



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

November 2016

Calendar

***Tuesday, Nov. 1, 7:00 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

PLEASE don't park in front Bader Beer and Wine Supply (a business)

***Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6:00 PM: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bob Rowe
2010 SE 140th Ave. Vancouver 360-254-8699

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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PROGRAM: "Remodeling" at Steigerwald NWR

Speaker: **Chris Collins**,
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP)

The **Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project** is in full planning mode. This project is funded by Bonneville Power Administration. Design and permitting are planned for 2016/2017 with construction in 2018/2019 if approved. The levee will be removed to reconnect the Columbia river to the floodplain. Setback levees will be built. A new channel will be built for Gibbons Creek that will add to fish habitat. Wetlands will be enhanced; trails reconfigured. Three breaches of the existing levee are planned.

Columbia River water will expand Steigerwald Lake. This should enhance waterfowl habitat and bring more birds onto the refuge.

LCEP has undertaken the planning for this major project. Chris Collins will explain the plan and help us to understand its purpose.

**Go on Eric's Field trip to Steigerwald
on Nov. 12**



FIELD TRIP: Nature Close to Home Steigerwald Lake NWR

Leader: Eric Bjorkman,
360-695-3116 bjorkmante@iinet.com

When: November 12, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM (at Kiosk trailhead)

Meet at: Mile Post 18 on the south side of Highway 14.

This field trip is geared to birding enthusiasts of all skill levels. Join Eric for a fun and informative look at one of the best local wildlife jewels located right here in Clark County. Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Washougal, WA consists of 1,049 acres of thriving bird habitat. The refuge is situated at the mouth of the Columbia River Gorge and at the foot of the Cascade Mountain Range so a rich migration crossroads is created. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded at Steigerwald and you never know what may show up!



We'll walk the easy 2.25-mile Gibbons Creek Art & Wildlife Trail at a fairly slow pace. You will learn about bird behavior and habitat – both are keys to helping you find various species. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, dress for any weather, carry water, and don't forget to bring your binoculars. Expect the field trip to last approximately four hours.

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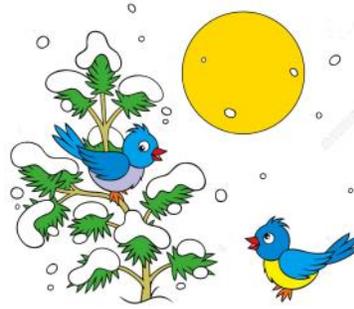
Vancouver Audubon's Good Neighbor Policy

SPECIAL NOTICE: *Parking change at our general meetings*



Please help us maintain our good relationships with area merchants and our hosts at the Genealogical Society. The store next door, Bader Beer and Wine Supply, is open until 8:00 pm on the nights of our general meetings. They are requesting that our group refrain from parking in the spots directly in front of their store so their customers have easier access. **THANK YOU!**

Save the date!



Sunday, December 18, 2016 will be this year's local **Christmas Bird Count**. Whether you want to spend an hour watching your backyard feeder, venture out into your neighborhood, or find a hot spot for winter birds and

bird with a group, it is all appreciated. Susan Setterberg is the compiler this year for the Ridgefield/Vancouver area of Clark County (smsetterberg@yahoo.com). Experience is not required, just a desire to contribute to citizen science while participating in this 100+ year tradition. More information will follow in the December newsletter, but for now, mark the date on your calendar so you don't miss this great opportunity to contribute to bird conservation.



(360) 253-5771

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Budget Time: The board will be presenting a 2017 budget for members to vote on at the December meeting. As required by our Bylaws, it will be posted online by mid-November for your review. Copies will be made available to anyone who wants

one. We strive for a budget that helps us carry out our mission while bringing interesting programs and field trips to our membership.



Thank you to all the club members who helped with Birdfest at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in October. Vancouver Audubon has been a longtime supporter of the event by leading bird walks, staffing scope stations and also providing local birding information at our membership table. This year's volunteers included: Bonnie Bingle, George Mayfield, Bob Rowe, Les Carlson, Arden Hagen, Jean Avery, Will Clemons, Michelle Maani, Gretchen Starke, Ruth & Roger Phillips, Carol & Bob Carson, Colene Koehler, Sydney Reisbeck, and Susan Setterberg,

The Elections

What can I say? Except, let's please get this over with as soon as possible. The issues of concern to us in Audubon are not being discussed in any serious way. At the level of the presidential race, the closest anyone talked about an environmental issue was when one of the candidates asserted that global warming was a hoax started by China (?) in order to keep the U.S. from getting ahead in manufacturing. Where that comes from, I have no idea, but it is interesting fiction.

At the state and local level, the discussion is not that silly. We know the issues: growth management, the proposed oil terminal, parks management. Please study the candidates -- their stand on issues and each one's character. I recommend that you pay particular attention to the race for Lands Commissioner candidates. Washington Conservation Voters is a good source of information for environmentalists. And, then vote.

