

# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2010

## Calendar

\*\*\*BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, Nov. 2, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

\*\*\*Tuesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 715 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, Nov. 1, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Marilyn Hall  
10806 NE 89th St., Vancouver 360-253-6865

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	1	2	3	4

## 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. A good size might be 4x6 inches with a dpi of 125. Call Bob Rowe for information and to sign up: 360-254-8699

## FIELD TRIP

### Newport, OR & the Coast



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: December 4, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Inn at the Quay, west side parking lot

We will head to the Newport, OR area and the coast looking for wintering waterfowl, seabirds, loons, grebes, all 3 species of cormorants and anything else that might show up in the area.

December 4th



## The Columbia Flyway Renewal Notice



Remember that **November 1st** is the deadline for renewing your Columbia Flyway subscription.

If you have **NOT** paid already, you will see an "Unpaid" notice on the lower right hand corner of your mailing address. If you want to continue receiving the flyway then see the coupon on the back page of this publication for mailing in your \$10 renewal.

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## Treasurer's Report – Joan Durgin

Revenue for August: \$834.75 (Part of which is donations for Audubon Adventures for classrooms and will be paid out later).

Expenses for August: \$324.67

Balance in Community Foundation as of 8/30/10: \$207,427

## Membership –George Mayfield

George gave an update paid newsletter subscriptions and names in the database. Tammy has written a letter to be mailed to all unpaid newsletter subscribers requesting they renew by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Letter will also include an "ask" for additional unrestricted support.

## Conservation – Gretchen Starke

Gretchen gave an update on plans for the Gifford Pinchot forest. Bob Rowe and Gretchen attended the Port of Vancouver's Annual Environmental Forum.

## Old Business

• Grant: Eric requested board look at statement from Community Foundation on October 31 and December 31. If the balance grows sufficiently over the fund limit then he'll request additional payments be made to help Friends of Ridgefield NWR to help meet the additional \$3,000 needed for their Environmental Education Program.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Bjorkman

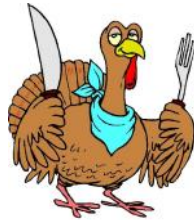


The StreamTeam, a volunteer driven, stream restoration program, is looking for intermediate to advanced birders to collect important data on wading bird populations in Clark County. Become a part of a network of birders working to assess local bird populations.

**Wading bird orientation will be held on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30 pm for interested birders.** Learn how to collect data, conduct site visits and be a part of this effort! Volunteers make their own monitoring schedule within set protocols.

This wildlife monitoring effort is a partnership between Clark Public Utilities' StreamTeam and Clark County Department of Environmental Services. The goal of this program is to monitor wildlife usage of stream restoration and enhancement sites. For more information, please contact Lisa Beranek at (360) 992-8585 or visit [www.StreamTeam.net](http://www.StreamTeam.net).

## 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](http://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.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**New Members:** Laura Atter • Jare Boroniri • Sharon Bridges • Jari Bryart • Jim Burks • Laura Butterfield • Linda Cox • Joam Derie • Gera Franco • Lowell Goldman • Ruth Grandy • Mike Hauser • Don Humphrey • Sheryl Jolna • Heather Josi • Rod Kraushar • Barbara Michael • Andrea Miller • Elizabeth Northouse • Nancy Rickard • E Robb • Videt Robison • Marge Sabar • Rick Snow • Diane Sweet • Joy & Tod Trayer • Frank Urphrey • John Valente • Virginia Vincent

**Transfer Members:** Jeffrey Grubb • J Norman Jones • Marie McClelland • Amy Tarska



**November 2 is election day!  
Get informed. VOTE!!**

## The Port of Vancouver and the Environment

When I first moved to Vancouver, the relationship between the Port of Vancouver and Clark County environmentalists was tense. The port wanted to totally industrialize the Vancouver Lake lowlands. The port owned Ridgeport Dairy, what is now part of the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge at the end of Lower River Road. Their plan was to build a deep water terminal there. The port's employees were clueless about environmental issues. The lawyer who represented the port once said that putting a rail line to the Ridgeport Dairy would be good for wildlife because grain would fall off the railroad cars, providing food for the birds.

