



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
CHARTERED DECEMBER 18, 1975

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JUNE 2016

CALENDAR

- **GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM**
Tuesday, June 7th
7:00 pm
at the Genealogical Society ,
717 Grand Boulevard (corner
of Grand & Evergreen) in
Vancouver, WA
- **FIELD TRIP**
Saturday, June 4th
Bluebirds of Bickleton & more
(see details on right)
- **REMINDER:**
No newsletters or general
meeting in July or August.



DO YOU
WANT TO GO
PAPERLESS?

We can help!

Email Sherry Hagen at littlebirder@comcast.net to receive a PDF colored copy of the Columbia Flyway. The PDF version is also available online at www.vancouveraudubon.com

June Program:

eBird and eBird Northwest — Get started!

SPEAKER: WENDY CONNALLY, WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, CITIZEN SCIENCE COORDINATOR

You do not have to be a birding expert or a techie fanatic to use eBird!

Join us to learn:

- How to set-up your account in less than 5 minutes
- The app or the online checklist page (you don't have to use both)
- Hotspots
- Counting tips
- Fun tools to help find the birds you want to see by location and season
- Related programs , such as NestWatch, Global Big Day, Great Backyard Bird Count, Project FeederWatch
- Citizen Science projects in our region

eBird checklists provide a tremendous contribution to our understanding and conservation of birds and their habitats. We'll leave plenty of time for your questions.

Be a part of this great opportunity!

There is something for all bird lovers!

June Field Trip:

Bluebirds of Bickleton & more



Leader: **Arden Hagen (360) 892-8872**

When: **Saturday, June 4th**

Start Time: **7:45 am**

Meeting Spot: The Port of Camas-Washougal Boat Launch (just south of Highway 14 by Weslie Ford. Take the Frontage Road exit to the roundabout at Port Street south)

This will be an all day trip to see Bluebirds, Rock & Canyon Wren, Lewis's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and more. Pack a lunch and snacks. We will carpool.

Do not forget to chip in and pay your driver for gas.

New look for the Flyway?

A message from Tammy Bjorkman

Well, yes ... but it is only temporary!

Our dedicated long time volunteer newsletter editor, Sherry Hagen, is currently birding in the Philippines. She left her laptop and detailed instructions with me. Unfortunately, technology

got the better of me and I had to go to plan B. Sherry will be back soon and the next *Columbia Flyway* will return to it's original look.



Field trip report from the May 1st Kiwa Trail walk

Although we were there bright and early to welcome the opening of the Kiwa Trail for the season at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge,

we were not alone.

It was a beautiful day and many nature lovers were eager to walk the trail. Some birds seem to be arriving early this year, but we didn't have a particularly high count. We searched for Great Horned Owl, but none was to be seen. Later in the day, a birder stopped by the contact station and related that there was a rather nervous owl on the trail when he walked it and he was one of the first to go around. I suspect that the large numbers of visitors that morning probably moved it away from the trail. We did indeed hear plenty of Sora, Virginia Rail and Wilson's Snipe. They are easier to hear at this time of year, than see. The Virginia Rail did do a couple flybys above the reeds for us. The snipe were making their winnowing sound all around us. We had the treat of a calling Sora move in close to us, walk in front of the entire group, under the bridge and then away from us. Only one person got a quick glance of the bird for a typical Sora/rail

experience. Waterfowl included Gadwall, Mallards, and the beautiful Cinnamon Teal. The males have been showing off for the ladies lately.

We had great looks at the White-breasted Nuthatch; the slender-billed subspecies, aculeate. The call of this bird is noticeably different from the common White-breasted Nuthatch normally encounter across the country. The Vancouver Lowlands and Ridgefield NWR are a hotbed for breeding for this subspecies. They favor mature woodlands of ash and cotton-

woods and Oak savannah habitat, which we have at Ridgefield. Listed as a Federal *species of concern*, we are lucky to have the only WA breeding population here in the county along the Columbia River. As a side note, this is one of the birds we cited in our appeal to the County Parks Department not to put a disc golf course in at Frenchman's Bar Park as it would substantially alter the habitat. Thank you to all who joined us. It was a fun morning.

