



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

May 2015

Calendar

*** **No Birding Class** due to the Spring Potluck *** **Spring Potluck at 6:30 PM** ***

*****Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting** at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

*****Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting** hosted by Gretchen Starke
308 NE 124th Ave., Vancouver 360-892-8617

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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

PROGRAM: *Western Purple Martins* *at Steigerwald NW*

Speaker: Jay Elder, Refuge PUMA Coordinator

For several years Purple Martins have come to the nesting boxes (gourds) at Steigerwald NWR. These nests are placed each spring by refuge volunteers. Jay Elder, the coordinator of this program, will tell us about these acrobatic birds and report on what they have learned about its habits and survival.



The Purple Martin is a colonial-nesting tropical migrant songbird, the largest member of the swallow family occurring in North America. It is classified as of Special Concern or a Candidate Species for listing as Threatened throughout the remainder of its breeding range in the western USA.

There are 40 artificial gourds at Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge (Washougal, WA) & ten wooden boxes. In 2015 (March 30th) a Purple Martin "scout" was reported at Steigerwald on the dike trail. Thus begins a new season, where we ask birders to come out & help sight Purple Martins & to record the banded birds. These sightings can be reported to the Refuge Purple Martin team: westernpurplemartin@gmail.com. In the case of a band number ID—to the North American Banding Program Bird Banding Laboratory at:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>.

FIELD TRIP

Ridgefield NWR, Kiwa Trail



Leader: Susan Setterberg, 856-701-2542 cell
email: smsetterberg@yahoo.com

When: May 2, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Kiwa Trail Parking area on the River "S" Loop

This is a 1½ mile walking loop hike on the Kiwa trail.

More info on next page

We will carpool.

Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.



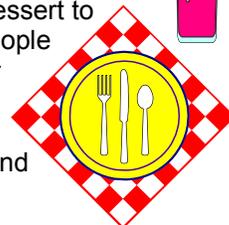
ANNUAL POTLUCK



When: May 5
Time: 6:30 PM

Where: Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to serve at least 10 people to share. Bring your own table service (plate, utensils, cup, napkins, etc) and your own drinks.



Vancouver Audubon

BOARD MEETING: MARCH 31

TREASURER'S REPORT – JOAN DURGIN

Revenue for February 2015: \$2,600.65

Expenses for February 2015: \$303.55

Net Income for February 2015: \$2,297.10

Notes: Revenue includes \$2,100.00 raised on Ecuador trip in January and \$400.00 from donations received in memory of Fern Fascindini. Expenses include printing and postage fees.

Tammy Bjorkman, VAS Secretary

Ridgefield NWR, Kiwa Trail Field Trip

(From front page: 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!

Welcome New Members: Daniel Attoe • Mary Bodine • Owen Boe • John Buntin • Judith Burraston • Danielle Clark • Karen Cornell • Thomas Elsemore • James Ericson • Gordy Fabek • Harold Farnsworth • Nancy Gifford • Donna Gregg • Andrea Hanson • Carol Hodgson • Sandy Homme • Lavonne Hummels • Susan Hurlbut • Edie & Jerry Dietzen • Dennis Johnson • Marion Klitza • Anne Lester • Susan Lusarreta • C. Mand • Sherri Marinenko • Larry & Maureen Stauffer • Larry McLellan • Margaret Meech • Annegret Montierth • Jackie Morgan • Yvonne Perceval • Stuart Petrie • Andrew Plant • Patty & Rick Jones • Donald Robinson • Margaret Shaw • Elliot Stern • Jeanne Stewart • Linda Stuckenschneider • Patricia Turner • Robert Wallace • C. Willis

Transferred Members: Mary Narey • Nancy Zuerch



Bird & Yard Related Items

Plus more

Host: Vancouver Audubon

When: May 29

Time: 8 AM to 2 PM

Where: 1548 NE 5th Ave., Camas, WA

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.



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And So it Goes

As of this writing, I should be preparing comments for the public hearing next Tuesday. And so I will be as soon as I finish this. The hearing is, of course, on the atrocious Alternative 4 of the county growth management plan as proposed by Councilor Madore.

I had a long conversation this week with a couple of staff in community planning and it was an eye-opener. Things are as bad as I had thought. They are even worse.

Things are as bad as I had thought

The alternative is bad -- the map shows big yellow blotches going clean up into the foothills in the northeast of the county. Even worse is the process -- or lack of process -- being used to push Alternative 4.

