



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2013

Calendar

New

*** **Nov. 7, 6:45 pm** Members are showing their photos via projection+++
Come enjoy the beauty the share.

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

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

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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:

Bird Photography from SE Oregon

by Scott Carpenter

Scott Carpenter is an avid birder and a professional bird photographer. He has his own website: scottcarpenterphotography.com and he has been a contributor to several books.

Scott is an Oregon resident, but he birds at Ridgefield NWR often; and he will help collate data from this year's Christmas Bird Count. Scott has taken several trips this past year to SE Oregon, including Malhuer NWR and has taken great time to locate and photograph owls. Come and enjoy his excellent photos and stories. Learn his techniques for getting close to birds without disrupting them. This will be a visually entertaining evening.

FIELD TRIP

Tillamook, OR



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: Nov. 16, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Inn at the Quay, downtown Vancouver waterfront, west side parking lot. We will Carpool.

Bring a lunch, water and dress for the weather and if you have a FRS two-way radio bring that too. We will be looking for shorebirds, seabirds and wintering water fowl. This will could be an all day trip.

Do not forget to pay your driver

The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice



The month of November is time to renew 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.



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Cathy Fischer (360) 624-2657

<http://cat-fishphotography.com>

Vancouver Audubon

Its time to renew!

November is the time to renew your subscription to Vancouver Audubon's *Columbia Flyway* newsletter. The cost to renew is still one of the best bargains around at only **\$10**

Renewing your subscription will ensure you continue to receive all nine newsletters delivered to your home for another year. Or, if you prefer you can sign up to get the newsletter via email.

You decide which method works best for you!

Send in your renewal today and keep up to date on meetings and programs, upcoming field trips, conservation concerns, and recent birding activity, along with many other topics.

Thank you for your interest and support!

Questions regarding your renewal?
Call George Mayfield at (360) 687-0360 or email him at gomayf@comcast.net

GO PAPERLESS

with the VAS Newsletter

We hear it everywhere, "GO GREEN". If you would rather have a paperless VAS Newsletter then you can email Sherry Hagen at littlebird-er@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:
vancouveraudubon.org

**A Big Thank You to all the
VAS volunteers who helped out
with another successful Birdfest
at Ridgefield in October.**

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

Many of our Board Members receive many calls **especially** during Breeding Season on injured birds or baby birds that seem to be abandoned. 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 of more until you hear movement then take them outdoors and test if they are ready to fly off.

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 and a bird requires transport to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then the volunteers suggest they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation to 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

4. Please do not call other Board Members since they are unable to help at this time.

In the meantime....

Keep the bird in a box with small air holes.

You might offer water via a dropper, if necessary and watered down puppy chow to supply nutrients.

Welcome New Members: Kismet Andrews · April Brown · Kathleen Bruhn · Jan Christ · Marilyn Cleland · Gail Collins · Donnie Crownover · Michele Dehart · Mary Ann Gillespey · James Goulding · Dennis Haman · Rae Hansen · S. Harrison · Mary Hougland · Lucy Jesic · Gretchen Krueger · Helen Kuebel · Sandra Kyle · Margarita Margeson · Glenda McKay · Madeleine Ormond · Oleta Platt · Marilou Reinikka · Pearl See · Lillian Van Agtmael · Louise Wynn **Transfer Member:** Jim Jarzabek, · Robin O'Brien · Wendy Poirier · Evelyn Smith



By this time you will have received the voters pamphlet. There will be a lot to go through. But, persevere. It's important to understand what you are voting for -- especially these days. There are a number of non-binding advisory measures, both state and local. The safest thing is to vote no on them. For more on the local advisory votes, see the September Flyway.

The County Cuts the Watershed Stewards Program

Yes, citing funding difficulties, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) has yanked the funding for the Watershed Stewards Program. By, this program that WSU Clark County Extension has conducted with funding from the county has, using volunteers, provided education and outreach on how to handle stormwater to over 90,000 people in the county. It was definitely a worthwhile program, and it didn't cost that much, either. For 2013, the county's share was a little over \$72,000.