Tammy and Susan

OUR SIGHTINGS INCLUDED:

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker
Gadwall	Northern Flicker
Mallard	Western Scrub Jay
Cinnamon Teal	Tree Swallow
Great Blue Heron	White-breasted Nuthatch,
Great Egret	slender-billed ssp
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper
Red-tailed Hawk	Marsh Wren
Virginia Rail	Bewick's Wren
Sora	American Robin
American Coot	European Starling
Mourning Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Anna's Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler



Common Yellowthroat
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown Cowbird
American Goldfinch

Injured birds: What to do?



Our Board Members receive many calls (especially during breeding season) regarding injured birds or baby birds that seem to be abandoned. We have no Bird Rehabilitators in the Vancouver Area that we are aware of.

So what should you do if you find yourself in this situation?

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** or you may take the bird to their facilities at:
5151 NW Cornell Rd,
Portland OR [Forest Hills]

Many Birds that hit a window just need some time to rest to get "their wind back" before taking off again.

2. Call Arden or Sherry Hagen for information:
(360) 892-8872

If they are available and the bird requires transport to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center. Please consider a small donation for their gas and to the Care Center for the care of the bird.

3. DoveLewis is a 24 hour animal hospital in downtown Portland that will take the bird overnight if the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center 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.

Why environmentalists are not embracing I-732, the Carbon Tax

On the theory that we should tax the thing we don't want, it seems to make sense to support a carbon tax. And, indeed, a tax on carbon, I-732, will be on the ballot this fall. But, there are problems with it. Susan Setterberg attended the Audubon spring regional meeting and came back with the following (edited for length).

Tax on Carbon:

A citizen's group called Washington Carbon was successful at gaining enough signatures to present the initiative to the state Legislature. Since the Legislature didn't act, the initiative goes on the ballot. Essentially, I-732 increases tax on Carbon use. This amounts to \$25/metric ton of Carbon Dioxide produced from fossil fuels in the state of Washington. ... it raises gasoline tax \$.25 per gallon and coal tax by \$.025 per Kilowatt hour. Other provisions of the initiative are to provide working, low-income households with \$1500/year rebate ...; eliminate the B&O tax for manufacturers, and lower the state sales tax by 1%. The supporters of the initiative believe it is revenue neutral to the state.

On the (other hand), the state Office of Financial Management believes it is not revenue neutral and will cost the state \$7 to 9 million in uncollected tax dollars. Concerns expressed are that the initiative ignores the current revenue crisis and will result in underfunding of critical services, such as schools. ... (There is also the question) as to whether such a tax will succeed in reducing carbon emissions. Some argue that although the bill isn't perfect, it is a step in the right directions; others see it as bad legislation which will need to be fixed, The only alternative out there is a Cap and Fee Policy which limits emissions and charges for excessive release. Revenue would then be put into forest management, clean water, and ensuring an equitable transition to clean energy. Such an initiative probably won't be available for consideration by the legislature or voters for another 2 or more years.

To be more informed about this coming initiative, you can visit these websites:

The Washington Environmental Council

[https://wecprotects.org/wec-position-732/;](https://wecprotects.org/wec-position-732/)

Carbon Washington [http://yeson732.org/;](http://yeson732.org/)

The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy

[http://jobsandcleanenergywa.com/our-climate-action-policy-proposal/;](http://jobsandcleanenergywa.com/our-climate-action-policy-proposal/)

Climate Solutions

[http://climatesolutions.org/article/1461206472-why-we-cannot-support-initiative-732.](http://climatesolutions.org/article/1461206472-why-we-cannot-support-initiative-732)



The Growth Management Plan: More or less the slog forward continues

Despite the local politics of growth management and all around antics of various people, the staff is proceeding with preparation of the growth plan. A couple of discouraging changes concerns minimum lot sizes in resource lands. For forest lands, the minimum lot size was reduced to 20 acres from 40 acres and for agricultural lands, the minimum lot size was reduced to 10 acres from 20 acres. The capital financial facilities plan, the document that details how we are going to pay for the needed facilities -- roads and other transportation facilities, parks, and stormwater management facilities. The short answer is that the county cannot afford the planned for growth. The response is to reduce services or to be vague about how the services will be provided. There will be hearings on May 19 and 24, and June 2. By the time you get this, the hearings will be done.

