

Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

October 2008

Calendar

*****NO BIRDING CLASS DUE TO THE POTLUCK*****

***Tuesday, Oct 7, 6:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's Annual Fall Potluck & General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Oct. 6, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting at the home of Bonnie Bingle 8705 E 51st Ave. Vancouver 360-576-0330

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	31	

PROGRAM:

Ecuador

by Sherry & Arden Hagen

In February of 2007, we (Arden & Sherry Hagen) made our second trip to Ecuador for birding. This second trip was also led by Edison Buenano. He is a wonderful young man that we quickly "adopted" and he now calls Sherry his USA Mom. We toured the southern part of Ecuador and quickly learned about some of the places we would be visiting. Several were owned and managed by the Jocotoco Foundation. The Foundation came into being when a new species of antpitta was discovered by Robert Ridgley who is sort of the Roger Tory Peterson of South America (both famous birders who produce bird field guides.) The Jocotoco Antpitta was found in the southeastern mountains near the border with Peru. The foundation was set up to buy & preserve the land this bird was found on. That was 10 years ago. The foundation now has 10 preserves spread throughout Ecuador. Many of these preserves have lodges for visitors that create revenue. Arden and Sherry will take you on a guided tour of some of the places they went in southern Ecuador and the birds they saw.



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.

ANNUAL POTLUCK

When: Oct. 7, 2008

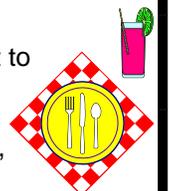
Time: 6:30 PM

Where: **Genealogy Society, 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) Vancouver, WA**



Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to serve at least 10 people to share.

Bring your own table service (plate, utensils, cup, napkins, etc) and your own drinks.



VAS Upcoming Programs:

Nov. **Show & Tell** by members & guests

Dec. **Condor Tales** by Sandy Wilsbur

Treasurer's Report. Income for August was \$567.97 with \$400 received for Birdathon. Expenses were \$880.60 with the biggest outlay for summer camp salary. Cash and Investments were \$21,901.72. The Community Fund second quarter interest was \$2,186.91 and service fee was \$1,135.79. The annual donation of \$1,500 was sent to Portland Audubon for hacking eagles at Ridgefield NWR. As of 30 June the Community Foundation fund was \$216,243.33.

Education. Carol Peterson helped teach at summer camps at Columbia Springs and several other members volunteered.

Membership. As of June first we had 548 paid subscriptions to the newsletter and a total of 867 members. 141 people have already paid for next year's newsletter.

Old Business. Almost all the volunteer spots for Birdfest have been filled.

New Business. Randy discussed Camp Bonneville. It will take another two years to clear areas of ammunition. He will contact Clark County to see about getting our input into the planning process.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ellifrit

Get Ready for NOVEMBER'S SHOW & TELL

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. Call Randy Hopfer for help. 360-573-6000

Upcoming Field Trips

November:

Overnighter to Lincoln City and trips to Boiler Bay. This is a time of year for alcids and seabirds to show up in the bay to feed.

December:

The Annual Christmas Bird Count

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Rare Bird Run



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: October 18, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

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

What: The route will be determined Friday evening when the rare bird listings on the internet come in. Plan on an all day trip.



October 11-12, 2008
Saturday & Sunday

Ridgefield NWR

Ridgefield, WA

There will also be Friday night activities



Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) as they celebrate the arrival of fall and the wildlife that make the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge their winter home. BirdFest & Bluegrass is a unique opportunity to enjoy not only the sights and sounds of fall migration but also a festive celebration of music, children's activities, food, and fun in the Ridgefield community.

VAS is involved in BirdFest by conducting birding hikes, a beginning bird class, manning scopes for public viewing of the wildlife and manning an information table.

To view the schedule visit the website listed below.

<http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/08BFSchedule.pdf>

The website for the festival is:

http://www.ridgefieldfriends.org/bf_index.htm



Tim Eyman Again: Initiative 985

Tim Eyman has done it again. He has another of his initiatives on the ballot. On the surface, it looks reasonable. It purports to tackle the problem of traffic congestion, but would fail to do that.