The watershed stewards have worked on restoring creeks and greenways, cleaned garbage out of streams, and built rain gardens. All these activities clean stormwater and reduce its flow into the county's streams. These projects also improve wildlife habitat.

It isn't at all clear why DES pulled the funding for the Watershed Stewards Program. The e-mail to the volunteers simply refers to DES "redirecting funds to other priority areas," unspecified. Among similar programs, the funding for the Master Gardener Program was retained. As worthwhile as the Master Gardener Program is, it doesn't do as much for clean water as does the Water Stewardship Program. My guess that this decision by the director of the DES was more ideological than fiscal.

The manner in which the funding was pulled is also questionable. At least one of the county commissioners was blindsided. If you value the Watershed Stewards Program, please contact the three county commissioners.

Remember to Renew your Subscription to The Columbia Flyway

Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WaSACC) and the Audubon Council of Washington

The WaSACC met in Bellevue October 4 and passed two resolutions on two birds.

As you probably know, the marbled murrelet has continued to decline in population. It depends on both old growth forests to nest in and abundant fish to feed on. In 2008, a group of scientists recommended a set of strategies to conserve the marbled murrelet. The Washington Department of Natural Resources has yet to adopt the report. The resolution passed by WaSACC urged DNR to do so.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing sage-steppe habitat in the Spokane area. It has been working on a management plan for the sage grouse. The idea is to protect the habitat of the greater-sage grouse sufficiently that the bird would not need to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. Songbirds that need sage-steppe habitat would also be protected.

The resolution passed by WaSACC supports the highest level of protection for the grouse. The opposition to conservation measures include, not surprisingly, off-road enthusiasts, cattlemen and energy interests.

The keynote speaker at the ACOW, which met the next day, was Kathy Dale, National Audubon's Director of Citizen Science. She spoke on the uses that scientists have made of the data collected by Audubon members over the decades. The oldest data set is, of course, from the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). The US Fish and Wildlife Service has used the CBC to determine if a species should be listed or not. Researchers have used CBC data in peer reviewed, published papers. Even a Canadian Agency has used CBC data. Ms. Dale cited other citizen science projects, as well. She then talked about the future ranges of our birds, considering global warming. Figuring this out is complicated. Issues to consider include uncertainty in future carbon emissions, the interactions of species. For instance consider, the interaction of insects, plants, and birds. The question is which species will respond the fastest to the earlier springs and how much will these interactions get out of sync. Publication of articles on the possible future ranges is in process. National Audubon expects to roll out a publication in late winter early spring. One last word: according to the models, some 300 species of birds in North America are at risk.



Gretchen Starke



Vancouver Audubon

Paton's Birder Haven

by Eric Bjorkman, VAS President

From time to time, the board of Vancouver Audubon votes to donate money to local organizations whose missions and goals align with ours. For example, we have given money to Columbia Land Trust, an organization that acquires land for conservation by working with private landowners. We've also donated to Columbia Springs Educational Center to help with their environmental education program for children.

Last month, we did something a little different. We received notice that The Paton's Birder's Haven in Patagonia, AZ. was for sale. As the premier site in the United States to see the rare Violet-crowned Hummingbird and other specialty birds, the Paton property has been a mainstay of North American birding since its purchase by Wally and Marion Paton in 1974. With the Patons having passed on, the house is now up for sale. The American Bird Conservancy, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), and Tucson Audubon have teamed up and are raising money to purchase and maintain this magical place for current and future birders to enjoy. Many Clark County birders have picked up their "lifer" Violet-crowned Hummingbird here (including Tammy and I) and stopping at the Paton's is a must while visiting all of the SE Arizona hotspots. Once the site is procured, Tucson Audubon will take on the long-term management. They intend to maintain the home as a public birding site in the same manner Marion and Wally happily watched it become.