Fast forward 40 years and numerous port commissioner elections later, the picture has entirely changed. In the 1990s, the port sold Ridgeport Dairy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be a part of the refuge. As a result of complicated discussions over the years among the port, the county, environmental groups, and others, the land owned by the port north of the flushing channel has been set aside for wildlife to mitigate for development elsewhere in the lowlands. And, we can talk to the port and feel that our concerns are being heard.

Part of the change is because of external pressures from environmentalists and changes in zoning. But part of the change is because of a change in the culture of the port itself. For one thing, they have employed a person to deal with environmental issues and problems, and this person, Patty Boyden, actually does positive things.

The port has a special event every year for county environmentalists in which the port shows us what they have been doing for the environment lately. Of course, it is public relations, but I think they are really trying to do the best they can. Among the measures the port is undertaking to improve their environmental impact is to institute no idling zones throughout the port property. The port has posted signs telling the truckers to turn off their engines. It is a small thing, but it is important.

The port is keeping us informed about the work they are doing on the wetland mitigation bank they are building on the former Rufener farm, across the road from the port offices. The port has contracted with a firm to do surveys of the songbirds and other birds on the property and we have been given summaries of the reports.

The lessons learned from all this are: don't give up and elections matter. The port commission has two good

members that we can talk to and who understand our concerns and issues. Environmentalists helped in electing these people. When we talk with them, they know who we are.

## Congress Leaves DC to go Campaigning

Congress has recessed until after the election, leaving behind much unfinished business. They plan to return in November for a lame duck session. The biggest environmental problem not addressed is climate change. We seemed so optimistic at the beginning of this Congress because there seemed to be more members who might be willing to do something about global climate change. Alas, it was not to be.

The best way to sharply reduce our dependence on fossil fuels is to have a carbon tax -- a steep one. That idea was a no-starter from the get-go, so we environmentalists compromised by supporting cap-and-trade. Cap-and-trade would create pollution credits. If a business could clean up its act and reduce its carbon output, it could sell its carbon credits on the market. Conversely, if a business cannot reduce its carbon output, it could buy carbon credits. It is a cumbersome and complicated process, but it does adhere to the idea of market principles, which conservatives keep on telling us they love.

The house did a pass cap-and-trade bill. It was weak and full of compromises and too many goodies for the oil and coal industries. But, never mind, it was a small start toward doing something to contain global warming. The house passed it and sent it on to the senate where good (and even barely adequate) bills go to die. The cap-and-trade bill was viciously attacked. It was a tax. It was socialist. And so on.

The global warming deniers were (and still are) in full force. There is no such thing as global warming. If there is global warming, humans are not causing it. Global warming is good for us. We can grow more crops. The plants will use the carbon in the atmosphere to grow bigger and stronger. Global warming is a hoax. This nonsense is getting noisier and noisier and what with some public relation missteps by some scientists being blown out of proportion by the media, more people do not understand the seriousness of climate change.

So, with the public either hostile or indifferent, and the minority party having elevated obstructionist behavior to a fine art, the majority leader in the senate, Harry Reid, pulled the cap-and-trade bill from consideration this year and it is dead. We will have to start all over again next January. So, another year is lost and the next congress is unlikely to be any easier to work with.

