



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

June 2015

## Calendar

\*\*\*Tuesday, June 2 6:45 pm: Free 30 minute class before the General 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

**No July/August Meeting or Newsletters until September**

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: *South Africa*

*by Eric & Tammy Bjorkman,  
Sherry & Arden Hagen and Joan Durgin*

Join this VAS group who traveled to the country of South Africa in November 2014 along with a fellow birder, Janis from San Diego. South Africa is a very modern country so traveling was very easy with guide David.

The group started in the beautiful and very birdy area of Cape Town, traveled along the coast and even took a pelagic trip. They ventured to the Ceres area before flying to the east coast to bird many areas around Durban including a one day trip into the tiny kingdom of Lesotho before heading to St Lucia on the coast.

Their rewards were many on this trip. They saw over 360 species of birds including both of the 2 species of Rockjumpers in the world & visited a penguin colony.

Seeing 2 cheetah brothers, a family of lions, along with elephants, zebras, and all the other animals thrilled all of them at Phinda Reserve and elsewhere.



## FIELD TRIP

*North of Trout Lake,  
Skamania County*



**Leader:** Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

**When:** June 20, Saturday

**Time:** 7:00 AM "Early"

**Meet at:** Meet at the Port of Camas-Washougal Boat Launch

This is a half day plus trip. Hiking could be a bit strenuous. We will be looking for MacGillivray's & Hermit Warbler, Sooty Grouse and more. Bring a lunch & water for the hike.

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.**

# Vancouver Audubon



## It's That Time of Year!

The birds are courting and some are already nesting. Little baby birds will soon be out of the nest and that's when the calls start coming in full force. **First off little baby birds are suppose to be out of the nest to learn to be grown up birds.** Unfortunately, a lot of them don't make it due to cats in yards and predator birds. But human interference usually doesn't help either. Letting the parents take care of them is the best way. If the birds parents have been killed or the little birds are slightly injured then human intervention may be able to save them. A badly hurt bird may not make it.



**Host: Vancouver Audubon**

**When: May 29**

**Time: 8 AM to 2 PM**

**Where: 1548 NE 5th Ave., Camas, WA**

## Bird & Yard Related Items

**Welcome New Members:** Dorothy Anderson • Jean Avery • Linda Baxter • Donald Equals • Martha Gordon • Kathryn Kleffman • Gayle Mattson • Beverly Olson • Ellen Olson • Sue Pauley • William Reeburgh • Denise Schafte • Edward Taylor • Lesley Tetard • Kathryn Woodward • Hugh Wyatt

### 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.

## Red-tailed Hawk Web-cam



Want to watch a live feed of a Red-tailed Hawk Nest?

[http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/16/Red-tailed\\_Hawks/](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/16/Red-tailed_Hawks/)



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## What Carbon Initiative do You Choose?

There probably will not be a carbon reduction law out of the legislature this year (See below). Two initiative petitions are being talked about. Each effort takes a different approach. The danger is that if both make it to the ballot, it is practically guaranteed that the voters, being confused, will vote no on both. Audubon Washington, and the chapters, have not yet taken a position on either effort.

A carbon tax initiative is being proposed by a group called Carbon Washington. It proposes a straight-forward tax on carbon emissions. It would be revenue neutral in that some taxes, including the sales tax, would be reduced. This is an initiative to the legislature, which means that in the next legislative session the legislature would have to act on it: either pass it or let it go to the ballot.

The group, Climate Solutions, along with the Washington Environmental Council (WEC), are talking about circulating their own petition. This one would be based on Governor Inslee's proposal which takes the market approach. Total carbon emissions would be capped. Individual businesses and industries could sell or buy carbon credits in a carbon market. The idea is that the cap would be lowered over time, thereby, hypothetically, reducing carbon pollution. This initiative would go directly to the ballot.

I am asking you to let me know your preferences on these approaches to reducing Washington's carbon emissions. Please e-mail either me or Eric Bjorkman. I will be out of town about the time you get this. Our e-mails are in this newsletter.

## Audubon's Legislative Priorities

As of this writing, the legislature has finished its regular session, but they have not finished work. Because they did not get the budget done, they are now in special session.

The fate of Audubon's priorities were mixed. To start with the easiest bill to get passed, providing for the **management of forage fish** landed on the governor's desk and was signed on May 7. The bill provides for the first steps in managing a wild population: surveying the population to determine how the fish are doing. Jen Syrowitz, Audubon Washington, says she expects that funding for the spawning surveys of smelt and sand lance will be in the final budget.

