



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

May 2016

Calendar

***Tuesday, **May 3, 7:00 PM:** Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Tuesday, **May 31, 6:30 PM:** VAS Board Meeting hosted by Gretchen Starke
308 NE 124th Ave., Vancouver 360-892-8617

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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: History of Lower Columbia River Birds

by ANDREW EMLEN

Andrew Emlen will speak about bird species having special stories connected with the Columbia River. Since starting the Wahkiakum Christmas Bird Count circle in 1998 sponsored by Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Emlen has been the organizer and compiler for the count. He has conducted shorebird census for US Fish and Wildlife, helping to establish the Lower Columbia as a national Important Bird Area, and leads field trips for W.H.A.S, Washington Ornithological Society, and the American Birding Association.

He is currently co-owner and guide for Columbia River Kayaking. He plans to give his observations about the cormorant issues on East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia, a prominent nesting grounds for Cormorants, Terns, and Pelicans.

FIELD TRIP: Kiwa Trail Walk

Leaders: Susan Setterberg 360-980-0884
Tammy Bjorkman

When: May 1, Sunday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Kiwa Trail, Ridgefield NWR



We will be among the first this year to walk the Kiwa Trail at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the entrance to the trail in the Kiwa parking lot at 8 am. Remember to give yourself enough time to pay your fee (\$3 per car) or register your pass (Federal Parks, Senior Pass. etc. or RNWR annual pass) and drive to the Kiwa Trail, about two miles from the entrance Kiosk. It takes about 10 minutes (15 mph speed limit) if you drive straight there but can be longer if you are distracted by the birds! If you want to meet someone at the entrance Kiosk, it is OK to leave a car there and drive together for one fee. Parking can be limited at the Kiwa entrance.

Our walk will be about two and a half hours as we take our time searching the woods and listening for new arrivals in the wetlands. The walk is flat and about a mile and a half. We should see sparrows, swallows, flycatchers, warblers, rails, Red-winged and maybe Yellow-headed Blackbirds, woodpeckers, some summer nesting ducks and, if we are lucky, we will find the Great Horned Owls. The snipe are already winnowing and we might catch up with a bittern or two making its booming ooomm-da-choom breeding call. You never know what might turn up. Bring bug repellent as it has been a wet year and it could be buggy. It is also a good idea to wear sunscreen.

Contact: Susan at 360 980 0884 or
smsetterberg@yahoo.com.



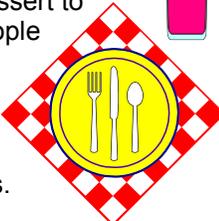
Annual Spring Potluck



When: May 3
Time: 6:00 PM ***** **NEW TIME**
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

WENAS AUDUBON CAMPOUT Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-30, 2016

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 27-30) at the Wenas Creek Campground.** This three-day 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**. For more information contact Wilson Cady: gorgebirds@juno.com

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



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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

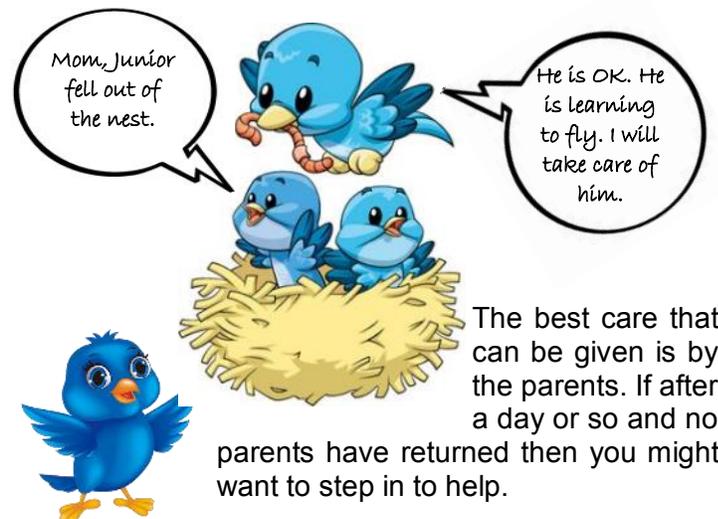
In the meantime....

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.

It is that time of year when baby birds are being born. As they fledge you may see them on the ground by themselves as they wait for their parents to bring them food.

PLEASE do not pick them up to care for them. Many people think they have been abandoned but the parents are usually around.



The Growth Management Plan Update

The situation is getting more and more confusing, what with various accusations and changes of direction. For a brief outline of what has been happening. Pre county charter adoption: the county had three county commissioners who selected Alternative 4 (two to one) as the preferred alternative. From the point of view of professional planners and adherence to good planning principles, protection of the environment and wildlife habitat, saving agriculture land, cost to the taxpayer, and Vancouver Audubon, Alternative 4 was the worst of the litter. Alternative 4 was basically developed by Counselor Madore, with the help of folks in the GIS Department. Post county charter adoption: the county has five county councilors (note name change) who took back the selection of Alternative 4 and selected instead, Alternative 2 (three to five).