Gretchen Starke





- Sept. 10, Marilyn Hall spotted a pair of BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS in her backyard adding a new bird to her yard list. They were with a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, several CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEES and a few BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES.
- Sept. 11, Will Clemons and Carol Ledford birded the River "S" Unit of the Ridgefield NWR and found an early female BUFFLEHEAD, which is only a wintering species locally. Also seen were 1 GREEN HERON, 1 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, and returning migrant SANDHILL CRANES. I found and photographed a breeding plumage SANDERLING at Rock Creek Park in Stevenson. This was a new bird for the Skamania County checklist.
- Sept. 12, Rhett Wilkins reported 2 LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS from the Steigerwald Lake NWR near Washougal. This was the third report this year from Clark County of these gorgeous birds. Susan and I saw 2 SABINE'S GULLS at Sprague Lake, in Adams County on a trip to eastern Washington. Randy Hill found 3 COMMON TERNS at Vancouver Lake Park. Bob Flores went a few hours later and they were still there. The quick reporting of these birds allowed many people a chance to see them. Sherry and Arden Hagen saw 2 of the COMMON TERNS and stopped at Rufner's Pond where they saw 24 GREAT EGRETS, at least a dozen GREATER YELLOWLEGS, a few LESSER YELLOWLEGS and one or two PECTORAL SANDPIPERS.
- Sept. 14, Scott Carpenter, Ray Korpi, and Lyn Topinka saw the continuing COMMON TERNS at Vancouver Lake. All six times I have seen this species in Clark County, fell between late August and mid-September as they migrate from their breeding grounds in central Canada.
- Sept. 16, In LaCenter, a ACORN WOODPECKER visited the feeder of Alex Chmielewski, This is only the third record of this species from Clark County. There is only one known nesting colony in the state and that is near Lyle, in Klickitat County. Arden and Sherry Hagen had a huge number of warblers this week migrating through and stopping to bath in their man-made stream in Cascade Park. They had 15-20 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS among the 200 birds in the yard. They identified 18 species of birds during a 2 hour span.
- Sept. 18, A pelagic trip out of Westport, in Gray' Harbor County, provided two new "lifers" for Eric and three for Tammy Bjorkman. They both got SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER and FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER and Tammy added the FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL. Afterwards they drove to Tokeland and found a breeding plumage BAR-TAILED GODWIT that had been reported there along with a juvenile. Tokeland is the best spot in the lower forty-eight states to see this Eurasian godwit with their being nearly annual in the fall.
- Sept. 19, A MERLIN was spotted on the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit by Lyn Topinka.
- Sept. 20, Bob Flores counted 60 SANDHILL CRANES on Bachelor Island on the Ridgefield NWR. He saw a few GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE as well.
- Sept. 22, A SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER was located on Rest Lake by Bob Flores who went to the nearest phone and called Randy Hill about the bird. When Randy and Bob returned to the refuge there was the BLACK SWAN sitting in the water south of the auto tour route and Rest Lake. Our first of the fall GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS arrived for the winter, at our place east of Washougal. We had a good movement of birds with ORANGE-CROWNED, YELLOW-RUMPED, BLACK-THROATED GRAY, TOWNSEND'S, MACGILLIVRAY'S and WILSON'S WARBLERS in our woods.
- Sept. 23, Tyler Hicks checked the Ridgefield NWR River "S" loop finding lots of activity and commotion on the marsh with NORTHERN HARRIERS and PEREGRINE FALCONS keeping the birds on their toes. The visit's highlights were: 6 SANDHILL CRANES, 20 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, the SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER and a MARBLED GODWIT. Tyler had spent two weekends in early September in the backcountry near the Windy Ridge area of the Mt. Saint Helens. He saw many birds with a strong movement of both neotropical and raptor migrants along the ridge tops. The highlights were 12 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, 4 NORTHERN GOSHAWKS - 6 COOPER'S HAWKS, 2 GOLDEN EAGLES, 1 MERLIN, 2 SHORT-EARED OWLS, 1 N. PYGMY OWL, 2 CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS, 1 THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, 1 WESTERN SCRUB-JAY, and 1,000 WESTERN TANAGERS.
- Sept. 23, Eric Bjorkman had an adult male BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD at their feeder for a new yard bird and the fifth species of hummer at their home in Vancouver.
- Sept. 25, Carol Kohler joined a Ken Knittle led field trip for the Washington Ornithological Society to northern Skamania County. They lucked out finding one BOREAL OWL near the Takhlakh Lake campground. This little owl became silent and invisible when a BARRED OWL showed up. That night a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL called once in the campground. On the outing they had also found a male AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER with a very white back, not the heavily barred subspecies normally seen in the northern Cascades of Washington State.
- Sept. 26, A male yellow-shafted NORTHERN FLICKER was in with migrant flickers at our home.
- Sept. 29, A stream of 177 Turkey Vultures flew over Jim Danzenbaker's yard in Battle Ground. Other obvious migrants seen that morning included: 100 EVENING GROSBEAKS, 5 VARIED THRUSH, 6 AMERICAN PIPIT and 1 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.

