



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2015

Calendar

***Tuesday, Mar. 3, 6:45 pm: 30 minute mini program or class ***

***Tuesday, Mar. 3, 7:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Tuesday, Mar. 27, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Joan Durgin
1548 NE 5th Ave., Camas 360-834-5621

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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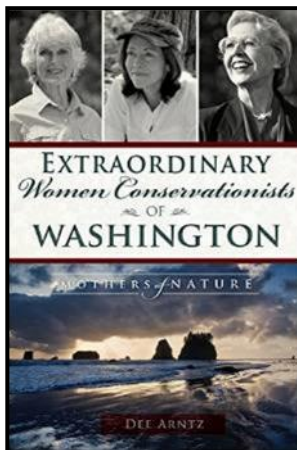
PROGRAM: Mothers of Nature: Extraordinary Women Conservationists of Washington

by author: Dee Arntz

The author will discuss her book and the stories of 28 women together with the conservation issues they tackled, and their accomplishments.

Fay Fuller became the first woman to climb Mt. Rainier in 1890. Polly Dyer and Emily Haig worked to maintain and expand Olympic National Park, and later were instrumental in the establishment of the North Cascades National Park and over 1,000,000 acres Model Toxics Control Act to pick up where federal authority left off. Six women, nicknamed the Steel Magnolias, ensured the passage of Growth Management Acts in 1990 and 1991 that still control growth to protect Washington's natural beauty.

Deirdre Arntz is a writer and a member of the Audubon Society, a former board member of Seattle Audubon, and former chair of that group's nationally recognized Washington Wetlands Network. She served as a board member of the Washington Environmental Council. She has degrees from University of Washington, San Francisco State, and Boston College.



FIELD TRIP

South Jetty Columbia River



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: March 21, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Salmon Creek Park & Ride at 134th St.
(Tenney St) & 10th Ave.

We will be looking for waterfowl, seabirds and early shorebird migrants. Prepare for wet weather and bring a lunch for this all day event.

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

Welcome New Members Myrtle Adams • Kareen & Marvin Bibby • Linda Branae • Gary Brown • Elizabeth Campbrill • Heidelore Duckett • Bob Flores • Scott Graham • Elizabeth Hall • Berenice Jolliver • James Lanz • Sam Long • J. McBrien • Corinne McWilliams • Jayanathan Ratnathicam • Margaret Rhode • Anthony Rhodig • Marcie Rivera • Kiana Lee Rose • Charles Snow • Janice Sorensen • Barbara Splawm • Richard Stagg • Lawrence Stryker • Elizabeth Sturtevant • Sue Thomasson • Tammy Wagner • Bob Weber • Ken Woodson
Transferred Members: Ted Garber • Thomas Webster

Vancouver Audubon

Shorter Local Field Trips Will Be Offered

Aimed directly for people new to birding or for those with limited free time.

We're trying something new at Vancouver Audubon and we think you're going to like it!

This year we'll provide more opportunities to help you enjoy your favorite hobby. Typically, we offer full day field trips on a near-monthly basis that cover various parts of the state with different habitats that you can access on a day trip. A birding enthusiast with any skill level is welcome to participate. However, these trips are often day long adventures and aren't geared for beginning or casual birders.

Susan Setterberg, Vancouver Audubon's vice-president, has offered to host a handful of local half-day trips that are aimed directly at folks who are new to birding or for those with limited free time.

Susan's first trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. It will start at 8:00 am at the Kiwa Trail, (a 1 ½ mile walking loop through oak woodland and cattail marsh).

The Kiwa Trail is a part of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge's River "S" Unit and a walk on this trail may produce upwards of 40 species of birds in early May. Along the trail Susan will talk about habitat and migration. Understanding which birds prefers which type of habitat and food sources will help you find and identify birds and enhance your experience and improve your identification skills.

Bird species expected to be seen in spring are Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird, along with numerous species of waterfowl. With luck we may see a Sora or Virginia Rail. These birds will certainly be around and will likely be heard giving their distinct calls all the while remaining very secretive as they wade through the reeds. Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles are also common at Ridgefield.

Remember admission price to River S is \$3.00 per carload if you don't have a yearly pass. Bring water & snacks. Mosquitos can be bad this time of year so you may want to carry insect repellent.

All levels of birder (and all ages) are welcome!



