

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2008

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, **March 4, 6:45 PM** before the meeting.

***Tuesday, **Mar. 4, 7:30 pm**: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, **Mar. 3, 6:30 pm**: VAS Board Meeting at the home of George Mayfield, 24315 NE 59th Ave., Battleground 360-687-0360

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	31					

PROGRAM: *Mt. St. Helens:* *Survival & Revival of Life after a* *Major Volcanic Eruption*

by Charlie Crisafulli

(Research Ecologist with the USDA, Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Olympia, WA.)

The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens dramatically altered forest, meadow, riverine, and lake environments over a 250 square-mile area. The explosive eruption re-configured the landscape and killed or greatly reduced the types and numbers of plants and animals that had been present before the eruption.

Charlie will present information on the various & unexpected ways in which numerous plants & animals survived the big blast, describe the pace & pattern that organisms invaded the new landscape, & discuss the complex ecological interactions that developed among species during the 27 years following the eruption & his study of the ecology of plants, animals & fungi during that time.

By 2007, Mount St. Helens clearly demonstrated the remarkable resiliency of life as a diverse assemblage of plants, animals, and fungi had successfully colonized the disturbed area, and the once barren gray landscape was mostly green.

FIELD TRIP

A Search for the Sun: *Columbia River Gorge*

Leader: **Wilson Cady, 360-835-5947**

When: **March 29, Saturday**

Time: **8:00 AM**

Meet at: **Port of Camas-Washougal Marina**



What: An all day search for early migrant birds and wildflowers along with a chance to see some sunshine.

Bring food, beverages, bird book and binoculars and dress for the weather.



*****MEMBERS TRADING POST*****

If you have art work or books to sell 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% of the sale price on other art work. For more information call:

Sydney Reisbick 360-887-7880



VAS Upcoming Programs:

April: **T&T, Brazil** by Cindy & Mike Kinnie

May: **Alaska** by Taldi Walter, NAS

??? **Polar Bears** by Randy Hopper

Treasurer's Report. Income for January was \$10.64 and expenses were \$207.96. Total cash and investments were \$19,238.50. Net income for 2007 was \$990.83. The Bequest fund was \$226,056.03. The fund gained \$11,208.07 in 2007. In 2007 a grant was given for \$700. Two requests for grants, totaling \$8,000 have been received in 2008.

Membership. We have 723 National Audubon memberships. There are 244 paid newsletter subscriptions and 183 free subscriptions (copies to other Washington Audubon chapters, teachers and new National Audubon members). A motion was MSP to put a one page notice in the September newsletter, to be sent to all members, to inform

new members about newsletter subscriptions and remind current newsletter recipients of the November renewal date.

Conservation. Sydney Reisbick is on the Port of Ridgefield's citizen committee for the Port's expansion and new road access. She would like to hear of any ideas about environmental concerns and improvements.

New Business. The proposed budget for 2008 was approved. A motion was MSP to endorse John Karpinski for a Sammy award based on life time accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

Sauvie Island Christmas Bird Count - Vancouver Side

List compiled by Tammy Bjorkman (CBC held December 29, 2007)

WATERFOWL

19 Greater White-fronted Goose
3 Snow Goose
10,703 Cackling Goose
1,578 Canada Goose
64 Trumpeter Swan
1,991 Tundra Swan
10 Wood Duck
376 Gadwall
3 Eurasian Wigeon
1,379 American Wigeon
1,400 Mallard
1 Cinnamon Teal
598 Northern Shoveler
4,645 Northern Pintail
1,249 Green-winged Teal
63 Canvasback
2 Redhead
1,333 Ring-necked Duck
17 Greater Scaup
329 Lesser Scaup
132 Bufflehead
10 Common Goldeneye
49 Hooded Merganser
59 Common Merganser
183 Ruddy Duck



GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

2 Ring-necked Pheasant

LOONS, GREBES

6 Red-throated Loon
1 Pacific Loon
42 Pied-billed Grebe
3 Horned Grebe

6 Western Grebe PELICANS, HERONS, IBIS

224 Double-crested Cormorant
1 American Bittern
131 Great Blue Heron
66 Great Egret

RAPTORS

1 White-tailed Kite
54 Bald Eagle
59 Northern Harrier
2 Sharp-shinned Hawk
3 Cooper's Hawk
1 Red-shouldered Hawk
139 Red-tailed Hawk
11 Rough-legged Hawk
56 American Kestrel
1 Peregrine Falcon

