



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2017

Calendar

***Tuesday, **Mar. 7, 7:00 PM:** Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Tuesday, **Mar. 28, 6:30 PM:** VAS Board Meeting hosted by Eric & Tammy Bjorkman, 4110 NE 54th Ave., Vancouver 360-695-3116

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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: SHOW & TELL

by members and guests

This popular program is returning. It is your chance to show your vacation or wildlife photos to a willing audience.

There are several ways available to share your photos.

1. Our Epson projector can directly play photos saved to a **FLASH DRIVE**.
2. Via CD/DVD/Power Point Program. A laptop computer will be on hand.
3. Hook up your tablet to the projector (Remember to bring your connecting equipment).



Call Bob Rowe to sign up:

360-254-8699

Time limits us to about 8 presenters with about 20 photos to share

FIELD TRIP: Sauvie Island

Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: March 25, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Target Store at Jantzen Beach Parking lot. Park in the spots facing Tomahawk Island Drive if available.

This will mainly be a car birding trip looking for raptors, waterfowl, etc. A small fee (about \$3 a person) is needed for a parking permit in addition to the gas donation to your driver. **We will carpool. Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.**

In Remembrance of Marilyn Hall: On February 7th, we lost a very loyal and active member of Vancouver Audubon, Marilyn Hall. She served on the Board for many years as Vice President & the Volunteer coordinator. She served on the audit committee and was very involved in conservation issues in the county. Marilyn was always willing to help in the booths at the "Home & Garden Show" and "Birdfest". She was a regular on Arden and Sherry Hagen's VAS Fund Raiser Trips around the USA. Her loving nature, humor and sweet smile will be missed by all.

Vancouver Audubon

“WILD IN THE CITY”

CASCADE PARK LIBRARY

600 NE 136th Ave,
Vancouver, WA 98684

When: MARCH 4

Time: 10:30 AM-3:00 PM

Presentations: 12:00 PM
2:00 PM

The community is invited to join the US fish & Wildlife Service for this free event, as they bring the National Wildlife Refuge System to the City...



Come learn about recreational opportunities and how to get involved at your local Portland/Vancouver Metro Area Refuges. Staff and volunteers will engage people of all ages in learning about local wildlife, on-going conservation projects, volunteering, and upcoming events at the Refuge. Hands-on activities, informational booths, brief presentations at 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM, and light refreshments provided.

Event sponsored by Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex and its partners, the Friends of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodations needs to Josie Finley, 360-887-4106, Josie_Finley@fws.gov. TTY 800-877-8339 with your request by close of business one week before the event.

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

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.

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 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

Welcome New Members: William Barnard • Steve & Gladys Barnes • Herbert Bartling • Jeanette Bricker • Joan Budd • Marcia Christian • Anna Clemons • George Coffey • Hannah Femling • Effie Florea • Earl Heydt • Sondra Hill • Edward Huffman • Valerie Keller • Holly Lake • Celia Murray • John & Linda Murtfeldt • Dorothy Parkin • Clemence Perslin • Judith Richards • Jim Sasser • Nancy Sayan • L Schilling • Tim Smeekens • Betsy Soifer • Alexandra Spyker • Jill Stryker • Ruth Vesber • Janet Weinberg • Patricia Worger • June Worth

I've had my surgery and I am getting around by help of my son and a walker. With one exception, I will be slow at getting back to public meetings, I think..... Gretchen Starke

Federal Agencies Held Hostage

Or so it seems to me. The last few weeks have been surrealistic. But one bit of news about the natural resource agencies that I heard was not good. The employees were told not to talk to the public. They were not to discuss their work, let alone the results of any research. Then, what with all the bizarre events since January 20th, the press has not said much of what has been happening with any of the federal agencies. I assume the news would be grim.

Local Boy Makes Good?

One of the more discouraging and outrageous bit of news I've heard in the last few weeks concerns our former WA state senator. According to the *Columbian*, Don Benton has a place in the Trump administration, keeping an eye on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), no less. It's like appointing Jack the Ripper to be in charge of keeping the streets safe. Considering that Trump doesn't think much of the EPA (I read that he thinks it should be abolished), Benton might be an appropriate choice after all for the crowd now in DC.

When Benton was in the state senate, he was no friend of the environment. He would tell me that oh, yes, supported my position on an issue, than would vote just the opposite. It would be more honest to tell me outright that he opposed my position and why.

