



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2011

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

***Tuesday, Nov. 1, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Nov. 7, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by George & Cindy Mayfield, 24315 NE 59th Ave., Battleground 360-687-0360

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			

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

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360-254-8699

Limit your slides/photos to share:
20 only

FIELD TRIP

Tualatin NWR (& maybe Fernhill Wetland)



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: Nov. 19, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Red Lion Inn at the Quay at the south end of Columbia Blvd, Vancouver, WA. West side parking lot.

We will be looking for waterfowl and wintering passerines. If time allows after going to Tualatin NWR we will also visit the Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove.

The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice



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

USE the enclosed Envelope for ease of mailing. If you have already paid, you will not have an envelope enclosed. If you want to continue receiving the flyway, see the coupon on the back page of this publication for mailing in your \$10 renewal plus any donation you wish to include.

Headline: Birding Trail's Puget Loop Debuts for Holidays

Delight your favorite birders this holiday season with the newest – the seventh and final – map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail: the Puget Loop. Hot off the press Thanksgiving weekend, this signature route features 220 of our 346 annually recorded bird species around Puget Sound from Seattle to Mt. Rainier, plus Lake Washington, Kitsap Peninsula; and Vashon, Bainbridge, Whidbey and San Juan islands. Travel by car, bus or ferry, or bike or paddle to the Puget Loop's 42 main sites and 18 "more birding" locations for avian highlights: Bald Eagles, Pileated Woodpeckers, Pacific Wrens, Anna's Hummingbirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Pigeon Guillemots – and more.



Pre-order the Puget Loop, plus all six other routes of the statewide Birding Trail: http://wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html.

Stay tuned for more Puget Loop details in next month's newsletter.

The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice

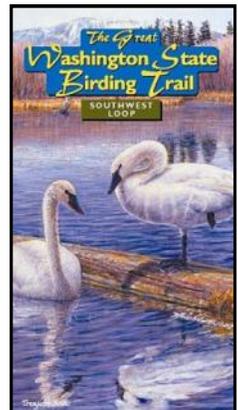
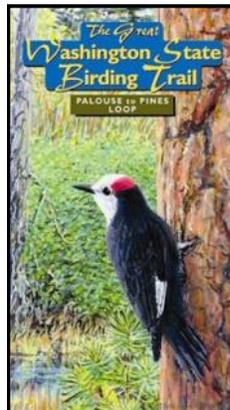
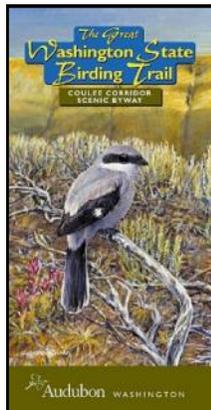
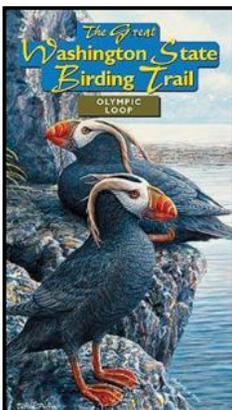


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SEE THE FRONT PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON RENEWING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.



Add a stamp along with your check & renewal information from the back page of The newsletter and mail.





What's Next for the Environment in the Legislature?

The outlook is grim. That was the message from Craig Pridemore, state senator from the 49th Legislative District (old Vancouver). The Friends of the Columbia Gorge organized a forum in September on the prospects for the environment in the Washington legislature. Craig Pridemore and Sharon Wylie were the presenters. Vancouver Audubon was a co-sponsor.

The starting point was the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, but other issues were also covered. Craig opened his remarks by asking what we thought the biggest threat to the environment was. His answer was the bad economy. The reason is that, for the public at large, the economy is the top concern. There is a loss of support for anything else.

Specifically on the Columbia River Gorge, there are not enough champions in the legislature. The legislators from Puget Sound barely know the gorge is there. In the 2010 session, there even was an effort to dissolve the interstate compact among Oregon, Washington, and the federal government that created the Columbia River Gorge Commission. In this last session, the funding for the commission was reduced by \$1.4 million. According to the interstate compact, each state must fund the commission the same amount, so if Washington reduces its funding, Oregon must also, making it a double hit for the commission. Craig said that the enemies of the scenic area are difficult to fight. In addition, Skamania County's pending loss of federal timber dollars will increase the pressure to develop.

There will be further attacks on growth management (GMA). There was a bill last session that would have exempted certain counties (on the eastside) from the provisions of GMA. Craig said that if that had gotten to the floor, it would have included all counties.