Volunteers Wanted

As we learned at our February meeting from Chris Lapp, the manager of the Ridgefield NWR complex, there are quite a few projects in the works at all of our local refuges. For instance, a few years ago Columbian White-tailed Deer were introduced to the Ridgefield refuge and to accommodate the number of deer they hope to sustain, they must create better habitat for them by planting more trees- 7,600 to be exact. They have already planted approximately 5,000 of these trees but they need help from volunteers to reach their goal of an early March completion date.

Many of us have visited Ridgefield to bird and enjoy wild-life and we know that we're blessed to have this jewel nearby. Here's a unique chance for you to get involved! Dates volunteers are needed are **Wednesday, March 4th and Saturday, March 7th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.**

If you want to help out by volunteering, contact Emily Long at (360) 887-3883 or email her at emily_long@fws.gov.

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.

Another Monkey Wrench is Threatened

Yes, the update of the county's growth management plan may be derailed. The growth management plan lays out a blueprint for the county's pattern of growth. Where the resource lands of agriculture and forestry should be. How big, in area, should each city be. What kind of development should there be in the rural area, those low density areas for people who want to live in the country, but don't want to actively farm. In Clark County, the minimum lot size is five acres, which is about as dense as it should be.

Clark County has hired a consultant to work on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS). In January, I attended a work session on the progress of the growth plan update. In a work session, the staff updates and informs the councilors (because of the adoption of the new county charter, county commissioners are now called councilors) on specific issues.

The consultant was almost done with the draft and it was to be presented to the public before a joint meeting of the planning commission and the county councilors in a couple of weeks. Staff presented the councilors with the timeline needed to get the update done in time.

Councilor Madore balked at approving the timeline. Instead, he said that he wanted another "option," a rural "option," in which the lot sizes could be smaller than five acres. Well! There followed quite a discussion among the staff and the councilors and a rural resident, one Don McIsaac who, apparently, spoke on behalf of a group, Clark County Citizens United (CCCU). This McIsaac claimed that the rural people had not had a "seat at the table." Legal staff contradicted him -- CCCU had submitted comments weekly for a year, had appeared at every public event, and had met with members of the staff and the councilors. She said that the rural people had not had their way and the fact that they had not was not a legally defensible complaint.

The upshot of all this is that the consultant was to be told to stop work on the DSEIS, the release of the document was to be cancelled, and the staff was to start work on the rural "option." If the rural "option" (or, alternative, to use the correct terminology) would cause a significant change -- which it would if it called for lot sizes smaller than five acres -- a full blown EIS would be required. This would definitely mean that the county would miss the June, 2016 deadline required by the Growth Management Act and would be out of compliance. The county would be ineligible for state grants. Then, there would also be the strong possibility of lawsuits against the county.

The Governor's Carbon Bill and other Legislative Happenings

Governor Inslee requested a bill that would put a price on carbon and create a carbon market program that would reduce the state's carbon emissions over time. There are two bills: the house bill, HB 1314 and the companion bill, SB 5283. All the environmental groups are supporting these bills. As of this writing, HB 1314 is in the House Environment Committee. Clark County legislators Liz Pike and Paul Harris are on that committee. The hearings were at the end of January, on two days because there is so much interest in this bill. Businesses, in general oppose it (one quote, "we are for supporting the environment, but ..." there is always a but.) The state Labor Council supports it. Labor recognizes the risk to their jobs from global warming. SB 5283 is in the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee. Annette Cleveland (49th District) is on that committee and she co-sponsored that bill.

Another pair of bills, HB 1449 and SB 5087, requested by the governor addresses oil transportation safety, an issue of vital concern for us in Clark County. HB 1449 would require public disclosure of oil transportation information including where and when, requires financial responsibility on the part of those involved in transporting oil, and authorizes oil spill prevention measures. It would be paid for by an increase in the oil barrel tax. Sharon Wylie (49th District) is a co-sponsor. All representatives of those districts that include the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks should also co-sponsor HB 1449, but they are not. In Clark County that would be the 17th and 18th districts. As of this writing, HB 1449 is in the Environment Committee. A hearing was held on February 3 and this bill also attracted a lot of interest. Of course, all environmental groups support it. A transportation industry official testified that the bill was not necessary because local first responders already have the information they need. Which contradicts what our local officials have been saying. SB 5087 has been referred to the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee, where it still is as of this writing. Cleveland also co-sponsored this bill. It appears that all the action on these the governor requested bills is all in the House right now.