Growth Board Meets in Vancouver

The growth board, the entity that hears appeals on local growth management plans met in Vancouver on February 8 to hear the appeal of Friends of Clark County (and others) to the county's growth management plan. It lasted five or

six hours, but I managed to get to a little bit of it. The chair said their decision would be in about six weeks or so, which would put it into March. By the way, the chair is a former director of Audubon Washington, Nina Carter. I had just a few words with her (not about the appeal) to say hi.

As a reminder, all this is about whether or not development would sprawl all over the county. Audubon's interest is in whether or not growth would eat up what habitat we have left, or whether we would be able to save some open space for birds.

Maybe I shouldn't let my feelings get the best of objective reporting. I think, however, that the events of the last few months do deserve strong feelings. We are in danger of losing everything if we do not stay alert. And upset.

Next month, I will say something about the legislature. Maybe I will be close to being on my own two feet, without the walker, by then.

Gretchen Starke



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NOV. 15, After looking for a **CASSIN'S FINCH** in Clark County for nine years, Bob Flores had a male visiting his feeders in Ridgefield. This species of finch is more common in the Ponderosa Pine forests of eastern Washington but can show up here in the winter and during migration.

JAN. 16, A flock of 25 **PINE SISKINS** were seen in Hazel Dell by Les Carlson, these small finches have been lower in number than normal this winter. He also has about 15 **LESSER GOLDFINCHES** visiting his feeders.

JAN. 18, 10 **CEDAR WAXWINGS** these were the first waxwings that Jim Danzenbaker has had between October and May, at his home in Battle Ground.

JAN. 22, Jim Danzenbaker found 3 (1 male and 2 female) **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** in the Columbia River just east of Washougal Waterfront Park on the border of Camas and Washougal.

JAN. 23, Kevin Black had a **SWAMP SPARROW** at the beginning of the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway off of Fruit Valley Road.

Lyn and Gene Topinka spotted a **MERLIN** in the Vancouver Lake lowlands while looking at the damage from one of this winter's ice storms.

The three **RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS** were still at the Washougal Waterfront Park according to Randy Hill, who then found a flock of 30 Horned Larks along the Dike Trail at the Steigerwald Lake NWR and 2 **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS** near the refuge parking lot on Highway 14.

JAN. 24, The **SWAMP SPARROW** at Burnt Bridge Creek was refound by John Bishop, who unfortunately had his car broken into while parked there.

JAN. 25, Christine Grier reports that 2 **BALD EAGLES** have been living in the fir trees behind the Prairie Field on 137th Avenue for the past two years.

George Neavoll and Sabin Belknap found a **GOLDEN EAGLE** among at least eight **BALD EAGLES** at Ridgefield NWR along with 2 **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** were seen in the forested stretch between Points 9 and 10.

While doing a raptor survey, Bob Flores found a **NORTHERN SHRIKE** across from the parking lot at the end of La Framboise Rd, in the Vancouver Lake lowlands.

At Kline Park, Michelle Maani spotted a juvenile **PEREGRINE FALCON** eating a duck, other birds noted at the park were **AMERICAN COOTS**, **AMERICAN WIGEON**, a single male **COMMON GOLDENEYE**, a male **COMMON MERGANSER**, a **CALIFORNIA GULL**, two **DOUBLE-**

CRESTED CORMORANTS, three **CAACKLING GEESE**, a **BELTED KINGFISHER**, **MALLARDS**, a **SPOTTED TOWHEE** and two **CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAYS**.

JAN. 26, George Reese saw a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** on a lamp post just off the Fourth Plain exit from I-5, these hawks are becoming more common although no nest has been found in the state yet. Bob Flores also reported one from Gee Creek in Ridgefield.

JAN. 30, After having been snowed in for about two weeks, Les Carlson rescued me to go birding. We checked out Skamania County, finding a **NORTHERN HARRIER** near Cape Horn. Large numbers of birds were on Franz Lake, we saw about 700 **TUNDRA SWANS** with a few **TRUMPETER SWANS** heard calling. A raft of at least 30 **CANVASBACKS** was a treat. In North Bonneville we found two **CAACKLING GEESE** and at the Spring Creek Fish Hatchery there was a **RED-NECKED GREBE** just offshore. We ended the day checking out the area around the cemetery on Balch Road, in Klickitat County with 37 **CALIFORNIA QUAIL**, 24 **WILD TURKEYS**, 8 **LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS** and 3 **ACORN WOODPECKERS**.

