

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2011

Calendar

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

***Tuesday, **Mar. 1, 7:30 pm**: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, **Feb. 28, 6:30 pm**: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Nancy Ellifrit, 3805 NE 160th St. Ridgefield 360-574-3621

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	28	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	31		

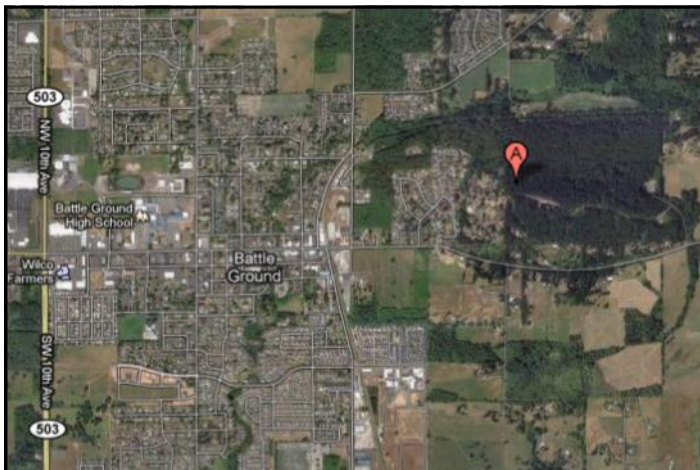
PROGRAM:

Tukes Mountain Land Use

by Bill Dygert

Bill Dygert will do a presentation on Tukes Mountain land use decisions and dilemmas. Bill will also update us on the land projects he told us about at our June meeting like, Fallen Leaf Lake, Lacamas Lake, & Whipple Creek.

Bill is excited to speak to VAS and hopes to build interest and support for the Tukes Mountain opportunities. Tukes Mountain is located just east of Battle Ground in Clark Co.



FIELD TRIP

Columbia River Gorge

Leader: Wilson Cady

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

When: *March 19, Saturday*

Time: *8:00 AM*

Meet at: *Port of Camas/Washougal*

All day Columbia Gorge early migrants and wildflowers tour. Bring birding gear, lunch and a sense of humor. Dress for the weather expect minimal hiking.



VAS Upcoming Programs:

April: India (a trip last November)

by *Sherry & Arden Hagen, Tammy & Eric Bjorkman*

Congratulations to VAS for 35 years of Conservation & Environmental Service to our community and beyond.

VAS was founded in September of 1975 and Chartered on December 18, 1975



Financial Report from VAS



2010 Actual vs. 2011 Budget

INCOME	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	152.24	155.00
BIRDATHON		
Donations	854.00	750.00
COFFEE FUND	27.00	25.00
DONATIONS	5,344.92	1,765.00
AUDUBON ADVENTURES	1,830.35	2,000.00
FUNDRAISING, Misc		
Trip	670.00	0.00
Calendars	77.24	0.00
MEMORIAL FUND	0.00	0.00
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY	200.00	1,786.00
NEWSLETTER		
Subscriptions	2,130.00	1,500.00
STORE SALES	325.00	200.00
REFUNDS	100.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	11,711.55	8,181.00

EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION		
Supplies	79.55	80.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	56.00	60.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	160.00	200.00
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	0.00	0.00
COFFEE SUPPLIES	50.93	40.00
CONSERVATION		
Conferences	130.86	125.00
ACOW	0.00	300.00
Committee Meetings	333.77	400.00
Lobby Day	0.00	100.00
DONATIONS		
WA State Office	0.00	1,000.00
Grant to Friends of Ridgefield NWR	2,000.00	0.00
DUES/MEMBERSHIPS		
Columbia Land Trust	100.00	100.00
WA. Environmental Council	100.00	100.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge	50.00	100.00
Nature Conservancy	50.00	100.00
Columbia Springs	100.00	100.00
Friends of Ridgefield NWR	0.00	100.00
Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards	0.00	100.00
NEWSLETTER		
Supplies	339.25	0.00
Printing	1,540.22	1,700.00
Postage 2006	921.10	600.00
Bulk Mail Permit	185.00	200.00
OUTREACH		
Audubon Adventures - VAS	1,962.95	2,000.00
Audubon Adventures—Supplies	51.04	0.00
PROGRAMS		
Speaker Travel (3@300 miles@.32/mile)	200.00	300.00
PUBLICITY	170.40	115.00
RENT	243.00	251.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,771.17	8,181.00
NET INCOME	\$2,940.38	