Audubon is also supporting a bill that would manage forage fish -- fish that are an important part of the diet of seabirds. Of local interest and concerning growth management, is a bill, introduced by Pike, that would allow local governments to bypass the Growth Board and go directly to Superior Court. The idea is to provide more "local control," that is, developer control, over growth management. One Carol Levanen of CCCU (see above) asked Pike for the bill.

Gretchen Starke 

Jan. 8, At the Steigerwald Lake NWR I saw the continuing **WHITE-TAILED KITE**, a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** and **5 WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**.

Jan. 13, The adult male **TUFTED DUCK** continues just west of the boat ramp at Marine Park. Jim Danzenbaker and Ann Nightingale saw it in with some Lesser Scaup.

Jan. 14, Ray Korpi reported that at least one **ACORN WOODPECKER** was still at the Academy in Vancouver. Later, Pamela Gunn came upon a female **NORTHERN FLICKER** plucking acorns out of a pole hole and then being set upon by the furious **ACORN WOODPECKER** that had stored the acorns there.

Jan. 15, Les Carlson said that the birds to be very active today before it started raining. he saw 26 species out of their living room window including six sparrows in the yard with **FOX, SONG, WHITE-THROATED, WHITE-CROWNED, GOLDEN-CROWNED**, and even though it's an old world finch he counted the **HOUSE SPARROW** just because it's got sparrow in the name. Along with these birds he reported that an **escaped MANDARIN DUCK** was in his neighborhood pond. Luke Hanes saw the continuing Tufted Duck at Marine Park, he could see the **PELAGIC CORMORANT** on the OR side from the dock at Red Lion Inn, but is determined to see it in Clark County.

Jan. 16, During a quick stop at the Franz Lake NWR overlook in Skamania County, I was rewarded with the sounds of calling **TRUMPETER SWANS** coming from the flock of **TUNDRA SWANS** on the lake. I counted about ten of these birds just below the viewing platform. I then continued east to Underwood and added **7 WILD TURKEYS** and a **MERLIN** to my year list.

Jan. 22, While working on his Clark County Big Year, Bob Flores added **AMERICAN DIPPER, GRAY JAY** and **SOOTY GROUSE** while birding in the area around Larch Mt. Les Carlson and I were also birding in Clark County and found **TRUMPETER SWANS** at the Ridgefield NWR, the **RED-THROATED LOON** at Marine Park and over **100 CANVASBACKS** on Post Office Lake in the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

Jan. 23, After seeing the **RED-THROATED LOON** three times over the past several years and earlier this year from Washington but not in Washington waters, Jim Danzenbaker finally saw it on the Washington side from where the **TUFTED DUCK** continues at Marine Park.

Jan. 25, Bob Flores walked out into his Ridgefield front yard to a singing **WILSON'S WARBLER** for his 114th Clark County bird in 2015. These warblers are very rare here in the winter and should not arrive here as a migrant until mid-April.

Jan. 29, While birding on Larch Mountain Jim Danzenbaker, Bob Flores and Randy Hill heard a calling **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL**. They next spotted a **MERLIN** perched

on a tree top and later came across a singing **AMERICAN DIPPER** in Rock Creek. While returning home they stopped at the Fire Station on NW Rawson Rd (139th) and found a single **RED CROSSBILL** and a singing **HUTTON'S VIREO**. When he got home, Bob counted 37 **MOURNING DOVES** under his feeder, where he says the normal maximum number is about 8 doves on any given day.

Feb. 2, Jim Danzenbaker, Randy Hill and Bob Flores did a one-day trip to Crescent City, CA to see a male **COMMON SCOTER** in the harbor there, it is the first record of this Eurasian duck in the United States. Luckily the bird continued to stay so that Les Carlson and I got to see it on a overnight trip two days later.

Feb. 4, A very early **TURKEY VULTURE** was seen over the Washougal River by Ray Korpi. Randy and Elaine Hill found both **TREE and BARN SWALLOWS** at the River S Unit of the Ridgefield NWR, other notable birds they saw there were a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** and a **SWAMP SPARROW**.

Feb. 5, A **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK**, one of the few reported locally this winter was seen at the Ridgefield NWR by Luke Hanes.

Feb. 6, Bob Flores located a calling **LONG-EARED OWL** along NW Krieger Rd., near Campbell Lake, south of Ridgefield. There are only a handful of previous records of this species in Clark County.

