from Eurasia and it is very unusual for them to show up anytime much less in Spring migration.

April 26, A male **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD** was photographed by Gina Cardoza, at her feeder in east Vancouver. It stayed around for about five days before moving on, amazingly, this was the second Clark County report of one of these little visitors from the desert southwest this Spring.

Bob Flores spotted his FOY **BLACK-HEADED GROS-BEAK** at his home in Ridgefield, these birds love sunflower seeds.

May 1, **5 WHITE PELICANS** flying over the home of Mary Ann and Glenn Teague were a surprise addition to their list of birds seen from their Vancouver yard.

May 2, Cheryl Rockowski reported having **BLACK-HEAD GROSBEAKS** at her feeders in Willard, Skamania County. They return to the Gorge and higher elevations a little later than the lowland areas as the plants and insect life they need to survive is slower to develop in the Spring.

Vancouver Audubon

May 3, Pamela Gunn spotted 2 **BULLOCK'S ORIOLES** at Fort Vancouver.

May 4, A male **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** was at Peter Johnson's feeder and two days later his FOY **WESTERN Tanager** in the fir trees near his house in Stevenson.

May 5, While birding the Woodland Bottoms, Russ Koppendrayar had a **SWAINSON'S HAWK** fly across the Lewis River into Clark County.

May 9, A breeding plumaged **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** of the white-striped subspecies was at Loretta Layton's home on the upper Washougal River.

Gary Fredericks reported that a **BROWN PELICAN** was at Bonneville Dam and visible from shore below the dam, this is only the third record of this saltwater species in Skamania County.

As of the first of May there had been 174 species of birds reported from Clark County and 123 species were reported from Skamania County for the 2014 Cumulative Year List project. There are only a few migrants left to return but many species that haven't been reported yet this year. For more information on this list go to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> The totals are updated every two months, if you have seen a bird not checked off for this year please let me know. And please continue to send me your sightings for this column.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

Sparrows are somewhere in the yard and always singing along with all the other birds. If we go to our son's house in Spokane it changes to California Quail, Pygmy Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees and other eastern Washington species. Birds are everywhere. Enjoy them and come back next fall ready to share your summer adventures. Write a short story and we can print it in the Flyway to share.



Watch for birds at your feeds or around Vancouver. Everyone should know this bird. It is Washington's State Bird the American Goldfinch.

But do you know which species this similar bird is?

This bird disappeared from the Vancouver area for years but has now made a come back.



Answer below

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

The Backyard & Beyond...

Arden and I haven't done a lot of birding this spring other than the VAS trip to Okanogan and field trips. but we have a lot planned this summer and fall. A VAS trip to Maine sounds like so much fun. It has been years since we have been there in the summer. Way before digital cameras so I am looking forward to hopefully improving on some old photographs. Then we have some trips to foreign countries planned. Where are you going this year? What local, US or exotic places might you be enjoying? Or are you going to sit back and enjoy the birds in your back yard or a near by park? Or somewhere in the state? The one thing about birding is that you can do it basically everywhere. We were walking down the busy Las Vegas Strip in the heat one time watching a Ruby-crowned Kinglet looking for food in a small bush. At lunch time our back yard seems to always be a "birdy" place. We have 2 pair of nesting Black-capped Chickadees and a pair of Bewick's Wrens nesting too. Of course the Song



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Lesser Goldfinch

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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 2014

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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**Flyway Renewal
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November 1st
every year

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