



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2015

## Calendar

\*\*\*Tuesday, **November 3, 7:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting** at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Tuesday, **November 24, 6:30 PM: VAS Board Meeting** hosted by Bob Rowe  
2010 SE 140th Ave. Vancouver 360-254-8699

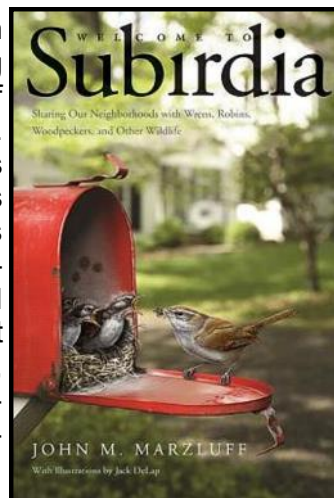
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### PROGRAM: *Welcome to Subirdia*

Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers, and Other Wildlife

Speaker: John Marzluff, Ph.D

We all know that human development is threatening our environment. Runoff pollutes our streams. Homes and businesses encroach on wilderness habitat. Energy use warms the planet. Too many species are in decline. And yet...for some of our most charismatic wild creatures, suburban and urban habitats offer surprising opportunities to thrive.



Dr. Marzluff, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, has done decades of research on ravens and crows. His most recent book,

***Welcome to Subirdia***, reveals how residential areas host a splendid array of biological diversity and may play a key role in preventing loss of species in the face of climate change and human impacts. Suburban yards and green area have become valuable habitats for birds and other threatened species.

A limited supply of this book will be available for sale at the meeting.

### FIELD TRIP: *Tillamook Area, OR*

Leader: Arden Hagen,  
360-892-8872

When: November 7, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Target Store at Jantzen Beach Parking lot. Park in the spots facing Tomahawk Island Drive if available.



We will be looking for wintering waterfowl, passerines, shorebirds and more. Dress for the weather and plan on an all day trip. Bring food, snacks and drinks.

**We will carpool.**

**Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.**



## The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice

**November is Renewal Month**  
for your Columbia Flyway subscription

**See the next page for details.**

Starting next year the Renewal Date will be changed to September in order to follow the new by-laws.

# Vancouver Audubon



## The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice

November is Renewal Month  
for your Columbia Flyway subscription.

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 Free.

Remember we still need you support.

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](mailto:gomayf@comcast.net)

### 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](mailto: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:

**Welcome New Members:** Louise Allison • Laurie Batterson • Morgaine Baumann • Kathleen Bender • Fred Blakely • Rose Brown • Karen Callen • Leslie Chapman • Bob Chrismer • Connie Cork • Nancy-Terry Cosentino • David Day • Robert Eshbach • Victoria Finch • Mona Fleming • Annette Garner • Tami Gassaway • M. Harmon • Kathryn Harris • Gary Hermes • Michael Holroyd • Paul Jane Jacobsen • Louise Kite • Louise Kite • Marilyn Larson • Annette Martin • Ronda McCamey • Barry McLaughlin • Marian & Monty Anderson • Kent Penter • Kathleen Pruitt • Bob Schmelzer • Clare Schulze • Carol Singer • Gary Smith • Shana Sundstrom • Gianna Vaccaro • Linda Wolfe

**Transferred Members:** Steve Anderson • Norman Bembenek • Renee Bourgea • J. Bowman • Jeff Dambrun • Calvin Fuller • Carol King • Pamela Lopez • Harold Miley • Christain Miller-Passat

VAS Budget will be voted on at the  
General Meeting on Dec 1st  
by the voting membership.