This two-mile scenic trail connects Discovery Loop Trail at Leverich Park with St. James Road. The trail follows Burnt Bridge Creek through the historic Bonneville Power Administration gardens (circa 1920s), passes the manicured grounds of the JD Ross Substation Complex, and meanders through a forested area in the Minnehaha Neighborhood.

It is a multi-use trail open to hikers and cyclists. The scenery is a mix of woods, valley and creekside meadows, and residential areas. This is for the most part a flat trail with a couple of steep switchbacks.

The trailhead is at Leverich Park.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Vancouver Audubon's Board of Directors awarded **Chinook Trails Association** a grant of **\$5,000** for Phase II of their improvements to the Ellen Davis Trail. You may remember that in 2015 Vancouver Audubon provided a grant that helped fund Phase I.





WILSON CADY'S AFIELD

Wilson Cady (360) 835-5947
gorgebirds@juno.com

April 11, Bob Flores' First of the Year (FOY) **WARBLING VIREO** was in his Ridgefield area yard.

April 13, a **BREWER'S SPARROW** was found at the Clark College technical Center by Ray Korpi. This bird of the open sage and grasslands of eastern Washington stayed around for over a week allowing many people to get a chance to see this rare visitor to Clark County. Our FOY **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** was seen in our front yard in Skamania County while a group of volunteers were training on netting and banding birds.

April 14, The FOY **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** in Skamania County was found by Peter Johnson on Strawberry Island, at North Bonneville.

April 16, A visit by Randy Hill to the Frenchman's Bar Park gave him his FOY **HOUSE WRENS** and **AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES** and a lingering **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**. At the end of Lower River Road he found 4 **SOLITARY**

SANDPIPERS in a small pond and at the end of LaFrambois Road there was a **CLARK'S GREBE**.

April 22, **WHITE-THROATED, WHITE-CROWNED, GOLDEN-CROWNED** and **SONG SPARROWS** in were still visiting Les Carlson's yard.

April 25, a dark ibis, most likely a **WHITE-FACED IBIS**, flew over KEN KNITTLE'S Hazel Dell home, that is one unbelievable yard bird.

In a flooded corner of the field adjacent to the Hillhurst Road and Carty Road intersection in Ridgefield, Bob Flores spotted 2 **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** and 38 **LEAST SANDPIPERS**. On the refuge, he found 9 **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS**, 9 **LEAST SANDPIPERS** and a **GREATER YELLOWLEGS** along with a **HOUSE WREN** and 2 **YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRDS**.

Susan and I drove down to Bend, Oregon to see a **WHITE WAG-**

TAIL, a rare vagrant from Eurasia and a life bird for us. Bob Flores was also able to see and add this bird to his lists.

April 26, Paul Slichter and Susan Saul hiked the Grayback area of the Klickitat State Wildlife Area and found a group of **ACORN WOODPECKERS** at a granary tree with one bird always on guard while the others chased one another through a stand of oak trees.

Bob Flores made a successful trek to Bend to add the **WHITE WAGTAIL** to his list.

While searching for the reported ibis, a **CLARK'S GREBE** was seen at the Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel by Eric Bjorkman

April 29, 45 **GREAT EGRETS** were counted at the St. John's Road ponds by Les Carlson, they only began nesting west of the Cascade Mountains about 25 years ago.

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WELCOME

New members

Audrey Ansell • Marjorie Ball • Paula Brown • Jeffrey Brunson • Jason Buis • Rosalie Bustos • Harold Cheney • Stephen Chipps • John & Claribel Chapman Gift Fund held within the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington • Chris Cutler • James Davis • Barbara Dechet • Linda Doyle • Janet Ellis • Hoang Ford • Beverly Francis • Christina Franco • Chris Galvin • Mark Gawecki • Lisa Giacchino • David Hayes • Buz Howard • Mary Jadwisiak • Lynn Jenkins • Sharon Kenoski • Patricia Larson • Arlene Lehr • Hugh Lewis • Ardis Lyons • Linda McCall • Nicki Minaker • Nellie Morris • John Murphy • Mary Newman • Edward Rankin • Robert Raymond • Barbara Saur • Richard Scherer • C. Michael Stahl • Keri Swanson • Candy Thompson • Karen Walker • John Weimer • Sandra Winters

Transfer members

Frances Bass • Dave Budnik • Corrina Hall • Aliyah Mattila • Lois Schroeder • Michael Seitzinger

April 30, A very late **VARIED THRUSH** was reported from Salmon Creek by Michelle Maani. She also has nesting **BARRED OWLS** somewhere near her home.