Transportation of coal will be an issue. We can expect no help from labor on that issue as they are too worried about their jobs.

Craig said that it is necessary to tighten up the state environmental protection act (SEPA). Too many projects that don't really affect the environment require environmental impact statements. But in the effort to fix SEPA, we will need to fight against it being scrapped all together.

There will be threats to storm water management. The biggest problem is funding. But there will also be efforts to change standards. It will be necessary to keep an eye on the situation.

There will be a bill to modify Initiative 937. That is the initiative that mandated that energy utilities include a given percentage of renewable energy be included in the utilities power production portfolio. Hydropower was excluded. One reason for that was the potential rush to dam the small tributaries to the large rivers, which would have been harmful to salmon and other creatures. Excluding hydro-

power did hurt medium to small PUDs that depending on hydropower. Craig thought that, for purposes of I-937, allowing utilities to apply hydropower to their increase in demand only would address the problem of pressure to dam small tributaries.

Since Craig Pridemore's presentation, the governor has called a special session of the legislature, to start after Thanksgiving. The latest state revenue report found that revenue has declined even more than expected. A bad economy is the enemy of the environment.

Whistling Ridge: Wind Power in the Columbia River Gorge

The decision on allowing SDS Lumber Company to develop a 50-turbine wind power farm on their land next to the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area will be made soon. Possibly by the time you read this. The Facility Site Evaluation Council will make a recommendation to the governor at the time of this writing. Governor Gregoire will make the final decision.

As I wrote earlier, Vancouver Audubon is relying on Seattle Audubon to be the lead for us on this issue. We simply do not have the resources to deal with such a huge project (the environmental impact state is over 1,000 pages and the appendix addressing wildlife is over 300 pages).

Our position on the wind farm should be based on its effects on wildlife, especially birds. We are not so much concerned on the effect of the turbines on scenic values. Because of the need to encourage renewable



energy production, we have been reluctant to totally oppose the project based on scenery alone. Thus, we are following the lead of Seattle Audubon on what position to take. As of this writing, Seattle Audubon has not taken a position for or against Whistling Ridge, either. They have, however, just sent a letter to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pointing out errors in their analysis of the effects of this project of the northern spotted owl. Friends of the Columbia River Gorge and other environmental groups also signed onto the letter.

The letter is asking the two agencies to reinstate consultation because the analysis was based on misinformation on the presence of spotted owls in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. In addition, the analysis did not consider any owl behavior except nesting. The adverse effects of the turbines on foraging and dispersal were not considered.

Gretchen Starke

Mount Adams in a Warming Climate

Friday, November 11, 2011

A science conference hosted by Friends of Mount Adams at Trout Lake School, Trout Lake, Wash., 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. \$25 registration fee includes lunch and snacks. Topics include: *Human Ecology, Culture, and History of Mount Adams* - Cheryl Mack and Rick McClure; *Twentieth Century Glacier Change on Mount Adams* - Dr. Andrew Fountain; *The View from Treeline: Climate Change Impacts on Alpine and Subalpine Ecosystems* - Dr. Jeremy Littell; *Management Options for Minimizing Wildfire Risk and Maximizing Carbon Storage in Western Forests under Future Climate Changes* - Dr. Robert Scheller. For schedule, speaker abstracts, and a registration form, go to <http://mtadamsfriends.org>.



Volcano Views & Brews

The Mount St. Helens Institute presents fascinating topics and lively speakers at this free monthly science seminar in Vancouver. El Presidente Mexican Restaurant, 312 East Evergreen: doors open at 5:00 pm for no-host food and libations; speaker from 6:30 – 8:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday.

November 15, 2011

Dust in the Cabin: How Volcanologists Help Aviators Avoid Ash Clouds by Dr. Larry Mastin

January 17, 2012

The Cascade Red Fox: Washington's Unique and Little Known Carnivore by Dr. Keith Aubry

A Movie About Birders

Opens October 14, 2011

The Big Year, a major Hollywood motion picture devoted to birding that Audubon had an exclusive opportunity to preview at the studios of Twentieth Century Fox.



The film stars [are](#) Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin. The movie was inspired by Mark Obamsckik's best-selling chronicle of three colorful and obsessive birders as they compete for the biggest "Big Year."

Audubon served as a resource for the filmmaker, contributing both expertise and Audubon branded materials for set-dressing. You'll be pleased to see Audubon make a few appearances in the movie itself. After our exclusive preview, our take is that it's a positive, engaging look at birding and birders. It even presents a fairly accurate version of Audubon's founding and its history.