**("Afield" Continued on next page)**

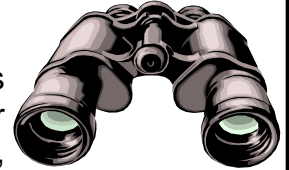
# Sauvie Island Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

**Washington Side: Friday December 17th, 2010**

**F**or two weeks before and two weeks after Christmas, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas will take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. The **SAUVIE ISLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - WASHINGTON SIDE** is scheduled for Friday, December 17.

Please join us in helping to make a difference!

Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides



and checklists participate in this annual mission. For more than one hundred years (since December 25, 1900!), the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season and help with this project. To learn more about the history of this honored tradition, check out the website at:

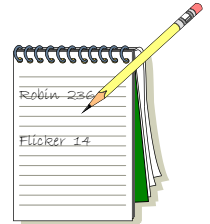
<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/history.html>



**VAS Contact Person: Tammy Bjorkman**

**If you have questions or would like to sign up to**

**join a team, call or email: (360) 213-6489 or [bjorkmante@iinet.com](mailto:bjorkmante@iinet.com)**



## ("Afield" Continued)

Sept. 30, We counted 18 WESTERN MEADOWLARKS on a Friends of the Columbia Gorge walk on the Steigerwald Lake NWR.

OCT. 1, The fourth LEWIS' WOODPECKER reported in Clark County this year was the second this fall in Jim Danzenaker's yard. VARIED THRUSH arrived in the lowlands with Arden and Sherry Hagen reporting them from Cascade Park and Bob Flores from Ridgefield.

Oct. 2, A Big Sit is an all day bird list done from inside a 17'diameter circle. Jim Danzenbaker centered a circle on his back deck in Battle Ground, and identified 46 species for the day including two yard firsts and six species of warblers. Bird spotted included RED-BREASTED SAP-SUCKER, BROWN CREEPER, WESTERN MEADOW-LARK and LESSER GOLDFINCH.

Oct. 3, A flock of 24 SNOW GEESE flew by Jim Danzenbaker's home for a new yard bird.

Oct. 4, At 4:15 in the morning, a LONG-EARED OWL called from the trees beyond Jim Danzenbaker's deck. Later in the day, a PALM WARBLER was feeding in the same area 15 feet beyond his deck. Both birds were new yard birds, county birds and state birds for Jim. There are only about four records in the county for either of these birds. Bob Flores was able to get to Jim's home in time to see the PALM WARBLER. Later in the day the third LEWIS'S WOODPECKER of the year was in Jim's neighborhood.

ported this fall from throughout the west-side of the state all the way to Seattle and Long Beach. This dispersal may be linked to the very poor crop of acorns in the native Oregon White Oaks this year. Not only was the acorn crop a near bust, the wild fruits such as Cascara, Bitter Cherry and huckleberries were in short supply. Birds were eating the green Mountain Ash and holly berries on our trees in late September as all of the other fruit was gone. This looks like it will be a hard winter for many species and our feeders are going to be a more attractive food source than usual. Watch for anything unusual at your feeders or while birding and please alert me or the Hagens as soon as possible if you do spot something. And please continue to send me your sightings for this column and the County Cumulative Year List. As of the first week of October 221 species have been reported from Clark County and 178 from Skamania County.

There has been a discussion of doing a multi-day combination shorebird and pelagic birding trip either next spring or late summer if there is enough interest from VAS members, please contact me if this is something that might interest you. Another possible trip would be to the known migrant trap at Washtucna, Adams County, in mid-September to search for out of place birds. Bob Rowe visited there in mid-September and found an AMERICAN REDSTART. Other rarities seen there this year were Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Broad-winged Hawk and Blackburnian Warbler.

*Wilson Cady* [gorgebirds@juno.com](mailto:gorgebirds@juno.com)

Lewis's Woodpeckers and Acorn Woodpeckers were re-

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Vancouver Audubon  
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of nature's design and  
promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
stewardship, enjoyment  
and advocacy.*



**November 2010**

**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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November 1st  
every year

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\*\*\* This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* \*\*\*

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