RAILS, CRANES

1,604 American Coot
939 Sandhill Crane

SHOREBIRDS

17 Killdeer
23 Greater Yellowlegs
8 Wilson's Snipe

GULLS

59 Mew Gull
27 Ring-billed Gull
13 Herring Gull
31 Glaucous-winged Gull

DOVES, PIGEONS

281 Rock Pigeon
31 Mourning Dove

OWLS

2 Barn Owl
10 Great Horned Owl
5 Short-eared Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

6 Anna's Hummingbird

KINGFISHER

10 Belted Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS

5 Red-breasted Sapsucker
14 Downy Woodpecker
2 Hairy Woodpecker
114 Northern Flicker
5 Pileated Woodpecker

SHRIKES

1 Northern Shrike

CORVIDS

32 Steller's Jay
91 Western Scrub-Jay
489 American Crow
1 Common Raven

CHICKADEES, BUSHTITS

186 Black-capped Chickadee
5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee
130 Bushtit

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER

5 Red-breasted Nuthatch
11 White-breasted Nuthatch
12 Brown Creeper

WRENS

18 Bewick's Wren
1 House Wren
13 Winter Wren
13 Marsh Wren

KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS

35 Golden-crowned Kinglet
41 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

THRUSHES

1 Mountain Bluebird
4 Hermit Thrush

222 American Robin

18 Varied Thrush

STARLING

2394 European Starling

PIPITS

32 American Pipit

WARBLERS

3 Yellow-rumped Warbler

2 Townsend's Warbler

SPARROWS

105 Spotted Towhee
11 Savannah Sparrow
19 Fox Sparrow
334 Song Sparrow
8 Lincoln's Sparrow
1 White-throated Sparrow
37 White-crowned Sparrow
423 Golden-crowned Sparrow
133 Dark-eyed Junco

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES

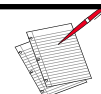
1,691 Red-winged Blackbird
90 Western Meadowlark
254 Brewer's Blackbird
7 Brown-headed Cowbird

FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH

13 Purple Finch
140 House Finch
94 Pine Siskin
128 American Goldfinch
39 House Sparrow

Totals: 109 species+

8 unidentified gulls



Why I Have Been Out of It for Awhile



I wrote no conservation column for the last *Flyway* because of a perforated ulcer in my small intestine. This landed me in the hospital, then a rehab facility, for a total of five weeks. I'm in recovery mode right now, but it will be a long haul. As of this writing, I am still weak and tire easily. I have been venturing out carefully. The result is that I am not as up on the issues as I would like to be. The following is what I have learned since I came home.

The Evergreen Cities Bill

The Evergreen Cities bill is one of the four priorities that the environmental groups agreed to work together on this legislative session. It is also one of Audubon's top priorities. See the December *Flyway* for more on this issue and the other priorities.

There is a bill in the Senate and one in the House, as is usual. As of this writing, the Senate bill (SB 6469) is out of the Natural Resources and Ocean & Recreation Committee and is now in Ways and Means. It must be voted out of Ways and Means by February 12th to remain alive.

Those interested in the bill negotiated a more voluntary approach for all the cities to developing urban forestry management plans and ordinances. Large cities, however, of 19,000 acres or more, would be required to adopt urban forestry management plans and ordinances after the model ordinance and management plan are made available statewide. The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) would prepare the model ordinance and management plan, which must be ready by 2010. Because of the cycle of updating comprehensive plans under the Growth Management Act (GMA), cities would have until 2018 to adopt their urban forest management plans and ordinances. Let us hope that there will be trees left by 2018. Vancouver, however, already has an urban forest management plan, so we are ahead of the game.

There was a big fight over funding. The fiscal forecast by the state economist is due February 15th and it is expected to be bleak as the economy is sliding down. According to the fiscal note for this bill, it would cost \$500,000 to implement. That is in addition to \$500,000 for grants to cities. One source of funding would be from voluntary contributions through check offs on utility bills.

As of this writing, the House bill (SHB 2844) is in appropriations and we are expecting a hearing on February 11th. The bill must be out of the appropriations committee by February 12th to remain alive.

Heath Packard, Audubon's lobbyist, is confident the bills will pass. Next month I can tell you what happened. This legislative session is a short session, only 60 days and should end by the middle of March.