I-985 would open High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to cars with one person in them from 9:00 am to 3:00 on weekdays and all day on weekends. Of course, as those who have driven in Seattle know, it is never congested at those times. HOV lanes are to encourage people to car pool, which reduces the number of vehicles on the road than otherwise would be the case.

I-985 would divert 15% of revenue from the sales tax on the sale of vehicles to a "Reduce Traffic Congestion Fund" that can be used only for expanding road capacity and related measures. That amounts to \$147 million lost that could be used for other government agencies. Including Fish and Wildlife, Parks, or the Department of Ecology. With hard economic times, natural resources and environmental quality could easily loose out.

I-985 would eliminate an existing provision in state law. As it is now, revenues from bridge tolls can be used for public transportation in the same corridor. If the proposed new I-5 bridge were built, a potential source of funding for either buses or light rail across that bridge would be gone. Every full C-Tran bus on the bridge could eliminate 30 cars (maybe more – I have ridden the bus when people were standing in the isles) from the road. This is how to decrease congestion?

The bottom line is that I-985 would take money from state government services, including environmental services, and put it toward more and more roads – roads that would encourage more sprawl leading to more congestion. That is the reason that the VAS board voted to oppose I-985. That is the reason we urge all of you to vote no on I-985 – Tim Eyman's new initiative.

The Administration is Doing it Again: a New Endangered Species Act Rule Change

By the time you read this, the comment period will have ended on a Bush administration proposal to weaken the endangered species act (ESA). As it is now, when a federal agency proposes a project and if it affects a species listed under the ESA, that agency must consult with NOAA Fisheries in the case of marine species or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services in the case of all other species. The wildlife agency then determines whether or not the project would put the listed species in jeopardy. If it does, the project would have to be modified to lessen the impact on the species.

The Bush administration proposes to change the regu-

lation so that the agency, be it the Corps of Engineers or the Bureau of Land Management or the Mineral Management Service can decide for itself whether or not the wildlife agency needs to get involved in determining jeopardy. Consider whether or not the Mineral Management Service is qualified to determine whether or not to consult with NOAA Fisheries on the risk to the polar bear of drilling in the Chugach Sea. Even agencies that have their own biologists can be biased in favor of their projects rather than consider the needs of wildlife. Having worked for an agency that consists mostly of engineers and in which fisheries biologists are low in the pecking order, I can attest to the usefulness of having NOAA Fisheries in a position to pass judgment on the potential harm to salmon by a proposed project or change in dam operations.

To add insult to injury by this proposed regulation change, the Bush administration has allowed only 30 days for public comment. Agencies usually allow 60 days. It would seem that the Bush administration would prefer to keep public comment to a minimum.

The Salmonpeople Performance

The Salmon Creek Watershed Council is bringing to Vancouver a one-man performance called Salmonpeople. It is both a learning experience and a benefit. It is also very entertaining. Vancouver Audubon has signed on as a co-sponsor.

The performance will be October 10 and 11 at Skyview High School at 7:30. The cost is low, \$10 for those under 18 or over 65 and \$15 for everyone else. Tickets are available at on line at Brown Paper Tickets.

More information is available from Mike Kerbs at:

mike.kerbs@salmoncreekwatershed.org.

More about Salmonpeople follows, which I took from the website.

About Peter Donaldson's Salmonpeople

Playwright-performer, Peter Donaldson, brings his stunning, hilarious one-man touring show, Salmonpeople, to Clark County. Salmonpeople is an exquisite theatrical experience and a masterfully woven work of art. Funny, poignant and razor sharp, it's like going out to dinner with Robin Williams, Garrison Keillor and Johnny Appleseed, ... Known as the Bioregional Bard of Salmon Nation, Peter Donaldson has performed Salmonpeople 31 times in 19 cities before 4,435 citizens, from Victoria to the Oregon coast. Every time Salmonpeople is received with a spontaneous standing ovation...

Gretchen Starke



Aug. 9, Bob Flores birded the Lower River Road along the Ridgefield NWR and found the first GRAY CATBIRD seen in Clark County. He also noted a BANK SWALLOW flying around with other swallows and PURPLE MARTINS.

