



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

March 2018

Calendar

***Tuesday, Mar. 6, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

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

🏠 Tuesday, Mar. 27, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle
8705 NE 51st Ave. Vancouver 360-576-0330

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		27		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			

PROGRAM:

Show & Tell

by Members & Guests



Members are invited to present some of their own photos of birds or wildlife. Several have already agreed to present.

Contact Programs coordinator Bob Rowe, if you wish to present but have not yet notified him.
rowe9629@comcast.net (360) 713-3675

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

FIELD TRIP:

Columbia Gorge Birds and Blooms

Leader: Eric Bjorkman, 360-695-3116

When: March 17, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Meet at the Port of Camas-Washougal Boat Launch. (just south of Highway 14 by Westlie Ford. Take the Frontage Rd exit to the Round-a-bout at Port St. south)



This is an all day exploration of the Columbia Gorge, mostly by car with a couple of short walks depending on the conditions. Dress for the weather, bring a lunch and your bird book and binoculars. If you have an FRS radio (22 channel walkie-talkie) please bring it for communicating between vehicles.



It is important that you sign up with an email address or phone number in order to be contacted in case of a late cancelation of the trip. Otherwise you may show up and no one is at the meeting place.

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.

Welcome Sam Nueffer
as Education Chair for VAS



Don Cannard

On Feb. 2, 2018 we lost a beloved Friend and Co-founder of Vancouver Audubon.

In Dec. of 1975, Don was recruited as the first leader of the budding organization.

Don went on to organize several other groups dedicated to wildlife and trails.

➔ (more on Don inside)

Vancouver Audubon



Go on, become a VAS Volunteer. . . it could be good for you!

Three of the four officers serving on the all-volunteer Vancouver Audubon Society (VAS) Board of Directors are planning to step down this year so we're looking for new volunteer Board members and leaders. **Maybe it's you!**

Susan Setterberg who serves as treasurer will be leaving in April and if we can find enough volunteers, Eric and I who currently serve as secretary & president respectively would also like to finish up our service this year.

What does a VAS Board member do? They fill the needs of running an all-volunteer Audubon chapter. Some of the tasks include attending nine monthly Board meetings and help with chapter membership and outreach activities.

What does a VAS Board officer do? Board Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers have the same duties as listed in Board members above but also have additional leadership tasks related to their position.

If you are interested, let's have a conversation so we can give you more details and explore where your skills will be most needed. Contact Tammy or Eric Bjorkman at (360) 695-3116 or through email at bjorkmante@iinet.com.

You can make a difference!

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

Don Cannard *by Sherry Hagen*

Don was born June 5, 1939

Don always had a smile on his face even when I went to see him in the hospital after a heart attack. I showed him my article for the Flyway about Arden & I being "Search and Rescued" on Larch Mt. (Clark County). I showed him photos & a map and he knew exactly where we were and commented how awful the terrain is there. You may already know that Don Cannard was an avid hiking trail creator in Clark County and co-founded the Chinook Trail Association. Even after he couldn't really do the work anymore, I saw him out supervising his crew.

Don & Sue had a beautiful little house at Cape Mears and always welcomed you if you were over there birding. The backyard went down a hill and back to the lake behind. Of course it was full of interesting trails, built by Don, and birds, like the elusive Wrentit.

Don worked hard on the construction and upkeep of the Ellen Davis Trail along St. James in the Minnehaha area. VAS had helped fund his work there honoring fellow avid hiker and environmentalist.

Don has been a BIG part of Vancouver Audubon since it's beginning and I for one am proud to have been a friend of his and shared his love of birds. I shall miss you Don.



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 360-635-2333 (cell) or 360-892-8872 (home)
3. If he is available to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then you will be asked to donate 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.

The Wall

Doesn't exist yet. But (without naming names) some in the federal administration sure seem to want a wall on our southern border. Really, really bad. There are references to a "big, beautiful wall". As if such a thing could be aesthetically pleasing. The thought is that a twelve or thirteen foot wall would keep out people. It is, however, unlikely to keep out people, as people tend to be creative and resourceful. (would there be a market demand for 14-foot ladders?) Even the Berlin wall, during the cold war, did not entirely stop people from getting to West Berlin. And that wall was reinforced with guards shooting guns. No, although the border wall might discourage people, it wouldn't keep them out. It would, however, keep out, or at least cause problems for, wildlife. Wild animals don't recognize borders, not even international borders. Wild animals also need to have access to all of their range. They need access to water and to food sources. Cut a habitat area with a fence could mean the eventual death of that animal. An example of that is a collared female bobcat whose home range appears to be about 730 acres on one of the refuges. The fence posts are already in place and they are placed so close together that the cat must go around that segment. Which she does, and which indicates that there are resources she needs on both sides.