Clearly, it's not every day that a major film with high profile talent injects birds and birding into the pop culture mainstream. This is a rare opportunity to engage both current members and new audiences.



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The Backyard & Beyond...

In early September we made our second trip to Peru with our "sort of adopted son" Eddy (from Ecuador). He and the driver, Jorge, picked us up in Chiclayo in northern Peru to start the journey the next day. This was a special trip to see the hummingbird called the Marvelous Spatuletail along with all the other species we might have a chance at.

We started in the dry area along the coast. I love this kind of birding. The trees are usually low with few leaves unlike the jungle or cloud forest areas where the trees are so tall and the birds are on the top of the trees usually with a gray sky behind them. See them... ha!!!

We started picking up life birds right away along with old familiar ones. We stayed at Chappari which is the first private community owned preserve in Peru. In the morning we enjoy hummingbirds as they came to the stream for the morning baths. The preserve raises Spectacled Bears to help build the local population. We finally got to see our life Andean Condor when a immature one flew out over the dry mountains and circled in front of us several times. None of us had experience with the immature condors vs the immature King Vulture and it wasn't until we looked at our photos that evening that we realized it was a condor.

After a few days in the dry area we headed into the mountains. Our first big stop was for the Marvelous Spatuletail at the Huembo Preserve set up just for this very special hummingbird. They are trying to save it from extinction. It is found only in several places in a small area. We walked to the feeders the species used & it wasn't long before we spotted this magnificent little hummingbird. We saw an adult male along with a immature male and an adult female.



Next we spent several days at the Owlet Lodge. This lodge was set up as a private spot to preserve a few other species like the Johnson's Tody-flycatcher. But after a few years a little 6 inch owl was discovered there. The Long-whiskered Owlet was discovered in 1972 and nothing was known of it since no one could find it until it was mist netted 20 years later. They even thought the owlet might not be able to fly. But believe me it can fly for we were lucky enough to have this elf of an owl fly in and land in front of us. The trail to see the owlet was rough, muddy and rocky. The lodge lent us boots.

After birding this area for a few days, we took off east to Moyobamba and the first place we hit was another privately owned hummingbird feeder & trails system preserve. They have seen 24 hummers at this one place. It was great. We added lifers and life photos. We had to wait out a huge thunder storm under the canopy of the viewing tower. It rained so hard that mist came inside and got us wet & cold. The next day we birded the trails & found a baby Banded Owl along with it's parents.

Our next stop was Leymebamba, a little old quaint city in the mountains. The streets were cobblestone & the buildings were straight up & down. There would be a wooden door here & there to indicate a business or whatever. Very small signs were high on the buildings. We went through one of those wooden doors to find the central garden to the hotel. The rooms were around the gardens. Another door went to a restaurant where we ate very good homemade food. I loved this town and the canyon beyond it where we found nesting Andean Condors. I called this area Hobbit Land since it had beautiful green grassy hills, black rocks & horizontal wooden fences. I had to have my photo taken in Hobbit Land & climbed a small incline to the fence.

AT 5 AM next morning we headed southwest through dry mountains along a one lane dirt-rock road in dense fog. Arden white knuckled it as we drove. There were no guard rails & it was at least 2000 feet straight down before you "might" stop if you went over the edge. I was tired & slept part of the time. Luckily we met no one that morning. We went to about 11,000 feet then down to 3000 feet. We went from freezing cold in the morning to hot down below. I was feeling nauseated & thought I might have a touch of altitudinal sickness again. I got sicker & sicker until I was violently shaking with a serve stomach ache along with other awful symptoms to make me realize it was not altitudinal sickness or food poisoning. We drove on these awful mountain roads until we got to the next city where our hotel was.

I went straight to the "hospital" or a bare bones clinic minus the medical stuff. They immediately IV'd me and over the next 19 1/2 hours I had 4 liters of fluid along with numerous medicines to treat my "Virus" that I may have picked up in Hobbit Land then ate something without washing my hands. Everything had to be bought at the pharmacy across the hall from my medicines to toilet tissue. I had to have Eddy or Arden stay with me at all times. The nurses only did their medical duties but everything else was left up to you or your helper like a trip to the bathroom with the IV attached. It was a real experience. One I never hope to repeat. It was a life and death situation but as you can see I made it out alive.

Next day we drove to our final stop. Picked up another endangered hummingbird then started our 2 day trip home the next morning.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

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 2011

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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