Susan and I were at the Ridgefield NWR River "S" Unit where we found 2 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS.

Aug. 10, I met Bob Flores at Lower River Rd to look for the Gray Catbird without success, but we did find two YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS.

While birding the River "S" Unit, Bill Clemons and his mother Olive found a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, 3 COMMON RAVEN, 1 CASPIAN TERN and 3 BLACK SWIFTS.

Aug. 11, Bob Flores found a EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE sitting on a power line northeast of Ridgefield.

Aug. 16, While at the River "S" Unit of Ridgefield NWR, Bob Flores had several BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS on Rest Lake and on Schwartz Lake and a single SOLITARY SANDPIPER at Schwartz Lake.

calls at night and heard 6 SWAINSON'S THRUSH, 2 YELLOW WARBLERS 2 SAVANNAH SPARROWS, and 1 CHIPPING SPARROW. During the day he spotted an adult RED-SHOULDERED HAWK which circled over his Battle Ground house before heading north out of view.

Michael Hobbs & Matt Bartels, of Seattle, birded Skamania County and found the first VESPER SPARROW ever seen in that county.

Aug. 25, Susan and I stopped at Stevenson to scan the mud flats at Rock Creek Cove for shorebirds when an adult PARASITIC JAEGER flew over us and then headed down the Columbia River. Marvin S. Hoekstra of Sammamish, WA, spotted the bird later in the day from Cascade Locks.

Aug. 28, On the Oaks to Wetlands Trail at the Ridgefield NWR (Carty Unit), Adrian and Christopher Hinkle, and Em Scattaregia heard two BARRED OWLS.

Aug. 30, Mary Ann and Glenn Teague saw a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH in their backyard which is not the normal habitat for these birds of the mature oak forests in Clark County.



While sitting on the deck at our home on Mt. Pleasant in Skamania County, a PHILADELPHIA VIREO came to our bird bath. This bird breeds in the forests across Canada to the northeast corner of British Columbia and a few trickle through the Rocky Mountains during migration. This was a first record for Skamania County.

Aug. 31, In the early morning Shawneen Finnegan and Jim Danzebaker had at least 45 Swainson's Thrushes fly over his yard in Battle Ground. At about 5:00am, while listening for thrushes, they heard a far off BARRED OWL, a yard first and his first in Clark County and in Washington State. They then birded the River "S" Unit of Ridgefield NWR and were surprised with the species total of 82. Highlights included: 1 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, 1 PECTORAL SANDPIPER, 1 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER 1 RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, 6 SANDHILL CRANES, and 12 BANK SWALLOWS. The highlight bird was a calling BOBOLINK - a bird never seen or heard before in Clark County.

Sept. 1, Jim Danzenbaker, heard about 125+ Swainson's Thrushes mostly between 5am and 6am. With daylight he saw WARBLING VIREO, YELLOW WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, WILSON'S WARBLER, WESTERN TANAGER, and BLACK-HEADED GROS-BEAK.

Sept 2, Mat Gilfedder, a birder from Brisbane Australia, was birding with Al Larrabee at the Ridgefield NWR when



To escape the hot weather Susan and I went birding in along the coast, at Tokeland we saw about 200 MARBLED GODWITS and a single ELEGANT TERN. This tern breeds in Mexico and is a rare visitor to the United States, this year there have been many seen in Oregon and a few further North to Canada.

Aug. 19, At Waldo Lake in Oregon, Bob Carson found an adult AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER feeding a juvenile.

Aug. 20, Stuart Johnston found the first Skamania County AMERICAN REDSTART at Collins Creek just east of Home Valley.

Aug. 22, John Bishop, Associate Professor for the Washington State University Mt. Saint Helens Institute was doing a vegetation survey on the pumice plains at the 4,000 foot elevation of the mountain with students, Paul Jensen, Turin Hill and Keith Birchfield, when they found and photographed a juvenile jaeger which was later identified as a LONG-TAILED JAEGER. This is a very unusual location for a bird that nests in the arctic and spends most of its time at sea.