Researchers studied the movements of desert bighorn sheep and ferruginous pygmy owls. The sheep represented wide ranging mammals and the owl represented non-migratory birds. With respect to the owl, researchers using radio-tracking, found that the owl's average height of flight was about four-and-a-half feet above the ground. As the proposed wall's height is to be twelve to thirteen feet, the owl has a problem. I would imagine the extra energy required to fly thirteen feet above the ground in order to clear the fence would have some adverse affect on the owl.

Considering a specific national wildlife refuge (of which there are three in the Rio Grande Valley), the Santa Ana refuge, home to about 400 species of birds, is now threatened. In fact, according to articles I found through a Google search, preparations for building the fence began last summer. (Congress had not yet appropriated the money for actual fence building). I suppose that work has been completed by now. By the way, the work was begun in secret with no notice to the neighbors -- on either side of the border, let alone preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

How did Homeland Security get away with flouting our environmental laws? Several years ago, Congress gave Homeland Security the authority to exempt itself from any environmental law within a certain number of miles from the border (I think it was 100 miles) and that was inconvenient. (I remember when this particular regulation was put in place. As it was first proposed, Homeland Security could have exempted itself from environmental laws 100

miles from the coast as well as a border. Had that been put into place, Vancouver would have been included into the area where Homeland Security could have done what it darn well wanted.)

Editorial Time: Usually I have my environmental/bird-lover hat on when I write these articles. Right now, I will include my civil liberties hat. We need to ask ourselves the questions: what price security? Is destroying the environment of the borderlands and disrupting the wildlife there worth it? What about stopping or hindering the natural movement of people who live along the borderlands when friends and family are separated by a fortress fence? And is all this heavy duty show of security necessary or effective when those terrorist who have attacked us came by way of an airport or their mothers' uteruses? And I include the recent shooting at the event in Los Vegas.

Briefly: the Legislature

Audubon is mostly concerned with climate change bills. One Senate bill (SSB 6203) would impose a tax on carbon in fuel. SB 6253 would require some utilities meet new needs for electricity through carbon-free means and by the end of 2045, all utilities would have to use carbon-free resources to produce electricity. I may expand on this next month. After the Atlantic salmon escape, environmental groups, including Audubon, are interested in the issue of *Atlantic* salmon being reared in net pens. The Atlantic salmon are not native to the Pacific Ocean and have the potential to harm our Pacific salmon populations through competition for spawning sites and food and other resources. There is also the risk of interbreeding, which in my opinion would be even worse.

Don Cannard by Gretchen Starke

One thing about Don, is that he was kind. He personally helped me out during a stressful time. When my husband died, he was working out of Hood River (When the scenic area was created by Congress, Bob was appointed to the scenic area staff. Rather the en move our household to Hood River relatively close to his retirement, we decided it was better for him to come home to Vancouver on weekends. He -- and the car -- was in Hood River when he collapsed with an aneurism. After he died, I had the problem of getting that car back from Hood River. Don and Ed drove up the gorge to Hood River and got the car for me. This was in February and the weather was Pacific NW winter and the car was not in the best shape. It apparently was hairy drive back.

Gretchen Starke 

Don Cannard by Wilson Cady:

I have been writing this column since 1975 after I mistakenly mentioned to Don Cannard that I enjoyed reading the bird sighting columns in some newsletters from other chapters that he had shared and he said great write one for our newsletter. We had joined Audubon in 1972 and were assigned to the closest chapter, which was Portland, where we remained until 35 people gathered in 1975 under the tutelage of Hazel Wolf from Seattle Audubon to form the Vancouver chapter with Don as our president and my wife, Susan as vice-president. At our first chapter meeting it was decided to take on the preservation of Steigerwald Lake which was then zoned as heavy industrial and Don assigned it to Susan and I as we were the only members from the east county. Don also recruited Susan and I to join the Silver Star Study Group which was able to secure the mountain as a road-less area, our first taste of successful environmental action. Don led the fight to block a plan for a highly developed State Park on Reed Island that would have included an airfield, a marina and a bridge to the mainland that would have wiped out a heron colony and a Bald Eagle nest. Don always seemed to bring out the best in everyone, and was a true educator and leader.