### 2016 Operating: Actual vs. 2015 Budget

REVENUE	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Bank Interest	40.00	25.00
Refreshments	10.00	30.00
Membership		1,300.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	1,100.00	
Donations	1,100.00	1,450.00
Audubon Adventures		1,000.00
Fundraising Trips	2,100.00	2,400.00
National Audubon Society	1,785.00	1,785.00
National Audubon (members)	250.00	250.00
Store Sales	500.00	500.00
Retained Earnings	1,595.00	1,435.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,580.00</b>	<b>10,175.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Supplies	200.00	150.00
PO Box 1966 Rental	80.00	85.00
WA State on-profit Corp. Filing Fee	10.00	10.00
NAS membership VAS collected	200.00	250.00
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>		
Meetings	75.00	80.00
<b>CONSERVATION</b>		
Meetings	400.00	400.00
<b>DONATIONS</b>		
Washington Audubon	2000.00	2,000.00
MISC (Carving Show, Home Show)	150.00	150.00
PDX Wildlife Care Center		250.00
Intertwine Alliance	500.00	250.00
<b>DUES/MEMBERSHIPS</b>		
Columbia Land Trust	100.00	100.00
WA. Environmental Council	100.00	100.00
Friends of Columbia Gorge	100.00	100.00
Nature Conservancy	100.00	100.00
Columbia Springs	100.00	100.00
<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
Supplies	100.00	50.00
Printing	2,200.00	2,200.00
Postage	1,100.00	1,200.00
Bulk Mail Permit	230.00	240.00
<b>OUTREACH</b>		
Audubon Adventures - VAS		1,500.00
<b>PROGRAMS</b>		
Speaker Travel	450.00	450.00
<b>PUBLICITY (Web page, search engine)</b>		
	110.00	110.00
<b>RENT (Meeting place)</b>		
	275.00	300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>8,580.00</b>	<b>10,175.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### 2015 Bequest Funds\* vs. 2016 Budget

REVENUE	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Community Foundation Earnings	9,000.00	7,000.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>BEQUEST EXPENSES</b>		
Misc Grants	5,000.00	10,000.00
Friends of Ridgefield NWR	5,000.00	0.00
Community foundation Fees	2,400.00	2,400.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>12,400.00</b>	<b>12,400.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(\$3,400.00)</b>	<b>(\$5,400.00)</b>

\* The earnings from the Bequest funds are used for Grants in which VAS supports others organizations to help complete their environmental projects.

## Legacy Lands Program in Clark County Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

The Legacy Lands Program has been the vehicle by which the open spaces and greenways that we have in Clark County has been acquired. Funding has come from various sources, but the most important has been the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, (WWRP) a state program, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) from the federal government. I recently heard a presentation on these programs by the head of the Legacy Lands Program, Pat Lee.

The WWRP funds lands for conservation and recreation all across the state. Of particular interest to Audubon are park acquisition, habitat conservation, and riparian conservation. Farmland preservation is also important as farms generally provide better habitat than subdivisions. Since the start of the program in 1985, Clark County has received \$4.5 million, which has leveraged an additional \$12 million. Looking to 2015, the Legacy Lands Program is recommending funding for projects ranging from developing the Vancouver Waterfront Park (urban, but would provide green space) to the Lacamas Prairie Oak and Meadow Restoration, important habitat for a number of species including white-breasted nuthatches.

The entities which may apply for a WWRP are: local governments and municipal corporations, state agencies, native American tribes, and non-profit organizations. The sponsor of a project must apply, the deadlines of which varies among the programs. A 50% local match is required. For each program (habitat, park development, trails are examples) there is a panel of experts who rank each application according to specific criteria. Which project gets funded depends on how much money the legislature appropriates from the capital facilities fund. According to the current allocation formula, 50% of the total goes to the habitat conservation account. Of that 50% to habitat, 45% goes to critical habitat, 30% goes to natural areas, 20% goes to urban wildlife habitat (too often ignored), and 5% goes to state lands restoration and enhancement. The other 50% of the total goes to the recreation account and that is also divided into various categories.

Preparing the list of the projects to be considered at the next legislative session is underway right now. The draft recommendations will be ready for public review in late October or early November. The final recommendations to the legislature will be submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2015.

Then, begins our job. We will need to lobby our representatives and senators in the legislature to fully fund the WWRP so that we can continue to acquire land necessary to conserve our birds.