2010 Bequest Funds vs. 2011 Budget

REVENUE	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EARNINGS	15,764.28	15,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,764.28	\$15,000.00
BEQUEST EXPENSES		
Misc Grants	0.00	5,000.00
Columbia Land Trust	5,000.00	
Grant Audubon Washington	2,000.00	
Friends of Ridgefield NWR	2,000.00	
Grant (Portland Audubon Hacker Proj)	1,500.00	1,500.00
Community foundation Fees	2,106.29	2,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,606.29	8,500.00
NET INCOME	\$3,157.99	\$6,500.00

VAS News

VAS BOARD MEETING was held on **Jan. 31**. Hosted by **Eric Bjorkman** at **CLT Offices**. A quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report

Revenue for December \$481.71 and expenses \$1,019.46.

Revenue for January \$1865.75 and expenses \$1743.77
The board approved the budget for 2011.

Membership

Newsletter mailing is currently at 443.

Programs

April – Hagen/Bjorkman India presentation

Conservation

Gretchen updated the board on everything currently before the legislature concerning the environment and conservation.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Bjorkman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members: Joan Albert • Robert Ankenbauer • Hazel Barnes • Carol Bartley • Melinda Blakemore • Doris Brook • Gloria Burris • Raghothama Cauligi • Coral Constans • Dennis & Pat Cox • Barant & Sarah Dubois • Dawn Durgan • Kenneth Evans • Ron & Fran Stevens • Ron Freer • Lavona Golden • Shelly Hansen • David Hayes • Thomas Hillis • Joanne Hurley • Teri Kirkpatrick • Alexander Lee • Douglas & Marci Taylor • Sharon Mayhew • Veronica McClaskey • Sheila Mitchell • Mary Mullins • Robert Sawyer • Jerry Stone • Faith Strong • Justine Ward • Nick Welsh • D. Winters
Transfer members: Amy Sidran



message/fax (360) 253-5771

Everything for the Wild Bird enthusiast™

8101 N.E. Parkway • Vancouver, Washington 98662 • (360) 253-5771



Legislative Happenings

Audubon Washington has a policy advocate for this session of the legislature. He is Neil Beaver and will be under contract for the session and a bit afterwards. Tahoma Audubon will administer the contract.

Improving oil spill prevention and response is one of Audubon's priorities. The Senate bill was heard in a hearing held in late January. In addition to environmental groups, the bill is supported by the tribes, local governments, and shellfish and whale-watching businesses. The oil industry opposes the bill; they say it isn't necessary. During the hearing, one of the senators asked if increasing the penalty from one dollar per gallon spilled to three gallons was really unreasonable. The oil representative said that it was and without merit. On the house side, Representative Jim Jacks from the 49th District is one of the cosponsors of the companion bill. Jacks, along with Jim Moeller, also 49th District, also cosponsored the house bill to limit phosphorus in fertilizer. Senator Craig Pridemore, 49th District, has cosponsored the Senate bill on fertilizer.

The Sierra Club has come out strong for shutting down the coal-fired power plant, TransAlta, located in Centralia. At the Sierra Club's behest, a bill to do just that was introduced in the house. Among the environmental groups, the Sierra Club is taking the lead.

Shorelines Management Master Program Updates

The stakeholders group, of which I am a member, has finished work for a while. The draft package, including shoreline designations (urban conservancy, rural conservancy, natural, high intensity, medium intensity), allowed uses, and regulations, will be available to the public the first part of March. There will be one month to allow public comment, although this will not be the last word. There will be three open houses the middle of March. The times and places are:

Windows and Birds

Birds colliding with windows accounts for at least 100 million bird deaths a year. Having never evolved with windows in their environment, birds don't understand that glass is a barrier. (Come to think of it, people have been known to occasionally walk into a plate glass window with unpleasant results.) There are measures, such as putting decals on windows, that individuals can do, but that does not address the problem of windows in office buildings, commercial buildings and apartment buildings and condominiums. There are measures that a builder can take to reduce the number of bird strikes and the technology of design is improving all the time. A number of cities have adopted bird safe building guidelines to encourage builders to install windows that are safe for birds. Portland

Audubon has been working to bird strikes over there.

The shorelines management regulations will have a statement concerning bird safe windows on tall buildings, referring to the best available technology. The regulations cannot refer to specific publications, organizations, or city codes from elsewhere.