Deferred Maintenance in the National Parks System (and other natural resource management agencies)

As the wife of a Forest Service, I became aware of where the Federal natural resource management agencies stand in the priorities of Congress: low. This means that the appropriations of funding for the three agencies: the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service have typically been inadequate. These agencies have seldom, if ever, received the funding they needed.

In spending money, politicians prefer to buy new things to fixing up and maintaining things we

have. There are no ribbon-cuttings for repairing a broken picnic table. So, the picnic table does not get fixed. The trail with washouts does not get rehabilitated. All three agencies have maintenance that needs to be done, but has not been done.

Specifically, in the case of the Park Service, according to a Park Service website (nps.gov), the maintenance needs are almost double the funding the Park Service gets for that purpose. According to a press release in February, the maintenance backlog is \$11.93 billion for fiscal year 2015. That's for the entire nation. The situation means the Park Service must make some hard decisions in deciding which facilities should get immediate attention and which must wait some more.

The national wildlife refuge system also has its backlog maintenance and funding problems. Repairs are needed for roads, trails, dams and levees. There is insufficient staff and equipment for habitat management and restoration, public use, planning, and wildlife research and monitoring.

All of this illustrates the lack of interest congress has in wildlife. I hope this does not mean that the public at large is that uninterested in our wildlife heritage. In an increasingly urban country, the chance for people and, especially children, to see wild animals in their natural habitat is decreasing. We are fortunate to have a wildlife refuge close at hand at Ridgefield.

Gretchen Starke 

Welcome New Members:

Karen Couture • Robin Dobson • Sally Fisher • Elizabeth Henry • Ron Kuiper • J Lancaster • Dave & Melissa Leonhardt • Melinda & Don McCoy • Sam Neuffer • Chalice Oleksiewicz • C Michael Stahl • Linda Whittingham

Sept. 12, While taking down the Purple Martin gourds for the winter at the Pierce NWR, in Skamania County, Randy Hill and had a **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** flyover, the first in the county in 2016.



Apparently there was a movement of **LEWIS'S WOODPECKERS**, as Arden Hagen also had one hawking insects at the Orchard Hills Golf Course in Washougal, for the first report from Clark County this year.

Sept. 13, 2 **SOLITARY SANDPIPERS**, 1 **AMERICAN PIPIT**, 2 **WILSON'S SNIPE**, 2 **KILLDEER** and a **TEAL** were found by Les Carlson on a visit to a pond on 88th street in Hazel Dell.

Shirley Morgan had an adult **COOPER'S HAWK** in her Evergreen High School neighborhood, these members of the accipiter family are attracted to bird feeders where they hunt other birds, much like a lion stalking game at a water-hole.

Sept. 15, The first **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS**, a bird that nests in the Yukon and north returned to Bob Flores yard in Ridgefield.

Michelle Maani also reported **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** from the Ridgefield NWR, showing how many birds must have arrived overnight.

We also had **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** at our place east of Washougal. Other birds present there were a mix of migrants and wintering birds including **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD**, **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**, **VARIED THRUSH**, **BALCK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** and **WESTERN TANAGERS**.

Sept. 19, A **GREAT HORNED OWL** spent most of the day in Loretta Layton's yard on the upper Washougal River.

Sept. 20, A visit by Randy Hill to the Vancouver Lake lowlands produced upwards of 3000 **CAKCLING GEESE** on Vancouver Lake and along Lower River Road. These Arctic nesting geese winter locally by the tens of thousands and flocks will may contain of few other species such as Greater White-Fronted Geese, so it is always worth checking them carefully.

Sept. 21, A flock of migrating **STELLER'S JAYS** was seen by Les Carlson in Hazel Dell on his daily bike ride. Other nice birds for were 2 **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**

WARBLERS, 2 **WESTERN TANAGERS**, **BLACK SWIFTS**, 2 **LESSER GOLDFINCHES**, two large groups of **BUSHTITS**, **GREEN HERON** and **GREAT EGRET**. The wintering **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** in his yard are now regular.

Sept. 23, The **SOLITARY SANDPIPERS** were back in the pond on 88th street according to Les Carlson. And he had a **GREAT HORNED OWL** in the local park that the **STELLER'S JAYS** and **CROWS** harassed hard for at least 1/2 hour. Also seen were a **BROWN CREEPER** and a late **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**.

Birding long Lower River Road, Bob Flores found several **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE** scattered in flocks of **CANADA** and **CAKCLING GEESE**. Also worth noting was a male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** at the Fazio feedlot. He said that **SANDHILL CRANES** were plentiful.



Sept. 24, Randy Hill viewed 2 **COMMON TERNS** foraging on the Washington side of the Columbia River between Beaches Restaurant and McMenamin's Pub.