From the viewpoint of the interests above, Alternative 2 is not as awful as Alternative 4, but it still is not good. It still takes too much land out of ag and rural designations.

The planning staff has been under a lot of pressure, at least some of it uncalled for. Some of the accusations have been serious. I suggest that you read *The Columbian* carefully. I further suggest that you drop in on a county councilor hearing and see for yourself (first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM, and the other Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 AM, all on the sixth floor of the county building, 1300 Franklin, downtown Vancouver.

Is Disk Golf Compatible with Birds?

Not if it means taking out bird habitat. Which appears would be the case at Frenchman's Bar Park. Thanks to Wilson Cady, Vancouver Audu-

bon member, who noted an article in *The Columbian* about a group who had approached the county Parks Advisory Board with a request to put in a disk golf course at Frenchman's Bar Park. To do so, would involve removing the brush along the river. Which is, of course, excellent songbird habitat.

In the nearly fifty years I have lived here, it has been my observation that the parks department favors what I call, "kitchen sink" parks -- everything in it including the kitchen sink. The proposed disk golf course follows the same pattern.



Apparently, a disk golf course was not part of the original park plan. But, the parks advisory board seemed willing to accommodate the request, at least until Wilson attended a couple of their meetings. They now have another point of view to consider. They have yet to make a final decision on what to recommend to the county councilors.

The Proposed Oil Port

By the time you get this, the Port of Vancouver may have made a final decision on the lease with Tesoro and partner that would provide for an oil transfer facility at the port. The issue is whether to extend the deadline beyond August 1 for Tesoro to obtain all necessary permits. Without the extension, Tesoro will not be able to get those permits.

As of this writing, the Port of Vancouver will be holding a day-long hearing on April 12. Vancouver Audubon has previously commented on the oil port in opposition. Certainly if a oil spill or explosion occurred either at the port or in transit in the Columbia River Gorge would have a disastrous effect on birds.

Gretchen Starke 

March 19, A **HUTTON'S VIREO** was in Ken and Laurie Knittle's backyard, these small birds are very close in appearance to a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and are probably over-looked and under-reported.

John Bishop found a **ROSS'S GOOSE**, **6 TURKEY VULTURES** and a **SAY'S PHOEBE** at the Steigerwald Lake NWR.

March 22, Despite steady rain, Eric and Tammy Bjorkman saw the Steigerwald Lake **BURROWING OWL** along with a **SAY'S PHOEBE** and a pair of **RING-NECKED PHEASANTS**.

March 23, Les Carlson rode his bicycle out the Washougal Dike searching for the Burrowing Owl, but found at least 6 **SAY'S PHOEBES** instead.

Also at Steigerwald was an adult **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**, seen by John Davis along with a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** and a **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** found by Randy Hill.



March 25, Lyn and Gene Topinka got to see the continuing **BURROWING OWL** at the Steigerwald Lake NWR, this long staying bird has allowed many people to add it to their Clark County bird list.

A **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** was calling from the evergreens in front of our house in Skamania County.

March 27, Les Carlson made another attempt to see the Steigerwald Lake **BURROWING OWL** and not only found it but also a flock of at least 5 **PALM WARBLERS** along the dike.

March 30, A **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL** was calling from our woods during the afternoon.



A Burrowing Owl has spent weeks at Steigerwald NWR

April 1, Randy Hill reported 5 **PURPLE MARTINS** at the Ridgefield NWR and a **CASPIAN TERN** over the Columbia River there.

The first of the year (FOY) **OSPREY** for Bob Flores was seen along highway 4 and Susan and I had one at Bonneville Dam, there were other FOY reports from all over the State on this day indicating a large influx of these migrants. Sherry Hagen got to see her second **BURROWING OWL** in Clark County, both of them were at Steigerwald Lake NWR, the first one was there on March 21, 2004.

April 2, Five VAS members joined me for a drive up into Klickitat County for a day of birds and blooms, the birding

was slow but with some highlights such as; **CASPIAN TERN**, **ACORN WOODPECKER**, **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER**, **WESTERN BLUEBIRD**, and thanks to a suggestion by Randy Hill, we found **WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS** at milepost 88 on Highway 14. The real treat of the day was a cherry pie that Fran Lenski bought at Dickey's produce stand in Bingen, the oldest continuously operating business in Washington, and shared with us during our lunch break in the oak woodlands. The wildflowers were spectacular along the Dalles Mountain Road with the Balsamroots and lupines dominating the hillsides.

April 4, A "Dusky" **CANADA GOOSE** was seen at Bonneville Dam by Kern Knittle, this large dark subspecies is rarely seen in the Columbia Gorge.