A Sad Note on Pink River Dolphins in the Amazon



As a member of Earthwatch, I received electronic newsletters from them. Dr. Bodner, the researcher of the Amazon River project I was on last spring, reported on the severe drought that "...the extreme low water levels of the Samiria River in 2010 are reducing habitat extent for many species and have a negative impact on the river dolphin population structure overall..erall, pink river dolphin numbers have decreased by 47 per cent and the grey river dolphin by 49 per cent compared with previous years' population estimates. The dolphins have been forced to leave their habitats in the Samiria River and find refuge in the larger channels of the Amazon." Dr. Bodner is concerned that climate change would mean increased droughts and further damaging impact on wildlife in the Amazon.

A Quick Note on What Appears to be Politics

All of life is political. This is especially true in a democracy. As we live in a representative democracy, we are privileged to try and influence the policies that affect all aspects of our life. That includes policies for these things we care for; in this case, presumably, birds. As the various people who run for and get elected to office, they come with different philosophies and levels of knowledge. Their knowledge, philosophies, and priorities affect their actions -- actions that include votes for legislation. As Audubon is a non-profit, I cannot tell you whom to vote for. I have an obligation, however, to tell you how the actions of various elected officials affect the welfare of birds and other wildlife. Armed with that information, you can make up your own minds on what to do with your ballot. It is your obligation to become as informed as you possibly can. Democracy cannot work without a well-informed people.

Gretchen Starke



- Jan. 2, Jim Danzenbaker was participating in the Portland CBC and spotted the following birds among the more common species in the Columbia River near the Portland Airport: **5 SURF SCOTERS**, 1 immature male **BLACK SCOTER**, **4 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, **1 TUFTED DUCK** and **1 EARED GREBE**.

- Jan. 5, Stuart Johnston reported a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** at Bingen, there are only a couple of previous records of this hawk from Klickitat County.

- Jan. 6, I birded my way up the Columbia Gorge finding **TRUMPETER SWAN** IN Skamania County from the Franz Lake NWR overlook, a **WESTERN GULL** at Bonneville Dam, and a **EURASIAN WIGEON** and a **REDHEAD** at Rock Creek Cove in Stevenson. At Home Valley Park there was an **EARED GREBE** and when I got to Bingen, in Klickitat County, I was able to locate the **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** with the help of Stuart Johnston, this was my 242 bird seen in that county.

- Jan. 7, Lyn Topinka went to LaFrambois Road, off of Fruit Valley Road, in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and relocated the **BLACK PHOEBE** wintering there.

- Jan. 8, Ken Knittle and Tom Mansfield birded from Bingen to Vancouver, their highlights included 1 **GOSHAWK** and 1 **PEREGRINE FALCON** at the Bingen Marina where there also was a small flock of **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** in the trees. At Bonneville Dam there was 1 first year **GLAUCOUS GULL** and further downstream, at the fish hatchery, there was an adult **WESTERN GULL**. Franz Lake NWR had **25+ CANVASBACKS**, lots of **TUNDRA SWANS**, and 1 **TRUMPETER SWAN** on the far shore. At Columbia Way, in Vancouver, among the **BARROW'S** and **COMMON GOLDENEYES** there were **3 SURF SCOTERS**.

- Jan. 9, Dennis Paulson photographed the hybrid male **AMERICAN WIGEON x MALLARD**, on the channel along the south side of Rest Lake at Ridgefield NWR. On La Frambois Road, Jim Johnson heard a repeated call coming from a Himalayan blackberry patch. After some pishing, a yellow bird popped out and to his surprise it turned out to be a female or immature male **MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER**. This is a very rare winter record of this species.

- Jan. 10, Scott Carpenter, found a hybrid **WHITE-THROATED x GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** at the Ridgefield River "S" Unit.

- Jan. 14, Les Carlson, Bob Rowe, Barry Woodruff and I went on a four day Washington Ornithological Society tour of southeast Washington. We saw over 100 species including **PACIFIC LOON**, **LONG-TAILED DUCK**, **PRAIRIE FALCON**, **GLAUCOUS GULL**, **WESTERN SCREECH-OWL**, **SHORT-EARED OWL**, **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**, **LESSER GOLDFINCH** and **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH**.

- Jan.16, Ken Knittle, Anne Kahle, & Carol Kohler went to Ocean Shores in Gray's Harbor County and saw a **MOUN-**

TAIN PLOVER, a species seldom seen in the Pacific Northwest. It was a lifebird for Carol.