Aug. 23, Jim Danzenbaker was listening for migrant bird

("Afield" Continued on next page)

("Afield" Continued)

he photographed a COMMON NIGHTHAWK in flight harassing a RED-TAILED HAWK. Unfortunately Al missed being there as he was showing someone a GREEHERON near the Kiwa Trail.

Sept. 3, Ray Korpi spotted MERLIN on the Clark College main campus. He said that there was also a good movement of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS that morning.



Bob Flores spotted a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK at Rest Lake, on the Ridgefield NWR. He experienced a migrant push along the Columbia River adjacent to Ridgefield NWR on Bachelor Island with a LEAST FLYCATCHER and a RED-EYED VIREO in among the more common species.

As of the end of August there had been 195 species reported from Clark County and 145 from Skamania County in 2008.

In October we should start getting good numbers of waterfowl moving into this area for the winter. This will provide excellent viewing opportunities for birders and prey for the variety of hawks and other raptors that will congregate around the lakes and fields where these ducks and geese feed. The Sandhill Cranes will be visible at the Vancouver lake lowlands and the Ridgefield Refuge. If you spot any interesting species among the flocks of waterfowl or in other places please contact me or Arden and Sherry Hagen as soon as possible. And please send me your sightings for this column.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

*****MEMBERS TRADING POST*****

If you have art work or books to sale that have to do with Nature, Wildlife or Science, you may bring them to the General Meeting but you **MUST** donate **at least** 10% of the sale price on books and **at least** 15% or the sale price on other art work. For more information call:

Sydney Reisbick 360-887-7880



message/fax (360) 253-5771

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VOLUNTEERED FOR WHAT?!

This summer Vancouver Audubon partnered with the Columbia Springs Educational Center for two outdoor camps and I was asked to volunteer. Being the Board President (and having the time off), I decided I would sign on. I volunteered for three days of the five day "Getting Fishy" camp.

I told volunteer coordinator, Tracy Sands, that I wasn't an expert on fish, but she assured me that it wasn't necessary. She just needed bodies, a qualification I was confident I could fill.

I arrived the first day to find about 20 kids ranging in age from eight to twelve milling about. The camp had not yet begun. I was worried about what I should do, how I would interact with the kids, how do I break the ice? etc. They, in typical kid fashion, pretty much ignored me or any other adult in the vicinity. They seemed to be having a grand time doing nothing.

Tracy got the show rolling by attempting to lay down the law. She laid out the camp rules and explained what we would be doing for the week. This worked for about six minutes until the attention span of most of the attendees waned and a low chaotic rumble began to form. Tracy seemed to expect this and counterattacked with a volley of her own. I was quickly beginning to understand where my help would be needed.



Now, I have been married for nearly 28 years and my wife and I chose to not have children of our own. What the heck was I doing here? Not only do I not know much about fish, I know absolutely NOTHING about child behavior and it was obvious they were intent on revolution! I was slowly starting to build myself into a panic and we were only 15 minutes into a week-long camp.

Well, to make a long story short, the revolution never materialized and my worries were unfounded. The kids ended up being quite fun to be around and I even learned some facts about fish. We did have an eclectic bunch, though. One young man's apparent lifelong goal was to perfectly imitate the sounds of wind passing through various body orifices. Another went into a wild frenzy every time we talked about the fish that we all would get the chance to dissect. Normal kid stuff, I guess.

The point is, volunteering can be a lot of fun and even rewarding. The kids seem to really appreciate having someone around who shows interest in them, and they pick up on your enthusiasm. The camps will run again next year and anybody with time to volunteer for a day or two should give it some thought. It will be great to get more of our member's children to participate in the camps. And kids, bring along a parent or two for a day.

Eric Bjorkeman, VAS President

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.*



October 2008

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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I wish to subscribe to Vancouver Audubon's newsletter "The Columbia Flyway" for \$10/year.
 I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$_____

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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Do Not share my name or any of my personal information with other organizations

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For more Info Call:
Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872
George Mayfield 360-687-0360

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