Other Legislative Priorities: Global Warming

The bill in the House that addresses global warming through GMA (SHB 2797) is in appropriations and is meeting resistance. We are having trouble getting a hearing for the bill. The Senate bill (SSB 6580) is in Ways and Means.

The other global warming bill, the green jobs bills have seen the most action. These bills have been requested by the governor as well as being a priority issue for environmentalists. The utilities have been bent out of shape by these bills, however.



A Note on Legislative Process

For each issue, there often are companion bills, one each for the House and for the Senate. If the bills passed by each house are different, they go to a conference committee. The conference committee consists of members from both the House and Senate. The bill the conference committee passes out will go to each house and will be voted on, up or down, with no amendments allowed. By the way, all bills must be out of the house or origin by February 19th. Those that don't make it are dead. Unless there is a fiscal impact, such as an appropriation, in which case, the bill remains alive. I have been told, however, that there is such a thing as resurrection. A dead bill usually remains dead, but there have been exceptions.

Gretchen Starke



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members: Harry Anderson • Bob Blakey • Cape Horn-Skye Library • Tom Crabtree • Stephanie Ezat-Panah • Jeff Ernst • Michael Federovitch • Hugh Fiscus • William Gamble • Patty Ingraham • Edward Klunk • Cheryl Moulton • Hsiu Norris • Diane OrtheI • Barbara Owens • Susan Pomeroy • Robert Rowton • Sharon Schnelle • Karen Sharples • Patricia Sweringen • Blake/Barbara Waugh • Womens Clinic of Vancouver • Algrid Zalphys Jr.



We are in the doldrums of birding with only the wintering birds being around at this time and most of the wintering birds have been reported earlier. This is lucky for me since we experienced a power outage during the early February snowstorms that scrambled our e-mail losing all of the messages that I had saved for writing this column along with my saved addresses. Hopefully as things begin to warm up more birds will start moving around along with it being more comfortable for us humans to get out and bird. So far the 2008 County species are off to a slow start. People have only reported seeing 108 species in Clark County, which is 35% of all of the birds known to have ever been seen in the county. The cold east winds and heavy snow in the Gorge has discouraged anyone from doing any serious birding in Skamania County, so only 32 birds, 12% of the species listed for that county have been reported. Please let me know of any sightings that you have in either county for this list as well as for the Afield column.



Jan. 9, Susan and I headed to New Mexico for a week of birding and exploring in the Albuquerque area. Our main target bird species we were looking for were the Rosy-finches that come to feeders at the visitor's center on top of the 10,600' Sandia Crest which is only 18 miles from town. In that short distance you go from the dry sage grasslands to spruce forests on a paved road that was well maintained. This is the easiest spot to see all three species of these alpine finches as there are feeders outside the windows of the snack bar at the visitor's center so you can sit in warm comfort with hot coffee and food at hand and watch these birds feed on the snow covered deck only a few feet in front of you. I had already seen GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH on Mt. Rainer and BLACK ROSY-FINCH in the Humboldt Mountain Wilderness Area of northern Nevada but was in quest of the BROWN-CAPPED ROSY-FINCH which is localized in distribution to a small section of the Rocky Mountains.



Within minutes of sitting down to watch the feeders we had a flock of over 200 birds that contained all three species plus and extra sub-species of the Gray-crowned Rosy-finch known as Hepburn's.

With our target found on the first full day of birding we spent most of our time leisurely exploring the area visiting historical sites, museums and the Bosque Del Apache NWR. This refuge along the Rio Grande River is a wintering spot that held over 14,000 SANDHILL CRANES of both the Greater and Lesser subspecies and 45,000 SNOW and ROSS' GEESE. We ended our visit to the area with only 82 species seen and would like to return when things are warmer and greener there.

Jan. 15, GREAT HORNED OWLS were calling at our home. This is the best time of the year to search for many of the local owl species as they are now nesting and calling making them easier to locate.

Jan. 22, I checked the Vancouver Lake area and found a PACIFIC LOON and 2 CLARK'S GREBES at the Flushing Channel, and a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK along the slough just north of Vancouver Lake Park.

Jan. 23, A single TREE SWALLOW was reported by many observers from the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR.



Common Yellowthroat

Jan. 25, Ken Knittle invited me to join him in an all day quest to see how many species we could find in Clark County in one day. Despite the freezing weather we located 77 species including MUTE, TUNDRA and TRUMPETER SWANS, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, MERLIN, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT and SAVANNAH SPARROW.