Sept. 25, Janna Weston-Girard photographed a large swarm of **VAUX'S SWIFTS** entering her neighbors chimney as a roost during their migration, they used to roost in the rotted out tops of old-growth snags but have moved to using man-made structures as the number of old snags has diminished.

Les Carlson and I birded at Skamania Landing where we found a **GREEN HERON**, a species that is difficult to find in Skamania County.

Sept. 26, The **GREEN HERON** was relocated by Lyn and Gene Topinka in the Skamania Landing dam channel.

Sept. 28, A nice mixed flock was in a park near Les Carlson's Hazel Dell home, with **BROWN CREEPER**, **YELLOW-RUMPLED WARBLER**, **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, **WARBLING VIREO**, **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**, **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** and **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE**.

We had 7 **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS** fly over our house, not a species we have had very often at our 1,000' elevation.

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Sept. 29, Migrants at our place included a flock of **CKACKLING GEESE** flying up the Gorge and a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** feeding on our Highbush Cranberries.

Oct. 1, Arden Hagen reported 75 **TURKEY VULTURES** over the Ridgefield NWR during the weekend BirdFest along with a **PEREGRINE FALCON**, a late **OSPREY** and a **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**.

A tan striped **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** was at Les Carlson's feeders in Hazel Dell with four **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** and a **SPOTTED TOWHEE**.



Oct. 3, There was a tan-striped **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** under our feeders, the first we have had here in several years.

Oct. 4, Patti Brent reported at least **20 TURKEY VULTURES** over I-205

between Salmon Creek and Hwy 500 in Vancouver.

Oct. 5, A **LINCOLN'S SPARROW** was spotted on the Ridgefield NWR Auto Tour by Michelle Maani, she also had a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** at both the River S and Carty Units.

Oct. 6, We had large numbers of migrating **AMERICAN ROBINS**, **HERMIT THRUSHES** and a couple of **VARIED THRUSHES** feeding on crabapple and hawthorne fruits at our place. The most unusual bird seen was a late **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER**.

Les Carlson had a large kettle of **TURKEY VULTURES** near his Hazel Dell home where he counted 84 and he had a **PILIATED WOODPECKER**, a bird which he had not seen in the area for a year or more. The **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** he has been seeing at a neighborhood wetland was still present.

NORTHERN GOSHAWKS are usually residents of forested areas so one flying over the Battle Ground home of Jim Danzenbaker was a migrant. He said that he had several other hawks pass over that day.

During November the local birding focus changes to waterfowl and raptors as the wintering ducks, geese, hawks and owls arrive. Many of these birds can be observed from your the comfort of your vehicle by driving the Auto Tour Route at the Ridgefield Refuge or from the roads in the Vancouver Lake Lowlands. Other good spots to check are the Vancouver Lake and the surrounding fields and ponds

in the lowlands. The diked in area of the Woodland Bottoms, west of I-5 has many wintering birds hunting and feeding over these croplands. And the rafts of diving ducks, grebes and loons in the Columbia River can be viewed from Dike Access Road. For directions to these sites visit the Vancouver Audubon Society webpage.

Birding at this time of year often is like playing "Where's Waldo?", it involves searching through concentrations of geese, ducks and gulls for any unusual birds such as Emperor Goose, Brant, scoters, Tufted Duck, Long-tailed Duck or any of several gulls from Eurasia. Flocks of black-birds could contain Rusty or Tri-colored Blackbirds and White-throated, Harris and Clay-colored Sparrows might be seen in with Golden or White-crowned Sparrows. If you see these or any other unusual species please contact me, Arden and Sherry Hagen or Eric and Tammy Bjorkman as soon as possible.

As of the early October, 206 species of birds had been reported from Clark County in 2016 and 183 have been found in Skamania County. You can see the entire lists for each of Washington's counties by going to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> Please let me know if you have seen any species this year that is no checked off. The winter birds have arrived and will have settled into a routine that will last through the season. This allows us to do a population survey through the Christmas Bird Count which is scheduled for December 18th this year.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

INJURED BIRDS: WHAT TO DO?

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 or more until you hear movement then take them outdoors and test if they are ready to fly off. If not then....

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 to transport a bird to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Care Center then they ask that they receive a gas mileage compensation and a small donation for 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

In the meantime....

Keep the bird in a box with small air holes.
You might offer water via a dropper, and if necessary watered down puppy chow to supply nutrients.

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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 2016

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 ** MEMBERSHIP & DONATION COUPON

Membership dues support speaker programs, Flyway production and conservation projects.

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_____ I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donation of \$ _____

_____ I wish only to support Vancouver Audubon with a donations of \$ _____

_____ I prefer to receive the VAS Flyway by printed copy _____ by email _____ [PDF]

Membership Renewal date:
September 1st
every year

VAS will not share your information with any other organization. However, we may send out a limited number of time sensitive news items we feel are important to club membership.

Chapter Code: Y13

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For more Info Call:
George Mayfield 360-687-0360 (membership)
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116 (VAS President)

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