

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2008

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, **November 4, 6:45 PM** before the meeting.

***Tuesday, **November 4, 7:30 pm**: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, **November 3, 6:30 pm**: VAS Board Meeting at the home of Marilyn Hall, 10806 NE 89th St., Vancouver 360-253-6865

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

PROGRAM:

SHOW & TELL

by members and guests



This program is put on by our members. It is your chance to show your vacation or wildlife photos to a willing audience.

Our projector can play either home made DVD's if you want to share video or CD with music, as well as just jpegs saved on DVD or CD.

The projector does not handle really large files very well so you will need to reduce any large ones OR bring your laptop to connect to the projector. Call Randy Hopfer for help. 360-573-6000

VAS Upcoming Programs:

December: **Condor Tales** by Sandy Wilbur

January: No meeting

February: Open

March: Nate Chappell Birds of Thailand, Argentina, Etc.

April: Bob Sallinger

Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center

FIELD TRIP

BOILER BAY OVERNIGHTER



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: November 21 & 22, Friday -Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM Saturday

Meet at: Crown Pacific Inn, Depoe Bay, 541-765-7773

Please make your own reservations and let Arden know that you are coming.



Overnighter to Lincoln City and trips to Boiler Bay and the Newport area. This is a time of year for alcids and seabirds to show up in the bay to feed.

December 21, Sunday:

Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

The Washington side of the Sauvie Island Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 21st.

Contact information is: Tammy Bjorkman

EMAIL: bjorkmante@iinet.com

PHONE: (360) 213-6489.



The October Board Meeting was held at Bonnie Bingle's. A quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report. Income was \$2,398.33 with \$1,785.75 received from National Audubon, \$326.29 in interest and \$129.29 from the store. Expenses were \$109.32. Cash and investments were \$24,190.73. Both CD's were rolled over. The Community Foundation Fund remained at \$216,243.3

Field Trips. There will be an overnigher to Boiler Bay on 22 November. The Christmas bird count will be 21 December.

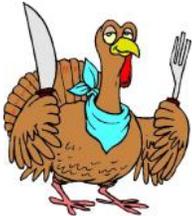
Conservation. A wetland fill at 59th St. and 147th Ave. was discussed.

Old Business. The Friends of Ridgefield NWR sent a report on what they had accomplished with the money we gave them.

New Business. A letter from a fourth grade teacher asked for someone to teach a class on northwest birds.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

Thanksgiving Day Bird Count



When: Thanksgiving Bird Count

Time: counter chooses the time that best fits his/her holiday schedule.

How long: only ONE HOUR

Where: in a count circle only 15 FEET in diameter, determined by the counter.

Actually, the circle can be considered a cylinder, since all birds seen on the ground (or water), in vegetation or flying over or through the circle can be counted. Individual birds are to be counted only once during the hour, even if they continue to pay visits. Flocks should be estimated or counted and just the highest number at any one time used.

This is one bird count which can be done in comfort (indoors) and won't take much time (one hour). Last year 431 counters in the eleven Western States and Alaska made 440 counts. They tallied 161 species of birds (plus a lot of mammals and other things, too).

See the website for the form:

vancouveraudubon.org/THANKSGIVING.pdf

Information is sent to:

Dr. John G. Hewston
Natural Resources Building
Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA 95521

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in 1966 by Dr. Ernest Edwards and the Lynchburg Bird Club in Virginia. Counts slowly spread to the West.



Project FeederWatch

Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

CORNELL LAB of ORNITHOLOGY  

Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People
Connection with nature promotes wellness

**Project FeederWatch 2008-09 season:
November 8 and runs through April 3.**

It is easy and can be a family project.

Cost is \$15 (for which you will receive *Feeder-Watcher's Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, *Winter Bird Highlights*.)

More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit **may be just what the doctor ordered!** For more than 20 years, that's what participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch have been doing--benefitting themselves and the birds.

Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges--a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment. Scientists learn something new from the data each year. Highlights of the most recent season include the largest southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the history of the project--part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins.



Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors.

To learn more and to sign up, visit:

www.feederwatch.org or call the
Lab toll-free at **(800) 843-2473**.

Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>



Reminder: If you haven't already done so, mail in your ballot

And remember, Vancouver Audubon is opposing I-985, Tim Eyman's latest. This initiative would take money away from much needed public transportation. See last month's *Flyway* for a complete explanation. Don't forget the environment when you vote.

Development on Vancouver's Waterfront

You may have read in the paper about Boise-Cascade closing their plant, thus leaving their site on the waterfront vacant. The city saw this as an opportunity to encourage a private company to do a super duper development with upscale everything. The plan that is being considered consists of shops and restaurants on the east end of the property, mostly offices in the middle, and residential, probably condos, on the west end. Two north-south streets, Esther and Grant, would go under the railroad tracks, connecting the site with downtown.

As it is being planned, the development will not be all buildings, however. The owners of the site will convey to the city a band of land fronting directly on the river that is to be used as a park. This is an opportunity to provide a bit of green along the river, close to downtown. What we must avoid is a kitchen-sink park (one that has everything including the kitchen sink) or a lollipop park (one that may have trees, but no vegetation from the ground to twelve feet in the air). It would be great if at least a part of it could be natural. It may be possible.

To solicit ideas from many segments of the population and to help plan the park, Vancouver has convened a citizen's committee, called the Community Resource Team. I was invited to be a part of this team and I accepted. As of this writing, there have been two meetings. There is to be one more in October and an additional public open house in November. The team is a large committee that includes people from neighborhood associations near downtown, Hudson's Bay High School, business organizations, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, City of Vancouver officials, a representative for American Disability Act, the Historic Reserve Trust, and Vancouver Audubon.

The meetings have included a tour of the site, which is between the railroad tracks and the Columbia, west of the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. The park portion would be a mostly broad, irregular-shaped band running along the river the length of the property. The bank down to the river is not high, but steep. At the west end, there is a grove of trees (probably cottonwoods).

The east end of the proposed park would be more developed with lawn (at least, passive green space), and places for people to meet. The middle section might include a space for performance, restaurants (up by where

the buildings are), a plaza, fountains. The west end would be kept natural open space. A trail would run along the river.

With such a large group, it can be seen that the suggestions for the park would run the gamut from basketball courts and skate parks to passive uses such as walking and birding. Interestingly, the youth representative did not think that basketball and skate parks are that important for this site. As a member of this committee, I have to keep reminding myself that this is an urban park by downtown and that the previous use was industrial and that almost anything else is bound to be better. I want to try to keep the west end bird friendly with the grove of cottonwoods and appropriate shrubs and other plants and the more intensive uses kept to the east.

The November open house will be on the 5th, that's the day after the election. Put it on your calendar. By next month's *Flyway*, I should know where. A little green space for birds near downtown may be possible.

Department of Natural Resources Planning: Hikers or Off-Road Vehicles?

The legislature has told the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a working group to plan for the recreation use of state lands. Before the group met, the DNR went around the state conducting work shops and soliciting ideas from the public. The DNR is to send a progress report to the legislature in December and a final report is due December of 2009.

It is fortunate that Audubon has a member on this working group. She is Linda Haggin from Spokane Audubon. She is the only member who is affiliated with a strictly environmental group, although hunting groups have a representative, as do the tribes and groups representing boaters and trail proponents. There are a number of representatives from groups advocating several types of power machines as well as mountain bikes. Our issue and wish is to keep most trails free for hiking, contemplation, and birding. Machines do not mix with any of these. We will need to keep an eye on what happens. Following is my comment at the DNR workshop in Vancouver (these comments were written on a big sheet of paper and were anonymous).

"This an inherent conflict between machine use and non-machine use. Ideally, machine use would be phased out entirely. However, as it is, machines should be restricted to sacrifice areas and kept away from hikers, horses and wildlife. The wild should remain wild. ... Other considerations – Cost – which type of recreation costs the most, both in preparing the trail and repairing damage. Global warming and impact of the types of recreation on that. Impacts on wildlife."

Gretchen Starke



Sept. 3, Arden and Sherry Hagen were able to see the **LITTLE BLUE HERON** at Smith and Bybee Lakes in North Portland. While viewing this rare visitor from the southern states they spotted **5 BLACK SWIFTS** flying overhead.