The legislature passed an **oil transportation safety bill** that was so so. It was something, but not enough. There is public disclosure through a website and the transportation companies must pay for cleaning up spills. The oil barrel tax was extended to oil transported by trains. However, there was no increase in the barrel tax. There was a lot of public interest in this issue (I wonder why), so the legislature had to pay close attention, too. But the oil industry is powerful and got their way on a number of provisions. This issue will not go away; certainly not here in Clark County

**Carbon Pollution Accountability** was more difficult, as you might suppose. Neither house nor senate bill actually made it out, but, because it involves taxation, it is still a part of the budget discussion. Stay tuned. And, see above.

Funding for the **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program** is not a formal Audubon priority, but we have always supported it. The way it works is that, for each category (park development, greenways, open spaces, trails, habitat), specialists rank the proposed projects according to specific criteria. The Senate capital budget took apart that method of disbursing funds in favor of a system in which legislators choose the projects in their districts -- a system of earmarks and political rewards. Imagine some of

our legislators choosing which projects in Clark County would be funded.

## Oysters!

### What do they Have to do with Birds?

Except as food, directly, not much. But, when the Department of Ecology (DOE) approved the aerial application of a neonic pesticide to the waters of Willapa and Grays bays, Audubon became concerned. The oyster growers have requested the use of this pesticide to control a burrowing shrimp that are turning the oyster beds into muck that the oysters sink into and get smothered. Audubon Washington activated the network and the e-mails flew back and forth. As the news got out into the public, people from biologists to chefs and restaurant owners were upset. Within a week, DOE had cancelled the permit. Sometimes we win.

## Back to County Issues

On the update of the growth management plan and the 4th alternative. The county councilors have asked the consultant to analyze Alternative 4. It is expected the draft EIS will be done and released to the public for comment in July. In the meantime, the opponents of Alt. 4 will be working on getting statements into the record and in reaching the public. (It would be helpful if you could inform your family and friends of this impending disaster -- see previous issues of the *Flyway*.) Friends of Clark County, who are leading the charge on this issue, now has a lawyer, pro bono, of course.

County Councilor Meilke is again maneuvering to sell off county open spaces. This time the attack is on the East Fork Lewis Greenway. It never ends. I'll keep you posted. In the meantime, it wouldn't hurt to let Meilke know you support the county keeping the greenway system intact.

Gretchen Starke 

By the end of the first week of May most of the migrant species of birds had arrived, many of these birds were two to three weeks earlier than their average arrival dates. I am not going to list all of the first sighting dates of these birds due to a computer problem that kept me from getting many of the messages from the TWEETERS bird message site.

**Bob Flores has been doing a Clark County Big Year, trying to see as many species as possible in 2015, by early May he had found nearly 200 species. The old record for Clark County is 207, set in 2011 by Randy Hill.**

April 25, Both Eric and Tammy Bjorkman and Bob Flores reported seeing a Western Kingbird at the Steigerwald Lake NWR.

April 28, 175 Greater White-fronted Geese flew over Jim Danzenbaker's home in Battle Ground, heading North.

April 29, A GRAY FLYCATCHER was among the many migrants moving through our property in the Columbia Gorge. These are birds of the pine forests east of the Cascades and there are only two prior records from Skamania County. This was one of the best days of migration that we have had here, as an example of the sheer numbers we had, we estimated that at least 300 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS passed through our yard.

May 2, Another GRAY FLYCATCHER was in our yard and we had the first WHITE-THROATED SPARROW here since 2012.

May 6, Cindy McCormack heard the distinctive call of a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, but she wasn't able to get a few of this secretive bird until two days later.

May 7, Les Carlson, Randy Hill and I birded Skamania County with just the intent of showing Randy some of our birding spots and ended up setting a new Big Day record of 77 species seen. Among the species found were HORNED GREBE, HARLEQUIN DUCK, WESTERN KINGBIRD and a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

May 8, A SOLITARY SANDPIPER was found by Bob

Flores along La Frambois Rd at Vancouver Lake.

May 9, Bob Flores had 29 WESTERN, 4 CLARK'S GREBES and 2 EARED GREBES from the flushing channel at Vancouver Lake and a CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD at his home in Ridgefield.

