



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

October 2012

## Calendar

\*\*\*NO BIRDING CLASS due to the Potluck\*\*\*

\*\*\*Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, Oct. 1, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bob & Geri Rowe  
2010 SE 140th Ave. Vancouver 360-254-8699

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	31			

## PROGRAM:

### *The BIRDS & WILDLIFE of South Georgia Island in the Falklands*

by Jim Danzenbaker

Jim is an expert local birder whose long naturalist and ornithological experience started when he was just a youngster birding on the New Jersey coast. He is also an ornithologist extraordinaire for Antarctic & other expeditions, identifying seabirds and giving informative lectures. Jim is an international sales representative for Kowa Optics.



## FIELD TRIP

### *Rare Bird Run*



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: Oct. 20, Saturday

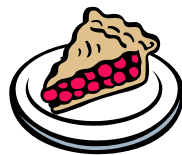
Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: 134th St. Park & Ride in Salmon Creek

**NOTE:** The 134th St. Park & Ride has been relocated near Fred Meyers on 134th west of the old location closer to the I-5 and I-205 merge. Watch for the signs to the Park & Ride.

This will be a last minute decision depending on what birds are reported the night before. Be prepared to go anywhere in SW Washington. Bring lunch, snacks and clothing for the weather at the time.

## ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK

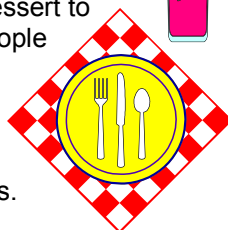


When: October 2, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM

Where: Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in 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.



## 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?

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  
Sydney Reisbick (Ridgefield Area) 360-887-7880

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

## Treasurer's Report

Revenue for July 2012: **\$130.31**  
Expenses for July 2012: **\$30.00**

Big Year Fundraising Challenge: **\$2,417.65 YTD**

## Old Business

Audubon Adventures: Tammy will send out initial letters to past supporters and then contact participating classrooms after school begins. Marilyn has agreed to follow up with phone calls if needed.

*Respectfully submitted, Tammy Bjorkman*



## **Oct 13 & 14th, 2012 Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

Walk on Audubon led bird and plant tours. Learn about wildlife and natural and cultural history from experts. Reserve a spot on a tour to view Sandhill Cranes flying.

Kayak on a guided paddle tour. Shop at a birders marketplace. Visit an authentic replica of a plankhouse and see demonstrations on how Native Americans lived. Sample salmon at a traditional salmon bake. Watch your children have fun for free while learning about nature at the craft stations, storytelling tent, and Audubon children's bird walks.

VAS schedules for leading trips, covering the Blind for the Big Sit and manning our outreach table at the Market Place in downtown Ridgefield.

The driving loop will be closed to cars on Sunday instead of Saturday. On Sunday, buses will run from the High School parking lot. Take the bus around the loop or take it just to the Observation Blind or to the Kiwa Trail and then catch the next one out when you are done. Walking is allowed both directions between the Blind (rest room) and the Kiwa Trail.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**New Members:** Leitha Almaguer • Jean Burum • Meladi Chatfield • Mistie Dueck • Juanita Edson • Anna Frost • Sandra Hazard • Carla Mc Cutcheon • William Miller • Sandra Orourke • Jerri Price • Mary Rasmussen • Derek Starke

The National Wildlife Refuge System, a cornerstone of bird conservation in America, is facing an unprecedented attack. Since 1903, National Wildlife Refuges have been created both by the President and by Congress, but a new bill would change all that. HR 3009 would make it impossible for the President to establish new refuges. That's a huge problem, because the Executive branch—including every President since Theodore Roosevelt—has established 90 percent of all refuges.

The creation of new wildlife refuges has always been bipartisan, with nearly the same number created by Republican and Democratic administrations, including the recent addition of the 50 million acre Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument added by President George W. Bush in 2009. HR 3009 is a blatant attempt to halt any growth of the Refuge System and is retroactive from September 30, 2011, meaning **the newly established Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area would cease to be a refuge** should this bill pass.





## Vote

### ***But, be sure it is an informed vote!***

Read! Research! Attend candidate forums!  
The website for the League of Women Voters of Clark  
County is:

<http://www.lwvwa.org/clark/calendar.html>

Assuming that you joined Audubon because you care  
about birds and the environment,  
candidate forums offer a chance to ask candidates about  
their views on such issues.