A post script: in the last legislative session there was an effort in some quarters to change the method of selecting projects to be funded by the WWRP. Instead of ranking projects on their merits, the members of the legislature would select projects for their own districts. This would

turn what has been a successful program into a pork barrel handing out of favors to the influential. That effort did not succeed, but a bill was passed that called for studying the process.

## The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The news is bad. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was due to expire September 30, unless congress acted to re-authorize it. Congress has not been able to do anything recently. So, of course, they failed to re-authorize the LWCF and the LWCF died at the end of September.

The LWCF has done so much good. The money came from the off-shore oil drilling leases -- one teeny bit of good coming from that activity. Some of that money went to federal agencies -- the Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service --and some went to state and local projects. Examples of projects funded by LWCF include land in the Hells Canyon area and Cascade Head Research Area on the Oregon coast. Closer to home and more recently in time, land around Swift Reservoir up by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was threatened to be turned into recreation home subdivisions. This land was saved through the LWCF.

Our Senator, Marie Cantwell, fought hard to save LWCF. She is now working to try and revive it. We should call her office (here in Vancouver, 696-7838 and in DC, 202-224-3441) and thank her for support of LWCF and encourage her efforts to revive it.

## And then, There is the Update of the Growth Plan

All I know is what I read in the paper and from a brief e-mail exchange with one of the planning staff. It seems that Councilor Madore is working on yet another alternative in the privacy of his own office. The planning staff has not been directed to work on another one. If the new alternative, if there is a new alternative, is close to the other four alternatives, if, say, it was sort of in between a couple of them, for example, no further analysis would be required. If, however, a new alternative fell outside what had been previously studied, it would require further public input and comments from other agencies. The council has scheduled a hearing on October 20 (before you will have received this) which is advertised as a consideration of the planning commission recommendations. The planning commission recommended Alternative 1 as the preferred alternative, that is, the status quo, six to zero. The council can do what it likes with the planning commission's recommendation, either adopt, or reject, or modify Alternative 1. At least this is not boring, although by now, I would settle for boring. Sigh.

Gretchen Starke 



**Sept. 12,** Luke Hanes found his life **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** on Larch Mountain, this is one of the species first discovered by John Kirk Townsend during his stay at Fort Vancouver in 1835.

**Sept. 15,** A very bright **SAVANNAH SPARROW** was another new yard bird for Les Carlson.

Jim Danzenbaker heard a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** from his yard in Battle Ground, this hawk is becoming fairly common after the state's first one was found in Clark County in 1990. Bob Flores had two **COMMON TERNS** flying around the Vancouver Lake, one was a juvenile with brown on the back. Also in the bay near the Flushing Channel, he had 13 **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**. And there were 40 **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** roosting on the lake, another species whose sightings have greatly increased here in the last decade.

**Sept. 16,** The two **COMMON TERNS** were still on Vancouver Lake, in addition, there were at least 8500+ **CANADA/ CACKLING GEESE** moving south according to Jim Danzenbaker. The first of this fall's **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** showed up at Les Carlson's yard along with scads of **DARK-EYED JUNCOS**. These sparrows are a west coast specialty that nests in from British Columbia north through Alaska.

**Sept. 18,** On the Ridgefield Auto Tour route, Michelle Maani heard two **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS** calling back and forth. She also saw a **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK** in the grass on the edge of the road, unlike the hawks, meadowlark numbers have been dropping here for decades, with them almost gone as a breeding species here.

**Sept. 19,** Arden and Sherry Hagen have a **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** drilling sap wells in a Mountain Ash tree in their yard, it was first spotted by their daughter-in-law.

**Sept. 21,** Caryn & Kelly Dougherty photographed a large gathering of **VAUX'S SWIFTS** in their chimney on F Street in Vancouver, there were so many birds that they looked like a small tornado entering the chimney to roost.