Sept. 4, I made the trip to add the **LITTLE BLUE HERON** to my Oregon bird list and also saw the **BLACK SWIFTS** there.

Oct. 5, Susan and I enjoyed a fabulous day of birding from our deck at home. We had 45 species pass through including **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, DUSKY FLYCATCHER, RED-EYED VIREO, and HERMIT WARBLER.**



Sept. 6, Bob Flores located **2 RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** near Long Lake on the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR. This refuge is the best spot in Washington State to see this species of hawk. He also had a late **LEAST FLYCATCHER** on the refuge.

Jim Danzenbaker was listening to migrating birds in

the evening and early morning darkness at his Battle Ground home and counted **375 SWAINSON'S THRUSH** while he was outside. Many more obviously passed over during the time he was in his home. At the Mint Farm mitigation ponds in Longview Ken Knittle saw **2 STILT SANDPIPERS.**

Sept. 8, After a **VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER** was reported from Windust Park, on the Snake River in Franklin County, Susan and I made the five and a half hour drive up to see it. This was only the fourth record for this South American species for North America.

Sept. 10, An early adult **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** was among the migrant birds seen at Clark College by Ray Korpi.

Sept 13, Bob Flores found a **LONG-BILLED CURLEW** at the south end of Rest Lake. He also had **15 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS** on the lake.

Sept. 15, Susan and I found a **VESPER SPARROW** at the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR. The last one of these grassland sparrows I have seen in Clark County was nine years ago.

Sept. 18, Dan Friesz counted **65 BAND-TAILED PIGEONS** in the headwaters of Salmon Creek feasting on blue elderberries. These large native pigeons used to migrate out of the area by early September with the first rains but are now staying around a little later.

Sept 19, **2 EARED GREBES** were seen by Roger Windemuth on Rest Lake at the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit.

Sept. 20, While scouting the Longview area for possible field trips for the 2009 Washington Ornithological Conference with Patricia Lott and Allan Lincoln, we found a

LEWIS' WOODPECKER at Willow Grove and a **EARED GREBE** on the city wastewater ponds. Unfortunately Patricia died the next week in an automobile accident, she will be missed by the birding community and all of those who had met her. Don & Sue Cannard report a large number of **MARBLED GODWIT** at Tokeland, WA.



Sept. 21, **12 BLACK BRANT** were seen by Roger Windemuth as they flew over the Hunters Gate, near Marker #4, on the River "S" unit. This species of goose is usually found on saltwater where they feed on eel-grass and this is the first sighting in Clark County of more than one bird at a time.

Sept. 23, Will Clemons birded at the River "S" Unit with his mother Olive and found a good variety of migrants. Species seen included: **EARED GREBE, GREEN HERON, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, COOPER'S HAWK, MERLIN and SANDHILL CRANE.**

Sept. 27, The water level had dropped at Rest Lake at River S Unit of Ridgefield NWR creating good mudflats where Bob Flores found a **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** among the flocks of Yellowlegs and Dowitchers. This is a very rare sandpiper from Siberia.

Sept. 29, Susan and I checked the North end of Skamania County for high elevation birds. This is an under-birded area with great potential. We found a **SURF SCOTER** on Council Lake where we also had a flock of **CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS.** At near by Horseshoe Lake there was a **ROCK WREN, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** and a flock of **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES.**

Oct. 1, Jim Danzenbaker checked the mudflat at Rest Lake on the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR and counted **65 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, 50 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 30 GREATER YELLOWLEGS, 3 PECTORAL SANDPIPER, 1 LEAST SANDPIPER, 1 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, 1 DUNLIN, 2 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, 4 KILLDEER, and 3 WILSON'S SNIPE.**

Oct. 2, Arden and Sherry Hagen invited me to join them for a run down to Fern Ridge Reservoir near Eugene to view a **WOOD SANDPIPER.** This is another Eurasian species with only about four records in the lower forty-eight states.