## How Elected Officials Affect the Environment

**The Presidency:** Presidents administer the laws that Congress passes. They have, however great latitude. The laws that Congress passes cannot be completely detailed. So, the agencies develop rules that implement the laws. The president appoints the heads of agencies and sets the tone of his administration. It is possible for a president to drag his feet on administering the laws -- he may appoint people who subvert the purpose of a law. Presidents also appoint judges, including justices of the Supreme Court. The president, however, is not a king. The president proposes and the Congress disposes.

**Members of Congress:** Congress passes the laws, including laws that protect or exploit the environment, that govern the nation. According to the Constitution, all bills dealing with the budget must originate in the House. Congress can shape environmental policy through the budget. It is important to remember that the political party that controls each house of the Congress controls the leadership, including the chairs of the committees. Every two years, all members of the House are up for re-election, as is one-third of the Senate. We will be voting for one senator and our member of Congress.

**The State Governor:** The governor administers the laws that the legislature passes. In Washington, the governor has a lot of power, similar to that of a president. There are differences. We have some separate agencies that are headed by officials elected in their own right. The governor has no control over those agencies. For those agencies, such as the Department of Ecology, that are directly under the governor, the governor appoints the head. (Fish and Wildlife is a sort of hybrid agency. The head of Fish and Wildlife is appointed by a Fish and Wildlife Commission. The governor appoints the members of the Commission, but does not directly appoint the director.) We are voting for governor this year.

**Lands Commissioner:** The lands commissioner administers the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The responsibilities include managing the state forests and developing the rules (based on state law) for logging on private lands. Under state law, the state lands are required to produce revenue for the school trusts. A timber

-focused lands commissioner can whack the state forests and a responsible lands commissioner can use good stewardship in managing the forests. We have had both. We are voting for the lands commissioner this year.

**The State Legislature:** Each legislative district sends two house members and one senator to the legislature. The house members run every two years and the senate members run every four years. In Clark County, we have three districts entirely in the county (the 17th, the 18th, and the 49th), and small pieces of two others -- the 14th in the east and the 20th to the north. The legislature passes the state laws that affect the environment. For those of us in the three main legislative districts (those I keep track of), we are voting on the two house seats and the senate seat for each district. You can find out which district you are in from the elections office -- <http://www.clark.wa.gov/elections/index.html> or 397-2394.

**The County Commissioners:** Clark County has three commissioners, each with his own district. For the primary (now past), the commissioner candidates runs in his or her own district. For the general election, we all get to vote on all the races, regardless of which district we live in. The county commissioners pass local ordinances, approve (or not) subdivisions, and approve growth management plans, among other actions. We are voting on two county commission seats this year. *Local races are often overlooked and they should not be. The actions of local elected officials, as well as state and federal officials, can affect the lives of everyone of us -- and of the birds we love.*

## Speaking of Local Officials: Rural Lands

For a couple of years now, the commissioners have been working on updating their policies for rural lands -- sort of defined as those lands not within the urban growth boundaries and not resource lands (designated ag land, forest land, and land with a potential mining). There was a rural lands task force that developed a set of recommendations for the commissioners to consider. So far, the staff and commissioners have come up with a number of measures to look at: short term and long term.

The short term measures are: a homesteading provision (where a landowner could break out a parcel for a home on his resource land -- apparently some of the farm forestry people want to carve out several lots); clusters on resource lands; rural planned unit developments; looking at minimum lot sizes; and rural centers. Long term measures to look at are: transfer of development rights; rural reserve districts; and current use taxation (considering public benefit of the current use).

Judging from the conversation at the last commissioners' work session, we may be at risk of having even more five acre lots all over the county. A public meeting will be held October 16 at the Hockinson High School.

*Gretchen Starke*



Aug. 11. Some good birding at the Ridgefield NWR was enjoyed by Jim Danzenbaker, highlighted by the following: **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, AMERICAN AVOCET**, early returning **GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RED CROSSBILL** and **2 HUTTON'S VIREOS**.