The birds that Jim Danzenbaker heard moving over his Battle Ground yard in the wee hours of the morning included at least 4 different flocks of vocal **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**. Earlier, there had been several **SWAINSON'S THRUSHES** and a single **YELLOW WARBLER**. Daylight ushered in one of his favorite sounds of the Fall - **VARIED THRUSHES**. There were at least five calling from beyond the deck as well as several flying overhead. Other species flying south included: 1 **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**, 5 **AMERICAN PIPITS**, 3 **YELLOW WARBLERS**, 1 **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, a **SWAINSON'S THRUSH**, 2 **HERMIT THRUSH**, 3 **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS**, 2 **LESSER GOLDFINCH** and 4 flocks of **EVENING GROSBEAK**. For the first time in

ten years, there is a **PILEATED WOODPECKER** that is visiting his neighbor's apple tree and pigging out on fruit.

**Sept. 22,** A single **ACORN WOODPECKER** was in the oaks behind Bob Flores's house. He heard it calling and saw it fly from one branch to another for a very rare yard bird.

**Sept. 25,** Shillapoo Lake produced 2 **PECTORAL SAND-PIPERS**, 10 **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS**, 4 **LESSER YELLOWLEGS**, 2 **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, 1 **WESTERN SANDPIPER** and 63 **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** for Bob Flores. In the adjacent fields there about 8-10,000 **CACKLING GEESE** and 60 **SANDHILL CRANES**. The rains brought the first of the fall **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** to Les Carlson's yard along with a bunch of **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS**.

**Sept. 27,** In about three minutes Bob Flores counted 93 **TURKEY VULTURES** flying over his home in Ridgefield. Last year he had a similar flight.

**Sept. 28,** A **SAY'S PHOEBE** was spotted at Ridgefield Auto Tour Route by Dwight Porter.

**Sept. 29,** A lone **HORNED LARK** was seen at the Ridgefield's S-unit by Luke Hanes. We had a late **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** and a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** at our home east of Washougal. A **WESTERN SCREECH OWL** was calling near Bob Flores' home. It seemed to be close to Carty Road or possibly in Gee Creek.

**Oct 1,** Bob Flores found Shillapoo Lake full of ducks and **WHITE FRONTED GEESE**. There were 2 **LEAST SAND-PIPERS** and 6 **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** and a lone **BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER**. Les Carlson and I birded in Skamania County finding, 2 **GREAT EGRETS**, 1 **NORTHERN HARRIER** and an amazing easterly flight of **STELLER'S JAYS**, in about 20 minutes we counted 336 flying over the St. Cloud Recreation Area.

**Oct. 3,** Richard Redmond and Bob Flores went to Frenchman' Bar Park and saw a raft of 21 **WESTERN GREBES** floating down the Columbia River. They then birded the riparian where they found a **DUSKY FLYCATCHER**, 1 **PACIFIC-SLOPED FLYCATCHER**, 7 **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS**, 8 **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS** and 15 **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS**. Our first of the fall **FOX SPARROW** was of the "Slate-colored" form that nests east of the Cascades. At night I heard 2 **GREAT HORNED OWLS** and a **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL**.

**Oct. 4,** The previous day's **FOX SPARROW** was replaced by a "Sooty" Fox Sparrow and we had another **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** feeding on Highbush Cranberries.

**Oct. 5,** The highlight of Luke Hanes's visit to the Larch Mountain area produced an immature **NORTHERN GOSHAWK** and 6 **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES**.

**Oct. 7,** Les Carlson reported six species of sparrows in his

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yard if you include the **HOUSE SPARROW** which is actually an old world weaver finch, the others were **SONG, FOX, GOLDEN-CROWNED, WHITE-CROWNED** and **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS**. And on his Hazel Dell neighborhood bike ride he had **EVENING GROSBEAKS** and **RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS**.

On a California birding trip, Randy Hill watched thousands of **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS** from shore along the Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo County area, Humpback Whales at Pismo Beach, and he had quite a pelagic adventure out of Monterey that included a Bulwer's-type petrel still to be identified positively from photos.

At the beginning of October the list of birds reported from Clark County in 2015 was at 225, the same number as last year at that date. In Skamania County the number was 185, down from the 192 reported last year. Bob Flores has seen an amazing 219 of those Clark County birds while doing his 2015 County Big year.