Jan. 17, Les Carlson had a five Sparrow day at his home in Hazel Dell with **WHITE-THROATED, WHITE-CROWNED, GOLDEN-CROWNED, FOX and SONG SPARROWS**. Also still being seen every day at the feeders were **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET and LESSER GOLDFINCH** along with **PINE SISKINS**.

Jan. 19, Bob Flores had a **CASSIN'S FINCH** calling at his home east of Ridgefield and I-5. Unfortunately it did not stay long and was not seen again. These finches are usually found east of the Cascades in Ponderosa Pine forests.

Jan. 19, A male **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** patiently waited for a hyper-active flock of **BUSHTITS** to move on from a suet feeder at Vaughn Rhoden's Vancouver home.

Jan. 20, After going to Seaside to see the Steller's Eider, Eric and Tammy Bjorkman came home on the Washington side and spent a little extra time in Wahkiakum County to try and expand their list of birds seen there. They found four good birds there, all are listed as code 3 or higher on the county list; **GREAT EGRET, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, PACIFIC LOON, and BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE**.

Jan. 21, We had two **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS** stop by our feeders, being on the top of a 1,000' ridge and far from any ponds we haven't had a blackbird here since 2013.

Jan. 29, Susan and I spent the day birding in the Gorge. Both **TUNDRA and TRUMPETER SWANS** were still at Franz Lake, a **GREAT EGRET** was at Skamania Landing and a **CANVASBACK** was at Rock Creek Pond. Our best sightings were of our first wildflowers of the year at Catherine Creek in Klickitat County, Grass Widows and Pungent Lomatium. Along Highway 14, between the Clark County line and the Klickitat River we counted 44 **BALD EAGLES**.

Feb. 6, A **EURASIAN WIGEON** and a **BLACK PHOEBE** were found by Cindy McCormack in Buckmire Slough, which crosses the road just past Vancouver Lake Park. Black Phoebe was not reported from Clark County in 2017.

Feb.7, An **OSPREY** was reported by Cindy McCormack from Salmon Creek, this may have been the same one seen by Bob Flores earlier this year and by Les Carlson and I at Frenchman's Bar in December.

Feb. 9, Les Carlson, Jim Danzanbaker, Randy Hill, George Mayfield and Cindy McCormack and I did a Clark County Big Day and found a total of 101 species for the day. Our best birds were **MERLIN, PEREGRINE FALCON, CLARK'S GREBE, LEAST SANDPIPER, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, and SWAMP SPARROW**, our big misses were the **SNOWY EGRET** and the **BLACK PHOEBE**.

Feb. 10, A first sighting of the year 3 **TURKEY VULTURES** were spotted by Norman Edelen at Shillapoo Lake. Almost three weeks early according to the calendar of average return dates.

Spring migration is now bringing new species for the year on a nearly weekly basis and the numbers will continue to increase through the end of May. By March, **TURKEY VULTURES, RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS** and the rest of the **TREE and VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS** will have returned. To see a calendar of average return dates for each species go to:

<https://birdsoverportland.wordpress.com/oregon-migration-phenology/>



As usual the 2018 cumulative year list for Clark County, at 141 species, is off to a better start than Skamania County which has only 71 birds reported by anyone this year. Last year at this time Clark County was at 158 and Skamania 88.

Wilson Cady

Vancouver Audubon

2017-2018 Christmas Bird Count:

It was a rainy day on December 29, 2017, with close to record highs in some local spots hitting 54° for us. Fortunately, it was mostly calm with winds from the south at a max of 15 mph. But weather had a quelling effect on some birds and birders. We had a good showing of species at 118, about average for our ORSI Circle, which contains Sauvie Island, Ridgefield NWR and Vancouver Lake Bottoms plus surrounding areas. We also had about 50% more individuals counted than last year with the WA side exceeding the OR side. Usually it is the opposite. We had 62 participants who logged over 112 hours of time in the field on foot or by car. Some highlights included a high number of Snow Geese with more than half being counted in Vancouver Lake Bottoms. A good count bird was the Snowy Egret which Arden and Bob found in the Vancouver Lake Bottoms. These two birds had been moving around in the area for a couple weeks, so we were happy to find them for the count. We had large numbers of Bald Eagle being reported with 134 total; 81 of which were from the Sauvie side. For future reference, Oak Island on Sauvie is a good concentration site for raptors and waterfowl. Though song birds were hard to track down in the rain, we did have high numbers of Anna's Hummingbird, Brown Creeper and Pacific Wren. Thanks to everyone who gamely went out to face the elements on count day. We had good team coverage of the WA side count areas this year even if the teams were themselves a little thin.