Aug. 20. While searching without luck for a **STILT SAND-PIPER** that Jim Danzenbaker found in the morning, Randy Hill saw about a half dozen each of **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** and **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** on South Big Lake on the Ridgefield NWR, River "S" unit.

Washington's first **WILSON'S PLOVER** was found in Walla Walla County and stuck around for over a week and a half allowing VAS birders; Eric and Tammy Bjorkman, Arden and Sherry Hagen, Mike Clarke, Ken Knittle and I a chance to add it to our lists.

Aug. 23. At Forlorn Lakes, in Skamania County, Les Carlson got to study at length an **AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**.

While birding with Russ Koppendrayner I saw my first **DUN-LIN** for Skamania County among the seven species of shorebirds we saw that day. We also had **GREEN HERON, GREAT EGRET, WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** and **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** in that county.

Aug. 26 The first **RED-EYED VIREO** that Jim Danzenbaker has seen in Clark County appeared in his Battle Ground yard.

Aug. 27. A **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** was found by Randy Hill on the River "S" unit of the Ridgefield NWR.

Aug 28, Randy Hill spotted a 3 **STILT SANDPIPERS** at Rest Lake, he also had 3 **RED-NECKED PHALAROPES**, plenty of **WESTERN** and **LEAST SANDPIPERS**, both **YELLOWLEGS**, and **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS**. A **GREEN HERON** was seen in Bower Slough between stops 9 & 10. He also had a **BLACK PHOEBE** and **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** and said that **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** continued on Bachelor Island where at least one nest was successful this summer.



Sept. 2, A **WESTERN KINGBIRD** was the best species found by Bob Flores at Frenchman's Bar Park along with a nice mix of more common migrant species



Sept. 3, Bob Flores did another visit to Frenchman's Bar Park and spotted a **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, 1 NASHVILLE WARBLER, 8 BLACK-THROATED**

**GRAY WARBLERS** and **17 WILSON'S WARBLERS**.

Susan and I enjoyed a great day of birding from our deck and saw the second **GRAY FLYCATCHER** ever seen in Skamania County and our **first VEERY** there since 1974.

Sept. 5, Les Carlson, George Mayfield, Barry Woodruff and I went to Ocean Shores in Gray's Harbor County in search for shorebirds. We found fourteen species including 2 different **RUFFS**, an Asiatic species.

Sept. 6, At Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground home he had **6 WARBLING VIREOS, 3 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS 3, YELLOW WARBLERS, and 2 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS**, first of the Fall in his the yard. And he briefly saw a bird that had strong wingbars and a yellow throat that was probably a Northern Parula, but he never saw it again so it's the one that got away.

Sept. 7, A **SWAINSON'S HAWK** flew over Susan and I as we were birding in our yard, a new species for my Skamania County list.



Sept. 8, Stefan Schlick camped near Horseshoe Lake which is in north-east Skamania County. Birding was decent, with **2 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS** on the north side of Horseshoe Lake and 3 very active **AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS**.

Sept. 9, Bob Flores had one **GRAY JAY** on the East Fork of the Lewis River, in Skamania County, just east on Sunset Falls.

Sept. 10, Randy Hill spotted an adult **FERRUGINOUS HAWK** circling over the field after you cross the Bachelor Slough Bridge on the Ridgefield NWR.

As we approach October the birding will change from looking for the smaller bird species to looking through the flocks of wintering waterfowl and raptors. Both Lower River Road and the Ridgefield NWR are areas where you can find large numbers of these birds to look through. Remember that after October 1<sup>st</sup> you are no longer allowed to get out of your vehicle on the Ridgefield Refuge and that the short "Creek Trail" at the Steigerwald Lake NWR will be closed until May 1<sup>st</sup>. So far in 2012, 223 species have been reported from Clark County and 181 birds were seen in Skamania County. The complete lists can be seen by going to: <http://www.wabirder.com/bartel.html> If you find a species missing from the list that you have seen in 2012 please let me know.



Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

# WA Big Year Fund Raiser Competition

## WA Big Year VAS Fund Raiser Competition

Vancouver Audubon President Eric Bjorkman and his wife Tammy are involved in a year-long fundraising competition with fellow board members Arden and Sherry Hagen. Both couples are conducting a 'Big Year' in Washington State. Throughout 2012, Eric & Sherry will keep a journal of the adventures of **Team Bjorkman** and **Team Hagen** respectively & contribute articles to Columbia Flyway each month sharing the high-lights and low-lights of their quest.