Our FOY **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** at our place, in Skamania County, was six days earlier than our previous earliest return date.



April 5, A **LESSER GOLDFINCH** at Eric and Tammy Bjorkman's feeders was only about the fourth one there in over thirty years. These finches are very spotty in their distribution and used to be rare in Washington anywhere but in small spots of Clark and Klickitat Counties.

April 9, While at the Orchard Hills golf course in Washougal, Eric Bjorkman saw and heard a **SWAINSON'S THRUSH**. This is about three weeks earlier than their average return date.

May is a busy month for birders with a lot to observe, the species that arrived in April will already be tending nests or their first clutch of young, while more species continue to arrive through the end of the month. The annual Audubon Wenas Campout is a "don't miss" event for me. I can't imagine going anywhere

else to camp on this weekend, lots of outdoors loving people and three days of guided walks exploring the birds and wildflowers of the east slope of the Cascade Mountains at this free event, for more information go to: <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>

In 2016, as of the end of the first week of April, there have been 151 species reported from Clark County and 101 from Skamania County.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

Vancouver Audubon

Watch a Wild California Condor Chick—Live!

Streaming video carried on Cornell Lab Bird Cams

For release: April 4, 2016

Chick hatched April 4th

Ventura, CA and Ithaca, N.Y.— For the first time in history, anyone with an Internet connection has the chance to watch a wild California Condor egg hatch--**it's happening right now** via a live camera focused on a nest at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, California. The camera was made live for the public today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with partners, including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology which is carrying the live images on its [Bird Cams website](http://birdcams.org).

http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/49/California_Condor/



"This live cam takes the viewer right into the nest cave with the condors to watch their behavior and hear the sounds they make," says Charles Eldermire, Bird Cams manager at the Cornell Lab. "We hope it will really raise awareness about these spectacular but highly endangered birds and the threats they face. We know from past experience that people form a real emotional connection to the birds they see on the cams as they witness a part of nature they've never seen before."

The 22-year-old female (#111) and her 7-year-old mate (#509) will raise the chick from an egg that was produced as part of the [California Condor Recovery Program's](http://www.calcondor.org) captive breeding effort at Los Angeles Zoo. The pair's own egg disappeared in March, possibly taken by a predator. Biologists put a dummy egg in the nest so that the parents would continue to incubate. On April 3, the captive-bred egg was placed into the nest.

The Hopper Mountain NWR condor pair have been together since fall 2014, and hatched their first chick in April 2015. Four months later, that chick died from lead poisoning, one of the most serious human-related threats condors continue to face in the wild.

In 1982 the California Condor population dropped to only 22 birds. Thanks to intensive, ongoing recovery efforts by multiple public and private partners, including a captive breeding program, the California Condor population has grown to around 430 birds worldwide, with more than half of the population flying free.

Make sure to watch the video's of the hatching, etc.

Wenas Campout - Memorial Day Weekend ***Free***

May 27-30, 2016

The annual gathering of the Audubon Chapters of Washington takes place on the Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Forest Campground east of Selah, in Yakima County. This campground is situated in a valley that spans many habitat types, from grasslands, to sub-alpine meadows. This variety of plant communities hosts a wide range of birds along with many wildflowers. Birds seen here on a regular basis include Poorwill, White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Calliope and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, and both Western and Mountain Bluebirds to name only a few of the over two hundred species on the area checklist.



The Native Plant Society will once again be joining us and will, as usual, have a display board with specimens of the flowers identified and labeled.

There are numerous field trips scheduled every day covering most habitat types and focusing on all aspects of the natural history of the Wenas Valley. These trips include all day and part day hikes and auto tours. For those that wish to just stay in the campground area there are workshops and classes both in the mornings and afternoons, some of these are designed for children.

Rustic would be the best description of this campground, there is no water or power, and portable out-houses are the closest thing to luxury. Every form of camping from Motorhomes to pup tents will be seen here, many people attend yearly to visit and relax, or explore on their own. Bring your own water and all other supplies. Campfires are not always permitted, check the website the week before the campout.

There are no fees charged to attend this gathering and it is open to everyone who enjoys the outdoors. This is probably the only spot in the State where you are guaranteed a camping space on the Memorial Day Weekend.

Directions: Take Highway 97 north from Yakima, leave the Freeway at Exit 30A to the town of Selah, when you reach Naches Avenue turn right and go to Wenas Avenue and follow it 21 miles to the end of pavement. Here you take the gravel Audubon Road, 2.5 miles to a bridge that crosses the creek and leads into the campground. Before you leave Selah fill your gas tank and avoid having to return to do so later.

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**.

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

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 2016

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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- I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$ _____
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**Flyway Renewal
date:**
November 1st
every year

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