The property abuts the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve and the close proximity has brought many other rarities to the Paton's yard. Currently, there are reports of a Plain-capped Starthroat visiting the hummingbird feeders and most summers there is a Thick-billed Kingbird in the area. Virtually anything can show up at the Paton's!

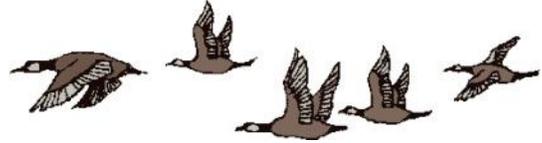
The sale price for the home is \$300,000 and as of Sept. 30th \$264,000 had been raised. Our board voted to donate \$1,000 to help keep this important birding spot open to the public.



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Christmas Bird Count News

By Tammy Bjorkman

In December 2007, I took over the compiling duties of the Washington-side of the Sauvie Island Christmas Bird Count (CBC) from our own Wilson Cady. Wilson "retired" from this position he held for an impressive 30 years and "graduated" into an at-large volunteer participant in this now 114 year old tradition.

Although my six years isn't nearly as notable as Wilson's tenure, I've decided it's time to turn over the reins again. I'm very thankful that Scott Carpenter has graciously stepped up and has enthusiastically agreed to take on this volunteer position.

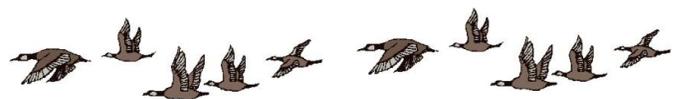
One of the first-steps in deciding a date for the count is to check in with the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and choose a date that won't interfere with hunt days. Unfortunately, Scott wasn't able to do this before the refuge was closed as part of the government shutdown. As soon as the refuges are up and running again he will finalize the date. Tentatively the date will be - **Sunday, December 22nd**. We'll update the VAS website with the official date as soon as we know it.

If you haven't participated in a CBC before, please sign up today. Everyone is welcome.

You don't need to be an expert to help out. Each group will have a leader who'll assist with identifications so all you'll need to do is help count (this ability is particularly helpful for large flocks of geese!). It's that easy! The CBC is a great way for expert and novice birders to participate in a program that benefits birds all over the Americas. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

To sign up or get answers to your questions, contact Scott Carpenter at (503) 753-1267 or email him at slcarpenter@gmail.com





Sept. 13. Our first GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW of the fall showed up at our feeders on Mt. Pleasant, Skamania County. These familiar wintering birds breed in the Yukon and north into Alaska.

Sept. 14. Christopher and Adrian Hinkle saw a COMMON TERN along the Vancouver waterfront from the Oregon side of the river by the Portland Airport. It was straddling the county line north of Broughton Beach, Oregon, and clearly flew over the shore on the Washington side.

Sept. 16. A WHIMBREL first found by Erik Knight, was seen by Bob Flores along the Kiowa Trail at the Ridgefield NWR.

Sept. 20. Al Clark found 12 SANDHILL CRANES at River S Unit of the Ridgefield NWR, the first reported this fall..

Sept. 21. Ken Knittle had a late SWAINSON'S THRUSH eating the bright blue berries on the Sapphire Berry bushes. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, JUNCOS, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, and tons of AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES had been in his yard.

Sept. 22. Bob Flores went shorebirding at high tide and found the following at Rest Lake on the River S unit of the Ridgefield NWR. 185 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, 4 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 18 GREATER YELLOWLEGS, 4 WESTERN SANDPIPER and 1 LEAST SANDPIPER. He also had 190 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE and 18 SANDHILL CRANES

Sept. 23. Ray Korpi did have a WESTERN Tanager, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET and BROWN CREEPER in his Vancouver yard, but the GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE passing overhead all day was a real indication of the flow of the migration.