Jan. 27, I flushed a RUFFED GROUSE from a Holly Tree while working on clearing the snow out of our driveway, a task that I had to repeat after only having the road open for two days.

Feb. 6, I was surprised to look out the window in the morning to see a dozen EVENING GROSBEAKS on the snow beneath our squirrel proof sunflower seed feeder.



Feb. 10, While checking the gulls around a dairy located at NE 10th Ave. near Ridgefield, Bob Flores found a mix of seven species including 2 GLAUCOUS GULLS and 4 THAYER'S GULLS. People don't seem to like to spend much time looking over flocks of gulls as they can be quite confusing especially with the number of hybrids that occur in the Northwest. If we get a decent run of smelt this spring you might find up to a dozen species in our area.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com



Finacial Report from VAS



2008 Budget vs. 2007 Actual

INCOME	2007 Actual	2008 Budget
BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST.....	551.03	475.00
BIRDATHON		
Donations	1,296.15	1,300.00
Corporate Grant	400.00	400.00
COFFEE FUND	40.71	40.00
DONATIONS	1,462.00	1,400.00
EDUCATION (Day Camp)	2,935.00	3,000.00
AUDUBON ADVENTURES	2,657.25	2,500.00
FUNDRAISING, Misc		
Trip	0.00	2,500.00
Birdfest	125.00	0.00
New NAS Members	180.00	150.00
MEMORIAL FUND	25.00	0.00
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY	1,920.75	1,785.00
WASHINGTON AUDUBON	100.00	0.00
NEWSLETTER		
Subscriptions	1,400.00	1,500.00
STORE SALES	549.20	500.00
REFUNDS.....	100.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	13,742.09	15,550.00

EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION		
Bank Charge.....	11.00	15.00
Conferences	0.00	500.00
Postage	130.80	130.00
Supplies	0.00	300.00
Printing	0.00	100.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	72.00	75.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee.....	10.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	170.00	200.00
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	145.00	175.00
COFFEE SUPPLIES	10.00	20.00
CONSERVATION		
Supplies/Printing/Misc.....	200.00	75.00
ACOW	0.00	500.00
Committee Meetings	0.00	100.00
Lobby Day	19.80	0.00
DONATIONS		
WA State Office	100.00	1,000.00
Misc. (Carving Show).....	100.00	100.00
Grant to Steigerwald Refuge.....	281.84	0.00
DUES/MEMBERSHIPS		
Futurewise	0.00	50.00
Columbia Land Trust.....	0.00	100.00
Friends of Clark County	0.00	150.00
WA. Environmental Council.....	100.00	100.00
WA. Wildlife & Rec. Coalition	0.00	50.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge	50.00	50.00
Nature Conservancy	85.00	40.00
Grizzly Bear Outreach.....	50.00	0.00
EDUCATION		
Supplies/Printing/Misc.....	373.78	350.00
Bird Box Maintenance	104.68	100.00
Nature Camp Salaries.....	3,615.00	3,000.00
Nature Camp Insurance	240.00	250.00
FUNDI RAISING (Calenders)	290.42	250.00
NEWSLETTER		
Supplies	48.61	150.00
Printing	1,700.74	2,730.00
Postage 2006.....	896.30	800.00
Bulk Mail Permit	175.00	185.00
OUTREACH		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	3,105.22	3,200.00
Audubon Adventrues—Supplies.....	9.07	50.00
PROGRAMS		
Speaker Dinners	0.00	50.00
Speaker Travel (3@300 miles@.32/mile) ..	174.60	100.00
PUBLICITY	107.60	125.00
RENT	375.00	270.00
STORE	0.00	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,751.26	15,550.00

2008 Bequest Funds vs. 2007 Actual

REVENUE	2007 Actual	2008 Budget
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EARNINGS	13,909.03	13,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,909.03	\$13,000.00
BEQUEST EXPENSES		
Misc Grants	0.00	8,000.00
Grant (Portland Audubon Hacker Proj)	1,500.00	1,500.00
Grant (Ellen Davis Trail	700.00	0.00
Community foundation Fees	1,700.00	2,300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	3,900.96	11,800.00
NET INCOME	\$10,008.00	\$1,200.00

OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRDFEST

SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

April 4-6, 2008



Visit the rain shadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

New this year: A three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2008, immediately following BirdFest. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center,
P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382
360-681-4076
info@olympicbirdfest.org
www.olympicbirdfest.org



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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.*



March 2008

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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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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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
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