Feb. 7, Luke Hanes searched for the Long-eared Owl reported by Bob Flores and found calling **BARRED OWLS** there instead. A flock of over **10,000 SNOW GEESE** were found by Bob Flores in the Vancouver Lake lowlands, he was able to pick out a couple of **ROSS'S GEESE** among them, for his 127th species in Clark County this year. Randy Hill and Jim Danzenbaker also got to enjoy this spectacle.

Feb. 8, A **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE** was still present at Jim Johnson's Vancouver feeder where it has been seen since Dec. 17, 2014.

The number of **SNOW GEESE** at Vancouver Lake increased to about 20,000 birds and included a few of the dark morph variety formally called a Blue Goose. This is the largest flock I have ever heard of in Clark County. February is when the first of the Spring migrants begin arriving with Turkey Vultures, Tree Swallows, Violet-green Swallows and Rufous Hummingbirds being some of the most noticeable arrivals. To check what the average arrival dates for species in our area are go to: <https://birdsoverportland.wordpress.com/oregon-migration-phenology/>

The 2015 Cumulative County List project is off to a good start with 133 species reported from Clark County as of the end of January but only 65 were reported from Skamania

Vancouver Audubon

County where the cold temperatures and high winds have limited visits from birders. The complete county lists for Washington will be posted at the end of every second month at:

http://www.wabirder.com/county_yearlist.html

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

The Backyard & Beyond...

If you read last months "The Backyard & Beyond" you already know that I suffered from a bad case of Giardia from our trip to Madagascar right after our trip to South Africa last fall. I had finished my medication on January 12 and we were leaving on the Vancouver Audubon Fund Raiser Trip to Ecuador on January 23rd. I was still very weak and tired so it was iffy whether I would be able to go or if I did go, would I be able to participate in all the hikes. It got down to 5 days before leaving when I finally felt life was returning to my body and I had a lot to do to get ready but I made it. I received glasses just 2 days before leaving to correct the astigmatism from the cataract surgery so I could see but having been years since I wore glasses to bird...YUK!! I did trouble and missed some birds on the trip.

Joan Durgin, Bob & Carol Carson and Bonnie Bingle from VAS joined Arden & I as the organizers of this trip. Joan's friend Wil, our friends from Indiana & Ohio, Suzie and Jason also joined us for a total of 9.

We were lead by our long time friend and guide, Edison Buenaño for Swordbilled Expeditions. He is phenomenal. He knows every call and names the birds as the fly by when all we see is "something" until it lands and we get a good look. (www.swordbilled.expeditions.com).

We had a great time on the trip with a lot of humor, jokes and laughter.

We landed in Quito at the new airport and after just a 4 hours or so of sleep started out the next morning for the Yanacocha Jocotoco Reserve for a hike for birds and the hummingbird feeders where everyone got their first taste of the wonderful hummingbirds of Ecuador. We were already at 10,500 feet.; Joan had come down with a cold just before we left so she was not feeling well. Luckily it ran it's course after a few days and she was able to enjoy the rest of the trip. Carol suffered from the altitude as so did I as I had a altitudinal migraine. Others had headaches too. Next was a stop at Tony's Place, the top place for hummingbirds in Ecuador. Arden & I even picked a couple lifers and we'd even been there before.

The famous Angel Paz fed antpitta's to everyone's delight

after watching the beautiful Cock-of the-Rock males on the lek. Then we ate breakfast while the beautiful Velvet Purple Coronets flashed their beautiful purple, blue & other colors. We visited the Oil-bird caves (Edison claims is the best place to see them and we had to agree).

We stopped at the Equator Monument for photos. What fun. More days of birding at high altitudes of 13,712 and 14,500ft and more headaches and migraines. But the birds that live that high are at least out in the open and not hidden in tree leaves. At the 8500ft lodge, Carol & I had to stay put and re-cooperate while the others made another trip higher up again.



Velvet Purple Cornet
(See on-line for color photo)

Our next lodge was at San Isidro at 700ft & new hummingbirds awaited the group the feeders & other birds in the trees. It rained off & on, more on the east side than on the west side so umbrellas were use more. Some wore out.

Next spot was Sumaco Lodge (2000ft).. Arden and I had never been. New hummingbirds and some great looks at the exciting owls in the evening and day time. More antpitta and other birds were fed worms for great looks and photo ops.

And then it was time to head back to Quito and fly home each with our own memories of the trip stored in our brains, heart and possibly on digital camera cards.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺



VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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



March 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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