- Jan.20, Les Carlson and his wife went down past Vancouver Lake Park and got good looks at a **SHORT-EARED OWL**, plus distant views of two others. **SANDHILL CRANES** were across from the park with several hundred **SNOW GEESE**.

- Jan. 21, A **MERLIN** perched in a shrub in front of our front room for over thirty minutes giving us great views.

- Jan. 22, Carol and Don Kohler went to McKinleyville, California and saw the **BROWN SHRIKE** and were able to get some really great looks at this super rare bird from Asia.



- Jan. 23, Michael Hobbs visited our area and at the Woodland Bottoms, there was a pair of **TRUMPETER SWANS** in with the more common Tundra Swans. In the Columbia River, there were two female **WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** and a **RED-THROATED LOON**. Along the Waterfront Renaissance Trail in Vancouver he had a **RED-THROATED LOON**. At Vancouver Lake, there were 3 **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** at the flushing channel. At Ridgefield, on the auto route, I was surprised to see a **BLUE-WINGED TEAL**.

- Jan. 25, A **GOLDEN EAGLE** was spotted by Scott Carpenter on auto-route at the River S Unit of Ridgefield NWR.

- Jan.27, In addition to **KILLDEER** and **WILSON'S SNIPE** that are expected in winter, Elaine and Randy Hill had 11 **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, 1 **LESSER YELLOWLEGS**, and 4 **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS** in Canvasback Lake on the Ridgefield NWR. At South Big Lake they spent a bit of time going through more than **60 TREE SWALLOWS** foraging over the water but found no other swallow species with them. A **ROSS'S GOOSE** was photographed by Kevin Welsh on the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR. This small white goose is less than annual in Clark County.

- Jan. 28, Both **WHITE THROATED SPARROW** and **TOWNSENDS WARBLER** were still in being seen in Les Carlson's yard.

- Jan. 29, Tom Mansfield and Ken Knittle birded the Woodland Bottoms where they had 1 **TURKEY VULTURE**, 1 **DUNLIN**, 2 **COOPER'S HAWKS**, 1 **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**, many **GREAT EGRETS**, lots of **SANDHILL CRANES**, and a **GREAT HORNED OWL**. They finished the day birding Vancouver Lake area where they had **700 SNOW GEESE**, 2 **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** 1 **COOPER'S HAWK** and 1 **PILEATED WOODPECKER** and a **COMMON LOON** on the Columbia River.

("Afield" Continued on next page)

("Afield" Continued)



• Jan. 30, Tom Mansfield and Ken Knittle checked the Bingen Marina and found the **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** first reported by Stuart Johnston. Randy Hill followed up on the earlier report of **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** AT Vancouver Lake and found three at the Flushing Channel. This bird is normally found on saltwater. Arden and Sherry Hagen had a **RED-BREASTED SAPUCKER** bathing in the water feature at their home in Cascade Park, the first in

many years.

• Jan. 31, At the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit, Randy Hill had the **BLACK PHOEBE** and a **EURASIAN WIGEON** near the hunter gate. Two **BARN SWALLOWS** along with a **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW** along with over 60 **TREE SWALLOWS**.

• Feb. 3, Randy Hill found 60-70 swallows at the Ridgefield NWR, including 10 **BARN SWALLOWS** with the rest being **TREE SWALLOWS**. A shallow disked wetland had 55 **WILSON'S SNIPE** bathing, resting, and foraging along the edge.

Joan Durgin reported a male **COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD** coming to her feeder in Camas during the cold weather event in early January. I searched for this bird without success but there are many feeders in her neighborhood where it could have been.

Both George Mayfield and Nancy Ellifrit have had **EVENING GROSBEAKS** coming to their feeders all winter, while we haven't had any at our place since early last fall. This is a species with no regular occurrence or migration patterns.

A trip to the Sonny Bono NWR at the Salton Sean in southern California produced a **BEAN GOOSE** for Gary Settje. There are only a couple of records of this Eurasian goose in the lower forty-eight states.

There have been numerous reports of a **BLACK SWAN** in our area with several coming from the vicinity of Marine Park. This is an Australian species and obviously has escaped from captivity.

By the end of February we can expect to see some of the early migrant birds returning, this would include Cinnamon Teal, Turkey Vulture, Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird, and possibly Rufous Hummingbird. This year we have already had sightings in Clark County of birds that are out of the expected date range for their return so it may prove to be a very interesting spring. Please send me your sighting reports of returning birds, of both the common and uncommon species. For the 2011 Cumulative County Yearlist Project there have been 134 species reported as having been seen in Clark County and only 73 species from lightly birded Skamania County.