Waterfowl are now arriving in large numbers and the wintering hawks such as Rough-legged Hawks have begun to be seen in the state. Hunting season has begun so be very careful when in areas where hunting may be taking place, it doesn't hurt to wear a piece of bright colored clothing if walking off the roads. Eagles and Peregrine Falcons are often around these hunting spots and prey on injured or ill ducks and geese. The Vancouver Lake lowlands, the Ridgefield NWR and the Steigerwald Lake NWR are excellent birding locations during this season. And remember if you see anything unusual please pass the word on to me, or the Arden and Sherry Hagen or Eric and Tammy Bjorkman as soon as possible.

Wilson Cady, gorgebirds@juno.com

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## VAS at BirdFest by Susan Setterberg

Each year in the fall, Vancouver Audubon Society is called on by the Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge to lend our birding expertise to the success of BirdFest. This year we made a few changes in our birding plans which turned out to be a positive step for VAS and BirdFest. As always, we had a booth in the Birder's Market in town. It gives us an opportunity to tell folks about the club and our activities. Staffing the booth were Marilynn Hall (who made all the staffing arrangements), Bonnie Bingle, George and Cindy Mayfield, Gretchen Starke, Kate Ketcham, and Ruth and Roger Phillips.

We scheduled four birding walks on the Kiwa Trail led by Arden Hagen, Cindy and George Mayfield in the mornings and Cindy McCormack, with assistance from Carol Wiseman and Michelle Maani, led the two afternoon family walks. Cindy reported that she had some young birders on Saturday who were eager to hunt for birds she had heard. She told them how to look for the birds and their sharp young eyes were quickly able to find them. The groups were large this year, each coming close to 30 par-

ticipants, many of which were new to birding.

For the scope viewing, we had a new location this year. We were inside the hunter's gate, a spot the non-hunting public rarely gets to see on the refuge. We had sweeping views of the hunt area which is west of the auto tour.

Saturday: Susan Setterberg, Cindy McCormack and Wilson Cady in the morning and Rod King in the afternoon. On Saturday morning we witnessed formation of a large kettle of Turkey Vultures which eventually peeled off heading south for their fall migration. The Sandhill Cranes were very cooperative with flyovers and staying around in the wetlands for good viewing. We also had Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher, Kestrel and Bald Eagles

Sunday: Jared Strawderman, Joan Durgin We kept a list of sightings on both days and ended up with around 60 species. Sunday afternoon Sandhill Crane were displaying which really was a treat for viewers. The White Pelicans did a few flyovers for great views of the bird of the year for BirdFest. We probably had more than 150 visitors to the scope viewing. It was a delight to share the birding world with them.

If you think you would like to help with one of VAS's bird walks or scope viewing in the future, please let one of the board members know. Generally we are talking to people who know little about birds, but we also have experienced birders drop by which gives us the opportunity to swap tales or learn more ourselves. If you don't feel comfortable leading a trip; we can always use assistants for the larger groups. Thank you to all who helped make VAS's participation in BirdFest a success.

## Amended By-Laws Enacted

A few months ago, Susan Setterberg and I met with the folks at the Community Foundation to review our bequest fund account. During the meeting, we were asked questions about our by-laws that we realized we didn't have answers for. This set in motion a thorough review of our by-laws, and in doing so we discovered they needed updating. A committee was formed consisting of our chapter Secretary, Tammy Bjorkman, Susan, and myself.

After many hours of revisions and rewrites we came up with a more user friendly version of our by-laws. We believe this updated version does a better job of defining the roles of our Board officers and resets our budget process to align with a calendar year. More importantly, it focuses on our bequest fund and clarifies how and what it is used for. It also mandates distribution of those funds in the event that VAS should ever dissolve.

At the VAS Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting, a vote was taken and the amended by-laws passed unanimously. I'm pleased to know that our club is strengthened by the clarity of this document and our funds are better protected as a result. Thank you, Susan and Tammy, for your help and dedication to producing a document that will help guide the Board and our chapter for many years to come. Eric Bjorkman, President

**VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
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and advocacy.*

**Renew  
this Month**

**November 2015**

**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**

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**November 1st  
every year**

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**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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