Madore is violating the new county charter. He is going into the offices of the planning staff, sitting in the chairs at the table and telling staff what to do and what not to do. He is bypassing the county administrator, the person who is supposed to be directing the staff. He is working on the alternative map in the privacy of his own home, responding to requests from landowners who want to divide their property. At one point he had a map posted on the county website that was different from the one presented at the first open house (but before the second). The lawyers intervened and the map came down. The few landowners who are working with Madore on this are given access the public at large does not have.

He told the staff that they should tell the consultant working on the draft the rationale for Alternative 4. Staff had to tell him that the consultant is not interested in any background of the why of a proposed alternative. The consultant's job is to look at the effects of the alternatives objectively using science. Even stranger, he was surprised to learn -- finally -- that after the draft is completed, it will go out for public comment.

And so it goes. From our perspective, the real purpose of the Tuesday hearing is to speak to the public and to the state Growth Management Board, which will eventually hear all this.

Legislature Update

The following is from the legislative update sent out by our person watching Olympia & chapter representative from the Audubon Washington office, Jen Syrowitz. I'm doing it this way because, while I'm doing this, I'm sitting in on a strategy call in preparation for the Tuesday hearing.

Forage Fish: SB 5166 - Concerning the management of forage fish resources. **SUPPORT -It passed the House floor on April 8th.**

Funding of this legislation will support smelt and sand lance spawning surveys throughout Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and trawl surveys to evaluate the prevalence of all species of forage fish throughout the Sound. Understanding the health of our regional forage fish populations will help us to safeguard marine birds and their food resources. We hope this is just the first step towards improving the management of forage fish resources in Washington -- the bread and butter of the marine world.

Safe Oil Transport :

Last week during committee votes in opposite bodies, both oil bills ([HB 1449](#) and [SB 5057](#)), were changed (essentially swapped with some tweaks). The differences between the content of the bills remains stark: the House version of the bill retains a more comprehensive approach to addressing the existing threats -- including pipelines, rail, and vessels via public disclosure, the funding for programs, requiring financial responsibility for carriers of oil through our state, and giving the UTC authority to do its job around rail inspections without limitations. Additionally, the House version retains the crew manning standards for trains. In contrast, the Senate version, continues narrowly look at this issue, putting limits on the agencies who have the responsibility to protect our communities and waterways, and disclosing the minimum information to the public.

In the Budget: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:

The Senate budget proposal subverts WWRP's nationally recognized fair, independent system for funding projects and instead lets Senators select favored projects at the expense of more deserving ones. By eliminating key pieces of the program and turning WWRP into an earmarks program, the Senate undermines the program and threatens its existence. The Senate is eliminating high-ranked critical habitat, wildlife, State Parks, and other projects that are necessary for securing recreational access for birders, hikers, hunters, anglers, and other users of our great outdoors. To sum up: *WWRP in the House Budget: \$75 million we **SUPPORT** and WWRP in the Senate Budget: \$68.8 million (for select projects) we **OPPOSE**.*

Gretchen Starke 

March 15, 4 **WHITE PELICANS** dropped into the Ridgefield NWR as Susan Setterberg was volunteering at the Auto Tour Contact Station.

March 16, A **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** was found on Larch Mountain by Bob Flores, this is the largest of the three members of the accipiter family, and much more uncommon than it's relatives, the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks.

The **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE** that showed up in the Fruit Valley neighborhood of Vancouver on Dec. 13, continued to be seen by Jim Johnson.

March 18, A **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** found in northern Vancouver by Les Carlson was about a week earlier than is average for here.

Sue Sampson reported a flock of **EVENING GROS-BEAKS** coming to her feeders in Camas, they have been pretty scarce this winter.

March 19, **RING-NECKED PHEASANTS** are now a scarce breeding bird in Clark County with most of the ones seen in the Vancouver Lake/Ridgefield NWR areas having been recently released for hunting purposes. So a report of them by Jay Elder from the Steigerwald Lake NWR was interesting.

In Skamania County, **EURSIAN COLLARED-DOVES** are still hard to find, but Ken Knittle found a spot north of Carson with five of them coming to feeders.

March 20, We had a pretty good movement of birds at our place east of Washougal with **RED CROSSBILLS** and **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS** returning to our property.

March 21, Carolyn McDonald photographed a **ROSS'S GOOSE** on the Ridgefield Auto Tour Route.

March 27, A lingering **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** was found at the Steigerwald lake NWR by Bob Flores. This is a species that breeds in northern Alaska and Canada.

March 31, While birding on Larch Mountain, Bob Flores heard a calling **SOOTY GROUSE** and spotted a **MERLIN**.