A FERRUGINOUS HAWK was seen by Ev Armitage and a birding group at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, there are only a couple of records for Clark County of this large hawk from east of the Cascades.

So far nearly 200 species have been put on the 2015 Clark County Cumulative Checklist and nearly 150 on the Skamania County list. Please continue to send your sightings list for this to me over the summer and we will see you again in September.

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

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## Much to see on the Kiwa Trail by Susan Setterberg

May 2<sup>nd</sup> started a little overcast and chilly, but as our morning wore on; we were warmed by the sun and all the birds we were seeing. It was the second day the Kiwa Trail in Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was open for the season. There were plenty of people out to see what migrants and Ridgefield nesters might be in. The purpose of this particular walk was to help newer birders and birders new to the area get to know the local feathered fauna a little better. George Mayfield joined me to lead our walk. We started by birding Canvasback Lake across from the Kiwa entrance. Usually a full pond in winter, it has been reducing down to puddles of late. What is nice though, the migrating shorebirds like to stop by for a bit of mud probing. We were treated to a substantial flock of Least Sandpipers which were actively feeding on the mud. They flew up to give us a nice aerial display and the cause of the fly up was soon evident in a Peregrine Falcon swooping by. We also got nice views of a Semipalmated Plover while listening to the winnowing of the Wilson's Snipe.

Walking into the woods we were greeted by loads of Tree and Violet-green Swallows along with great numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. We got good looks at both the Myrtles and Audubon form of yellow-rumps. (Continued on next page)

# Vancouver Audubon

It didn't take long to hear the Yellow Warbler singing and eventually everyone got a good look at this beautiful little bird. We heard and then saw Marsh Wren in the reeds. They were singing all along the trail and many were males high in the reeds announcing their territory. Not to be outdone, we also had excellent looks at a couple House Wrens in the wooded area. It was nice to compare these two wrens. We only heard the Bewick's Wren as it preferred to move away from us in the brush.

Other great raptor sightings included at least three Ospreys circling overhead. They were making their little whistle call which seemed so weak in contrast to the little birds whose calls filled the woods. We also had a couple of Bald Eagle sightings with one adult among up to four individuals seen. A few Red-tailed Hawks soared through with good looks to see their distinguishing features and variation in colors.



It was lots of fun trying to find all the rails as they were calling in most wet areas along the trails. We caught glimpses of Virginia Rails very early on by the first bridge. The Sora, though loudly proclaiming its male prowess, was not to be seen; only heard repeatedly. The American Bittern sounded its mating call a couple times, and, through persistence, Moses, who is one of the two students who came along with us, spotted the Bittern frozen in its *bill-to-the sky* posture at the edge of the reeds. George found a calling Wilson's Snipe up in a tree doing its "chicken-like" clucking call. We all had time to have very good scope views of the bird.

We all had a good time on our 3.5 hour walk around the Kiwa Trail. It is still early though. There are sure to be other migrants coming through. Notable absent were the Black-headed Grosbeaks that like to sign around the entrance to the trail. They should be in by the time you read this. At least 52 species were

seen by most members of the group with a few more species noted by some participants as they drove in to the trail. It was a good day for birding.

Susan Setterberg

## *The Backyard & Beyond...*

### **17½ years of teaching comes to an End**

For those of you who have attended my Bird Classes before the General Meetings since November 1997, I am announcing that the class at the June meeting will be my last. I was absent for 6 months this past year due to travel or potlucks but when I lead the class on April 7th, I lost my voice again and had trouble for days. I have a spastic vocal cord which is better than the paralyzed cord that plagued me at first but when I use my voice for 20-30 minutes, I begin having trouble and it goes into paralyzed position until it has enough rest to start working again.

**I thank all of you** who have attended, all of you who have given me encouragement over the years, those who have praised my photography that improved as digital cameras became the norm, those who told me the classes were great and informative or just plain fun at times.

I too have learned a lot as I searched for information on a class to make it as accurate as possible. I liked doing it and will miss sharing my love of birds each month. It was rewarding especially when someone said I was able to identify a bird because of your class.

I have many photos and could come up with programs if someone would step in and do the classes and I could prepare the photos. But we will see about that in the next few months as the board decides what to do or some one steps forward to take over.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

Rufous-crested  
Coquette (Peru)

**Thank you all.**



**VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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Vancouver Audubon  
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promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
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and advocacy.*



**June 2015**

**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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