## September 2012 Big Year Birding

### Travelers: Team Bjorkman

At the September 4<sup>th</sup> general meeting both teams revealed their current standings and incredibly Team Bjorkman discovered we were 20 species behind our competitors! At the start of this year if you had told us we would be sitting at a whopping 336 species with nearly four months to go, we likely would have bet the farm we had the competition locked up. Also, we'd be pumped to know we actually had a great chance to break the record of 359. Believe me, we are far from throwing in the towel, but the Hagen's have certainly set the bar high. I can already see the mileage racking up.

The good news is that late summer and early fall is the time of year when rare birds show up all over the state. Southern migration is well underway with shorebirds arriving at the coast and songbirds on the eastside. Shore birding at this time of year can be absolutely overwhelming with scads of birds dropping in for a few days at spots like Ocean Shores, Bottle Beach, or Tokeland. Many shorebirds can also be found inland at locations near Vancouver. Ridgefield NWR and the Vancouver Lake lowlands being excellent examples of places you can visit easily and just maybe get a glimpse one of these infrequent visitors. East of the Cascade Mountains, spots like Washtucna provide ample chances to find rare migrating warblers such as Magnolia or Black-throated Green as they trickle south from their breeding grounds in northern Canada.

Congratulations to both teams who continue to work very hard on this fundraising effort that is supporting our club's general operating fund. To date we have successfully raised nearly \$2500! Thank you to all who have already contributed and to those who have pledged to give on a per species basis. Your support encourages us and helps VAS continue to promote the wisdom of nature's design through education, involvement, stewardship, enjoyment, and advocacy.

It's not too late if you want to send in a tax deductible donation today and help Vancouver Audubon with our one and only fundraiser in 2012.

VAS President, Eric Bjorkman

## Team Hagen

Believe me as Eric wrote, we thought that a number like 334 to 336 would certainly win this Competition Fund Raiser so for both of our teams to surpass that goal & be in contention for tying or breaking the state record just blows my mind. Of course we have been on the road a LOT. We have gotten to meet many great birders around the state. We run into some of the same ones over & over again. Most of them know who both teams are now & what we are doing. They are very interested & think what we are doing is great. But for the effort to be successful it is of course up to you to support VAS with your ticket purchases and pledges.

The last 2 weeks of August and into September was busy busy. It seems we would barely get back home when an email would come in of another bird we needed. We would throw the stuff back in the car & take off. We keep an overnight bag ready & everything sitting out to grab it quick. The house is a mess, the yard needs help even though I have already taken out my neglected annuals for the year. Then this whole scenario would repeat when we returned home & sometimes while we were on the road. Rather than going home, we might go from Sunrise at Mt Rainier straight to Ocean Shores rather than home.

But it has all paid off with our count reaching 356 on Sept. 4th. We have chased birds we have missed and that is typical birding but at this point frustrating. Two hours late for the Curlew Sandpiper at the coast, 3 hours too late for the Least Tern at the Potholes near Moses Lake, could not find the Rusty Blackbird in the Sequim area, could not re-locate the Hooded Warbler, Prothonotary or the Magnolia Warblers in other areas, etc. But we still have hope of finding more species and there is always this winter that can bring more rarities to the state.

Sherry Hagen, Newsletter & Web Editor

	Bjorkmans	Hagens
Feb 7	142	161
Mar 6	161	181
Apr 3	189	190
May 1	227	227
Jun 5	293	305
Jun 30	316	326
July 31	327	338
Sept 4	326	356



**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 2012**

**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**

**Help support Vancouver Audubon**

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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Renewals:** please send your renewal directly to National Audubon with the forms sent to you. Thanks!

\*\*\* This will **not** include *The Columbia Flyway* \*\*\*

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

**Please include this coupon** and make check payable to and send to:  
Vancouver Audubon, P.O. Box 1966, Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

For more Info Call:  
George Mayfield 360-687-0360  
Eric Bjorkman 360-695-3116

**Flyway Renewal  
date:**  
November 1st  
every year

**C9ZY130Z**

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