RED CROSSBILLS and **PINE SISKINS** were in Arden and Sherry Hagen's backyard when a **COOPER'S HAWK** flew through taking one of the siskins.

April 1, Bob Flores spotted a **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** and a **LONG-BILLED CURLEW** on the Ridgefield NWR River S Auto Tour Route, the curlew is very rare in Clark County.

April 5, A **BARN SWALLOW** seen with a **CLIFF SWALLOW** at the Ridgefield NWR was the 156th species seen by Bob Flores in Clark County so far this year.

April 9, A full day of birding in Skamania County produced

73 species for Les Carlson and myself. Our best birds of the day were **CLARK'S GREBE**, **MERLIN**, **VIRGINIA RAIL**, **WILSON'S SNIPE**, **HUTTON'S VIREO**, **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS** and **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD**.

April 11, About fifteen sparrows were in Les Carlson's yard, including a lingering **WHITE-THROATED**, several **WHITE-CROWNED**, and the rest **GOLDEN-CROWNED** with a **SPOTTED TOWHEE** thrown in for good measure.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

It's That Time of Year!

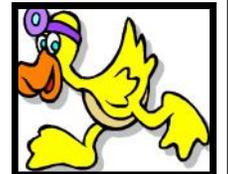
The birds are courting and some are already nesting. Little baby birds will soon be out of the nest and that's when the calls start coming in full force. **First off little baby birds are suppose to be out of the nest to learn to be grown up birds.** Unfortunately, a lot of them don't make it due to cats in yards and predator birds. But human interference usually doesn't help either. Letting the parents take care of them is the best way. If the birds parents have been killed or the little birds are slightly injured then human intervention may be able to save them. A badly hurt bird may not make it.



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 will 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 a 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.

Vancouver Audubon

WENAS AUDUBON CAMPOUT Memorial Day Weekend, May 22-25, 2015

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington. **The Wenas Audubon Campout will take place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25) at the Wenas Creek Campground.** This four day/three-night annual event invites campers to participate in a variety of activities, including birding field trips, flower walks, field sketching, and bat and owl prowls. **You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend.** All are welcome. Visit the Wenas Audubon website at (www.wenasaudubon.org) for directions, an outline of field trips, programming, and more information. Pre-registration is not required. The campout is free and open to all ages. This is a Department of Natural Resources campground so every vehicle must display a **Washington State Discover Pass.**



You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend.

For more information contact Wilson Cady: gorgebirds@juno.com

Are Birders Going to Lose Another Species on Their Life Lists?



Common Redpoll

Hoary Redpoll

The Hoary Redpoll is one of those hard-to-get species on Birders Life Lists. But new research by two scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology presents genetic evidence that reopens questions about the species status of the Hoary Redpoll, long thought to be the frosty cousin of the Common Redpoll. In a paper published they show that Hoary Redpolls and Common Redpolls have no differences at all across much of their genomes.

"Based on the samples of DNA we examined for Common and Hoary Redpoll, they're probably best treated as a single species," Mason says.

In other words, should this new evidence similarly sway the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist committee, all the heroic efforts birders have made to add a Hoary to their life lists may be for naught.



Northern Spotted Owl Continues to Decline Endangered Listing Needed

The Northern Spotted Owl will be reviewed for endangered status under the Endangered Species Act. Scientific studies indicate Endangered status is likely warranted because the owl population is in rapid decline due to ongoing habitat loss and the Barred Owl's incursion into Northwest forests. Long-term demography studies show that in 2013 populations in all eight study areas were in decline and well below historic averages for both total numbers and breeding success. Newly released 2014 studies show a continued overall population decline.

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is taking this action to help reverse the Northern Spotted Owl's spiral toward extinction. The **BLM** will have released the Western Oregon draft resource management plan revisions on April 24 and will be holding a series of public meetings during the 90 day comment period. A number of potential problems have been identified with the upcoming BLM drafts including not utilizing the most recent Northern Spotted Owl demographic data, not providing a regional conservation framework by working with the Forest Service, and an inadequate range of alternatives that do not assess or attempt to build upon the multiple benefits of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The **Klamath National Forest** is proposing a post-fire salvage logging timber sale of 6,680 acres (ten square miles) of Late Successional Reserves established to protect Northern Spotted Owl habitat. The timber sale will impact approximately 70 Northern Spotted Owl nesting sites. Organizations are opposing the proposed post-fire logging in reserves and Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat.

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.*



May 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.

VANCOUVER AUDUBON ** NEWSLETTER & DONATION COUPON

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