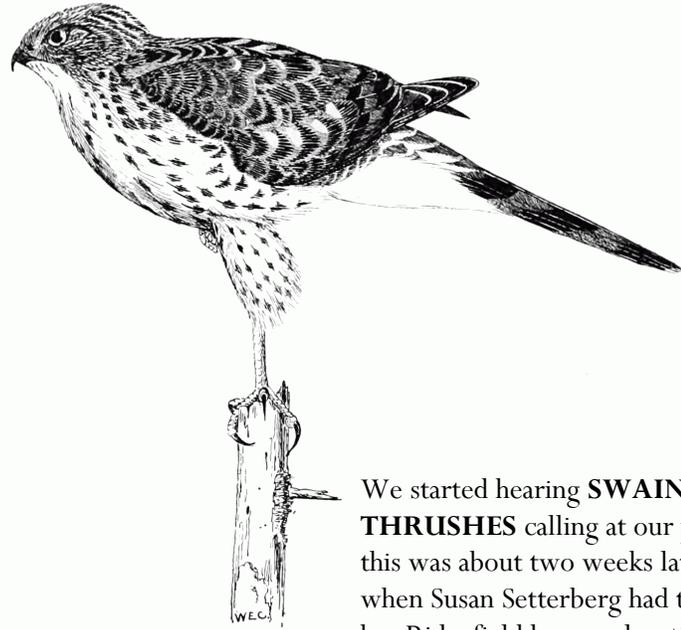
May 4, Michelle Maani photographed 2 **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** at the Ridgefield NWR, these lovely shorebirds have actually nested there once but are very rare in this county.

Randy Hill and Bob Flores headed out to Frenchman's Bar Park and found a few new birds including **SWAINSON'S THRUSH**, **CHIPPING SPARROW** and **WESTERN TANAGER**. They saw several **ORANGE-CROWNED**, **YELLOW**, **WILSON'S** and **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** along with a few **BULLOCK'S ORIOLES** and **WARBLING VIREOS**.

May 5, In Battle Ground, Jim Danzenbaker fell asleep to the sound of a **WESTERN SCREECH-OWL** outside his bedroom. The next morning he had his **FOY GREEN HERON** and **CEDAR WAXWINGS** for his yard.

Kevin Black was able to find the 2 **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** at the Ridgefield NWR.

May 8, We had a **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE** check out the activity at our feeders, we have only had them at our place a couple of times during the last forty years. We are at about 1,000' elevation and not near either water or cottonwoods where they are usually seen.



By the end of May, we should have all of the migrant birds return and nesting season will be in full swing, but there will still be a few lost or wandering birds to keep our interest going.

May 11, A **WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE** was calling from Bob Flores' Ridgefield area yard.

6 **YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRDS** were found in the Washougal Industrial Park by Steven Clark, most likely migrants although they used to nest at the nearby Steigerwald Lake NWR

May 12, Terry Anderson and John Bishop were delighted by a **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** at the Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit. There was also a report of a **SAGE THRASHER** at the River S Unit.

We started hearing **SWAINSON'S THRUSHES** calling at our place, this was about two weeks later than when Susan Setterberg had them at her Ridgefield home, elevation makes a big difference.

May 13, Susan and I birded the Conboy Refuge, in Klickitat County, finding **WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE**, **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, 2 **WESTERN KING-BIRDS** and an amazing 17 **SANDHILL CRANES**.

This year's migration was very slow at our place in the Columbia Gorge, but we attribute this to the pair of **COOPER'S HAWKS** nesting in our woods and their near constant presence around our feeders. By the end of May, we should have all of the migrant birds return and nesting season will be in full swing, but there will still be a few lost or wandering birds to keep our interest going. The Common Nighthawk is usually the last species to arrive in Washington State but they are now seldom reported from Clark County. So far in 2016, 188 species have been reported from Clark County and 128 from Skamania County.

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

June 2016

We're on the Web!



www.vancouveraudubon.com

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George Mayfield (360) 687-0360 or Eric Bjorkman (360) 695-3116

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