FEB. 4, Two very dark, possibly melanistic, **GREAT BLUE HERON** were photographed in the Woodland Bottoms by Danne Johnson.

FEB. 7, Ken Knittle watched a small adult male **SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** catch a Bushtit on the fly in his Hazel Dell area yard.

FEB. 9, We were surprised when a **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** showed up at our place, the first day after we had a storm that covered everything in over an inch of ice.

FEB. 10, I know that one swallow doesn't a **spring** make but the 3 **TREE SWALLOWS** reported from the Ridgefield NWR by Barry Woodruff is encouraging. This is very close to their average return date for the Portland area.

This was a very long winter with multiple storm events that may have been very hard on our resident species but now it is beginning to warm and migrant birds will be returning. By the end of February, Turkey Vultures and Rufous Hummingbirds should be back, to see the average return dates of many of our local species go to: <https://birdsoverportland.wordpress.com/oregon-migration-phenology/>

So far in 2017, 129 species have been reported as having been seen in Clark County and 76 from Clark County.

Wilson Cady

Vancouver Audubon

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service VOLUNTEER TRAINING

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Ridgefield & Steigerwald Lake NWRs

Learn & Connect. People. Nature. Culture.
Join us for the most fun and interactive volunteer training of the season. People of all backgrounds, experience levels and interests come together to learn about wildlife, habitat, culture, and communication techniques.

April 1: *Connecting People to Nature*
April 8: *Culture & Tech of the Lower Columbia*
April 15 : *Wetlands & Wildlife*
April 21: *Wildlife of Oak Woodlands*

For more information and to sign up email:
RidgefieldVolunteer@fws.gov

www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield

The Backyard & Beyond...

As stated on the front page, we lost a devoted member of Vancouver Audubon on Feb. 7th. Marilyn Hall was in her 80's and had a very active life. She loved to travel and she loved birds so traveling with Arden and I on the various VAS Fund Raiser Trips around the states was one of the ways we got to know the "real" Marilyn. Her first tour with us & Wilson Cady was to Texas in 2000. We soon learned that even though Marilyn was enjoying herself and the birds she was not always paying attention. After days of seeing Red-eyed Vireos, Marilyn figured she wasn't seeing this species. The group got on another one. While looking at the bird, Marilyn said "I can't see the red eye". Arden told her it is hard to see unless you are holding it in your hand!!! Oh, now she realized she "was" seeing this bird.

Marilynn being single was always on the look out for a gentleman friend. While driving the beach looking for birds on the TX shore (east) she was looking west at a guy rather scantily clad. So we combined the joke about her not seeing the Red-eyed Vireo and this aspect of her into a nick name, the Red-eyed Floosy.

Marilynn was constantly misplacing stuff or couldn't get her seat belt on, etc. So Arden started giving her nuisance fees. We would all laugh, even her. During a trip to Arizona, she couldn't find her expensive prescription sunglasses. We re-traced our steps at the top of Carr Canyon campground in search of them. No glasses. Later we were to learn that they were in her purse the whole time. Oh the nuisance fees came her way over that.

She always wanted to help in anyway she could so while on a trip to Michigan we were touring a refuge with a manager and Marilyn offered to get out and open the gate this time. She tried and tried while we waited and waited. Finally she came back to the bus and was awarded her 5th nuisance fee of the day.

As Marilyn stood outside the van, we all crawled in. What was she doing? Leisurely peeling an orange to eat and didn't realize we were all ready to go and again waiting for her. Laughs and nuisance fees.



Oh Marilyn we will miss you.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

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vancouveraudubon.org

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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.*

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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 ** MEMBERSHIP & DONATION COUPON

Membership dues support speaker programs, Flyway production and conservation projects.

_____ I wish to become a member/renew membership to Vancouver Audubon for \$10/year.

_____ I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donation of \$ _____

_____ I wish only to support Vancouver Audubon with a donations of \$ _____

_____ I prefer to receive the VAS Flyway by printed copy _____ by email _____ [PDF]

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

VAS will not share your information with any other organization. However, we may send out a limited number of time sensitive news items we feel are important to club membership.

Chapter Code: Y13

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 (membership)
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116 (VAS President)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

For additional information on membership to National Audubon, got to <http://www.audubon.org/>

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