If you find anything you feel is unusual contact me or Arden and Sherry Hagen as soon as possible for confirmation and so we can obtain photographs.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

The Backyard & Beyond...

Arden & I have done some "Beyond" the backyard birding this winter. In November we joined Tammy & Eric Bjorkman along with a friend of theirs plus her friend from San Diego for a 2 week tour of INDIA. We had a BALL on this trip laughing & teasing each other. Not only were we birding and looking for tigers, we also visited several old forts and palaces of India learning about some of their history. It was fascinating. The most impressive place we visited was of course the Taj Mahal. It was absolutely beautiful.

In late December, Wilson, Barry & Les joined us for an overnight trip to McKinleyville, CA to see the rare **BROWN SHRIKE** using a small coastal area as it's winter home. This bird is from Asia.

In January, Arden & I joined 6 others on a tour of Thailand. This was more geared towards photography and even though I love taking photos, birding is my first priority. Luckily we had a guiding couple from Thailand that we thoroughly enjoyed along with another Canadian birder who is teaching English in Korea. When the five of us were together we saw lots of birds and had a great time.

The difference between India and Thailand was like night and day. India was dirty with garbage everywhere and people using the side of the road for a bathroom. Thailand was clean and had public bathrooms if you consider a "step up from a hole in the ground" a bathroom. India had awful roads and almost non-existent freeways where Thailand had great roads and freeways where driving 60-70 mph was possible. The people in India, especially the kids and young men were so very friendly that they gathered around us making us feel like "Rock Stars" whether we were birding in the field or waiting at the train station. The people in Thailand were more oblivious to our existence there. They were probably more use to visiting foreigners than the people in the rural parts of India that we visited. In India we were constantly bombarded by street vendors "in our face" trying to sell us their wares and on other occasions by people wanting money. We saw none of that in Thailand. We drove from Bangkok, Thailand to ChiangMai in the NW corner. The country we saw was much like different areas of the USA. The more tropical area of Thailand is in the southern peninsula. Arden and I plan to go back before too long & have Games & Ian guide us there.

Each country has plenty of birds and we saw lots in both. We would have a larger list in Thailand had we not just gone to India where some of the species overlap. We saw about 218 species in India with 146 lifers. In Thailand I totaled 265 with 179 (Sherry) & 182 (Arden) lifers. Yes, Arden manage to sneak a peek at 3 more than I did. He says I was busy taking photos of the last bird while they moved on to the next but I know one he saw when he took a bathroom break!!! **Our India Program by the Bjorkman's & us will be presented at the April meeting.**

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1966
Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vancouver, WA
PERMIT# 976**

vancouveraudubon.org

*Mission Statement:
Vancouver Audubon
believes in the wisdom
of nature's design and
promotes this through
education, involvement,
stewardship, enjoyment
and advocacy.*



March 2011

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

Help support Vancouver Audubon

**Flyway Renewal
date:**
November 1st
every year

I wish to subscribe to Vancouver Audubon's newsletter "The Columbia Flyway" for \$10/year.

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* ***

C9ZY130Z

Do Not share my name or any of my personal information with other organizations

Please include this coupon and make check payable to and send to:
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

- President..... Eric Bjorkman 695-3116 bjorkmante@iinet.com
- Vice-Pres Marilyn Hall 253-6865 marlynnhall@comcast.net
- Secretary..... Tammy Bjorkman.... 213-6489 bjorkmante@iinet.com
- Treasurer Joan Durgin 834-5621 jdurgin1@hotmail.com
- Education OPEN
- Conservation..... Gretchen Starke..... 892-8617 gstarke@pacifier.com
- Membership George Mayfield 687-0360 gomayf@comcast.net
- Field Trips Arden Hagen..... 892-8872 iambakerman@comcast.net
- Publicity..... Tracy Snow..... 503-810-2164 tlnowbird@comcast.net
- Programs Bob Rowe 254-8699 rowe9629@comcast.net
- Sightings Wilson Cady..... 835-5947 gorgebirds@juno.com
- Editor..... Sherry Hagen..... 892-8872 vas@pacifier.com
- Mailings..... Bonnie Bingle..... 576-0330 audubonnie@comcast.net
- Volunteer Cor OPEN
- Refreshments..... Cindy Mayfield 687-0360 gomayf@comcast.net