Several flocks of GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, totaling several hundred birds, flew over Randy Hill, at the Carty Unit of the Ridgefield NWR. There was also a flock of BAND-TAILED PIGEONS parked across the road from the office. These geese were obviously part of a major flight as they were commented on by observers all over Washington and Oregon.

Sept. 24. A late migrant male WESTERN Tanager was in the Vancouver yard of Eric and Tammy Bjorkman .

Sept. 26. Susan Saul posted the results of a visit to the Sandy River Delta, Multnomah County, Oregon and noted 500 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, AMERICAN PIPIT, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER and GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW among the commoner species.

Les Carlson and I went on a three day birding trip exploring Mt. Rainier and the higher elevations of Okanagon County that was negatively affected by the storm that blew through that weekend. Despite high winds and record rainfall we found some nice birds including my life BOREAL OWL. Other nice sightings were of SPRUCE GROUSE, BARRED OWL, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, BOREAL CHICKADEE and PINE GROSBEAK.

Sept. 28. Carol Kohler led a bird walk at the Pierce NWR, in Skamania County. They saw about 20 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE on the land between the refuge and Pierce Island.

Oct. 1. Jim Danzenbaker only birded for brief periods at his Battle Ground home, but came up with a nice list of birds; 31 TURKEY VULTURES, 1 PEREGRINE FALCON, 150 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, and 15 CACKLING GEESE. One passerine flock included: 1 TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, 5 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS, 2 YELLOW WARBLERS, 1 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 4 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 1 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, 1 WARBLING VIREO, 1 WESTERN Tanager, and a PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER. He also had his first of season VARIED THRUSHES calling in the morning as well as at least 69 AMERICAN ROBINS moving southward. VIOLET GREEN SWALLOWS and VAUX'S SWIFTS were present all day.

Lyn Topinka got prolonged views of a lone finch visitor who showed up late last week, a female PURPLE FINCH for her 77th yard bird.

Oct. 2. Susan Saul saw the first DARK-EYED JUNCO of the fall in her yard, about two weeks earlier than her average first arrival date.

Oct. 3. Lyn and Gene Topinka drove the roads around "Woodland Bottoms" and found lots of NORTHERN HARRIERS and RED-TAILED HAWKS, SANDHILL CRANES, plus CACKLING and CANADA GEESE. After bumping into Russ Koppendrayer, they headed over to a field with GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE and a lone SNOW GOOSE.

Oct. 5. An early WHITE-THROATED SPARROW arrived at Bob Flores' feeder in Ridgefield this morning.

I found a juvenile RED-SHOULDERED HAWK at the Washougal Sewage Lagoons on Highway 14.

Oct. 9. Bob Flores birded the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and found two large flocks of CACKLING GEESE, totaling over 30,000 birds, in a field close to Frenchman's Bar Park. Also in these large flocks were a ROSS'S GOOSE and a SNOW GOOSE. There were 83 SANDHILL CRANES on the Fazio property. He then bird the riparian area at Frenchman's Bar Park where highlights were A GREAT-HORNED OWL, 5 RED-BREASTED SAP-SUCKERS, 4 SWAINSON'S THRUSHES, 7 HERMIT THRUSH, 3 VARIED THRUSH, 28 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS and 3 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS.

In Ridgefield, Tyler Hicks had 2 WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS at his feeder. There had to have been a flight of these, that breed east of the Rocky Mountains, that came into our area, as Lyn Topinka and Les Carlson also had them at their feeders in widely separated areas of Vancouver.

Oct. 11. Among the 50 AMERICAN ROBINS and other birds in her backyard, Lyn Topinka had a late SWAINSON'S THRUSH.

A die off of swallows and swifts through our area was reported during the storm at the end of the September. This was probably from starvation caused by a lack of insects while the birds were migrating and burning a lot of energy.

Wilson Cady gorbirds@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.*



November 2013

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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**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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