Greater White-fronted Goose 11	Horned Grebe..... 1	Glaucous-winged Gull 124	Hermit Thrush..... 0
Snow Goose..... 17971	Western Grebe 6	Olympic Gull (GW x W) 8	American Robin..... 241
Ross's Goose 0	Clark's Grebe* 0	Gull Species 168	Varied Thrush..... 20
Brant..... 0	Double-crested Cormorant .328	Rock Pigeon 51	European Starling..... 3372
Cackling Goose 41837	American Bittern 1	Eurasian Collared-Dove 118	American Pipit 30
Canada Goose 2652	Great Blue Heron 174	Mourning Dove 96	Orange-crowned Warbler 0
Cackling/Canada Species .. 507	Great Egret..... 148	Barn Owl..... 10	Yellow-rumped Warbler 4
Trumpeter Swan..... 139	Snowy Egret 2	Great Horned Owl 7	Townsend's Warbler 4
Tundra Swan 3052	Black-crowned Night-Heron ... 0	Pygmy Owl 1	Common Yellowthroat 0
Tundra/Trumpeter Species. 286	Turkey Vulture 0	Short-eared Owl 2	Spotted Towhee 112
Wood Duck..... 6	Bald Eagle 134	owl species 1	Chipping Sparrow 8
Gadwall 297	Northern Harrier 55	Anna's Hummingbird 24	Savannah Sparrow 7
Eurasian Wigeon 6	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Belted Kingfisher 15	Fox Sparrow 79
American Wigeon 808	Cooper's Hawk 5	Red-breasted Sapsucker..... 6	Song Sparrow..... 359
Mallard..... 11290	Red-shouldered Hawk 9	Downy Woodpecker 18	Lincoln's Sparrow 19
Cinnamon Teal 0	Red-tailed Hawk 109	Hairy Woodpecker 4	Swamp Sparrow 0
Northern Shoveler 696	Rough-legged Hawk..... 4	Northern Flicker 100	White-throated Sparrow 5
Northern Pintail..... 23947	buteo species 1	Pileated Woodpecker 1	White-crowned Sparrow 130
Green-winged Teal..... 8808	American Kestrel 85	Northern Shrike 0	Golden-crowned Sparrow... 820
Canvasback..... 639	Merlin..... 3	Hutton's Vireo 3	Sparrow Species 19
Redhead..... 3	Peregrine Falcon 10	Black Phoebe 0	Dark-eyed Junco 405
Ring-necked Duck 1351	Virginia Rail 3	Steller's Jay 39	Red-winged Blackbird 1155
Greater Scaup 86	Sora Rail..... 0	California Scrub-Jay 156	Western Meadowlark..... 65
Lesser Scaup 567	American Coot..... 1077	American Crow 167	Rusty Blackbird 0
Scaup Species 46	Sandhill Crane 3802	Common Raven 22	Brewer's Blackbird..... 1116
Bufflehead 143	Killdeer 81	Black-capped Chickadee... 339	Brown-headed Cowbird 19
Common Goldeneye 49	Spotted Sandpiper..... 1	Mountain Chickadee..... 0	Blackbird species 170
Hooded Merganser..... 129	Greater Yellowlegs 9	Chestnut-backed Chickadee 74	Purple Finch 60
Common Merganser..... 324	Western Sandpiper..... 0	Bushtit 175	House Finch 54
Red-breasted Merganser 1	Dunlin 19	Red-breasted Nuthatch 9	Common Redpoll..... 7
Ruddy Duck..... 145	Long-billed Dowitcher 0	White-breasted Nuthatch..... 22	Pine Siskin..... 27
Duck Species 150	Wilson's Snipe 36	Brown Creeper 48	Lesser Goldfinch 1
California Quail..... 11	Mew Gull 65	Bewick's Wren 33	American Goldfinch 25
Ring-necked Pheasant 1	Ring-billed Gull 204	Pacific Wren 77	Evening Grosbeak 0
Red-throated Loon 0	California Gull 3	Marsh Wren..... 8	House Sparrow..... 11
Pacific Loon..... 1	Herring Gull 63	Golden-crowned Kinglet 261	TOTAL 133068
Common Loon..... 0	Iceland (Thayer's) Gull 1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 92	
Pied-billed Grebe..... 44	Western Gull..... 2	Townsend's Solitaire 0	

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 2018

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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