Oct. 3, The night flight at Jim Danzenabker's Battle Ground home ceased but he did spot the following species **5 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, 8 GREATER CANADA GEESE, 125 EVENING GROSBEAK, 175 CEDAR WAXWING, 45 AMERICAN ROBIN, 5 PURPLE FINCH, 3PINE SISKIN, 4 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, 2 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, 1 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, and WINTER WREN.** These are mostly wintering birds in this area, a sign of the change in seasons. At Rest Lake, Bob Flores counted **120**

("Afield" Continued on next page)

("Afield" Continued)

GREATER AND 15 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 4 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS and about 40 dowitchers along with **29 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**.

OCT. 4, During a visit to the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit, Jim Danzenbaker had **483 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, 300 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS** and **24 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS**. The most



unusual sighting was of a single **BLACK SWIFT**, this is a very late date for this species. Carol and Don Kohler made the trip to Eugene to see the **WOOD SANDPIPER**.

Oct. 5, Khanh Tran, of Portland, birded Takhlakh Lake and Horseshoe Lake in northeast Skamania County.

His primary target bird was **SPRUCE GROUSE** but he also located **3 RUFFED GROUSE** and **8 SOOTY GROUSE, NORTHERN PYGMY OWL, BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** and **8 PINE GROSBEAK**.

Oct. 7, Ken Knittle, Tom Mansfield and Russ Koppendray also birded Takhlakh Lake and Horseshoe Lake. Their highlights were: **SURF SCOTER** on Taklakh Lake, **1 PINE GROSBEAK** in the campground at Taklakh Lake, **12 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** in a forest meadow before getting to Takhlakh Lake. At Horseshoe Lake they had a large flock of **GRAY JAYS**, a female **NORTHERN SHOVELER**, **1 HORNED GREBE**, a large flock of **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES**.

Ray Korpi had a kettle of **52 TURKEY VULTURES** over the SW Washington Medical Center and 3 over the Clark campus. The next afternoon he had 25 birds over his house in Vancouver. Bob & Geri Rowe reported **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** at Carson, WA.

Oct. 11, While leading a bird walk at the Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit for the annual BirdFest, Arden Hagen located a **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**. The Hagen's also had a late **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** at bathing at their Cascade Park man-made stream.

This has been a very good year for unusual birds in the northwest besides the species mentioned in the sighting reports a **WANDERING ALBATROSS** and a **HAWAIIAN PETREL** were seen on offshore birding trips. The albatross was only the third ever seen in the North Pacific Ocean as they are an Antarctic species. Watch the local flocks of ducks and geese for any out of place species and please report any unusual or unidentified birds coming to your feeders to me or Arden and Sherry Hagen immediately, as Eurasian finches and buntings may be in the Northwest this fall.

I am looking forward to the annual Christmas Bird Count to be held this year on Dec. 21, please contact Tammy Bjorkman for more information or to sign up on a birding team.

The species count for birds seen so far in 2008 in Clark County is 207 and in Skamania County that number is now at 164.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com



CATS INDOORS!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER BIRDS & CATS

The Problem

There are more than 90 million pet cats in the U.S., the majority of which roam outside at least part of the time. In addition, millions of stray and feral cats roam our cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians each year. Cat predation is an added stress to wildlife populations already struggling to survive habitat loss, pollution, pesticides, and other human impacts

The Solution

In 1997, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) launched the *Cats Indoors!* Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats to educate cat owners, decision makers, and the general public that cats, wildlife and people all benefit when cats are kept indoors, in an outdoor enclosure, or trained to go outside on a harness and leash.

What can you do

Join thousands of supporters and conduct a *Cats Indoors!* education campaign in your community using the materials ABC has developed.

Website

www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html

*****MEMBERS TRADING POST*****

If you have art work or books to sale that have to do with Nature, Wildlife or Science, you may bring them to the General Meeting but you **MUST** donate **at least** 10% of the sale price on books and **at least** 15% of the sale price on other art work. For more information call:

Sydney Reibick 360-887-7880



message/fax (360) 253-5771

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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.*



November 2008

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

Help support Vancouver Audubon

I wish to subscribe to Vancouver Audubon's newsletter "The Columbia Flyway" for \$10/year.
 I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$_____

**Flyway Renewal
date:**
November 1st
every year

Renewals: please send your renewal directly to National Audubon with the forms sent to you. Thanks!
*** This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* ***

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For more Info Call:
Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872
George Mayfield 360-687-0360

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