



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

October 2013

## Calendar

\*\*\* BIRDING CLASSES WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY

\*\*\*Tuesday, **October 1, 7:30 pm:** Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

\*\*\*Monday, **Sept. 30, 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
	30	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:

### Queensland, Australia

by Arden & Sherry Hagen

Last year during their Washington Big Year Fund Raiser for VAS when Arden & Sherry Hagen set a new state record of 370 species in one year, they took a little over 3 weeks off to visit Australia, a country high on their "Bucket List" of places to visit and bird. Australia is a big country so they decided to stay in Queensland in the NE corner of the country. But that is a big area too.

Come follow them as they travel through Queensland from the Bush, the Coast, the Great Barrier Reef trip (they call "The Good, the Bad & the Ugly"), the Brisbane area including O'Reilly's and then to the Outback.

They traveled with their friend Dr. Suzie Synder from Indiana whom they visited and birded with in Kenya when Suzie lived there. They both loved Kenya and fell in love with Australia too.

They saw a wide variety of colorful and interesting birds and animals.

Sherry took photos of everything she could.

Riflebirds, Fairywrens, Lorikeets, Bowerbirds, Aussie animals and the **10th deadliest snake in the world**

*Variegated Fairywren*



## FIELD TRIP

### Rare Bird Run



**Leader:** Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

**When:** October 12, Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Meet at:** Salmon Creek Park & Ride at 134th St. (Tenney St) & 10th Ave

Bring a lunch, water and dress for the weather and if you have a FRS two-way radio bring that too. We will be going after any rarities that might show up so be prepared for an all day trip.

**Do not forget to pay your driver**



## ANNUAL POTLUCK

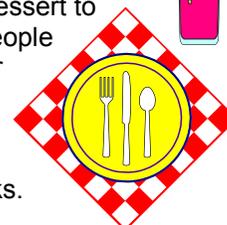


**When:** October 1

**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.



# Vancouver Audubon

## 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  
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.

## 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 [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:  
[vancouveraudubon.org](http://vancouveraudubon.org)

**Welcome New Members:** E. Adamson • Janet Boulette • Sharon Brainard • Stephen Bukojemsky • Jennifer Callea • David Chase • Diana Chernofsky • Elizabeth Cook • Jan Dawson • Christina Forney • Ronald Freer • Jean Gleason • Carol Hartman • Larry Hill • Betty Hoepfner • Dennis & Janell Lund • Joan Johannsen • Amy Jonsson • Sally Lyon • Lois Mickaelson • Joy Olsen • Randi Osborn • Ron Palmi • Margaret Prasniewski • Julianne Rae • David & Rebecca Angell • Roger Rezabek • Jim & Ann Ruscigno • Marjorie Say • Randal Stark • Robert Steffin • Deanna Sullivan • William Swanger • Jack Thompson • Jeffrey Wait • Mary Wilson

**Transfer Member:** Charlotte Kemp, Margaret Meech, Judith Meese, Don Sanada, Karl Tollefson

## VAS November Program: Scott Carpenter's Bird Photography

### *The Backyard & Beyond...*

When I wrote last month for the newsletter we were in Arizona and the birds we sought were not available. The Long-billed Starthroat was on private property. After we left it did move to a yard that welcomed visitors..... too late. The Huachuca's were closed due to bears and military reasons. They are now open with restrictions and a Sinaloa Wren showed up. We had tried for this bird before and looked for it 3 days with no luck. Jan & Jerry Beale (the past VAS President) went to see it recently. The same day we left AZ a Blue-footed Booby showed up in Patagonia Lake. Since they live there, they also saw that one too. There are times when it just feels like you are the one that is just always a day late for everything...or somewhere else. But I have to remember that we have over 3000 world species and 718 ABA species on our life lists so I guess we should not be complaining.

We had never gone to Mt Lemmon east of Tucson, AZ so since warblers were being reported there we decided that would be a fun place to visit. Little did we know how much fun. First of all the drive up the mountain is full of saguaro cactus on the lower elevations and balancing rocks higher up before it breaks into the tree line. It is beautiful and the rocks can be a bit scary. We didn't walk far at all when we came upon Red-faced Warblers at eye level posing for photos. I was thrilled. We had 10 species of warblers plus other species including many Pygmy Nuthatches. The temperature was a nice 72 and dropped to 66 after a thunder storm went through (with little rain) but back in Tucson it was 105.



Happy Birding, Sherry Hagen



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## Hearing on the Proposed Longview Coal Port

The number of proposed coal export facilities is now down to three -- three too many for the good of our planet and our birds' environment (as well as ours). The next to have an environmental review is closer to us. It is at the Port of Longview. The Corps of Engineers from the Federal government, the Department of Ecology from the state, and Cowlitz County will be doing the review. The first part of the environmental review is scoping, that is, determining what issues should be addressed by an environmental impact statement.

October 9, a Wednesday, is the date of the scoping hearing in Clark County. The officials must be expecting a crowd because the hearing will be at the county fairgrounds. The hearing will be from 5:00 to 8:00, with doors opening at 4:00.

Audubon is especially interested in global warming and carbon emissions produced when the coal is burned in China. The Audubon Washington has approved a resolution to oppose coal export for that very reason. I plan on attending the hearing and urge as many of you as possible to go as well.

## The Election: Is Governance an Environmental Issue?

Most definitely. We all understand that electing people with knowledge of the issues and with good will to positions of authority is important. But structure is important as well. Power that is too concentrated can lead to unfortunate results, as we saw last May. Those events have led to an effort to change the county charter. So, you will find on your ballot a list of people running to be freeholders. Do not ignore this. The freeholders will have the job of drawing up a new charter for Clark County, one that could change the structure of county government. The new charter could increase the number of county commissioners, could change which county offices will be filled by election or by appointment, or provide for initiative and referendum.

Digging into the specifics of charter review and learning about the candidates for freeholder is not as exciting as spotting a rare bird, but it is very important. Five freeholders will be elected in each commissioner district, for a total of fifteen freeholders.

The candidates have filed by position, so you will see on the ballot each position with its list of candidates. That will narrow the choice some, but it will not be easy to determine which people will be able to develop a charter that will provide the best governance for Clark County's future. And the best governance is more likely to come up with the best environmental protection.

I came across one website that might be helpful as the election nears. The organization is Clark County First and its website is <http://www.clarkcountyfirst.com/>. Or just google Clark County First. Admittedly, Clark County First does have a point of view. If you want an opposite point of view, you may find it, perhaps, by googling the name of our newest county commissioner.

## The Parks Plan to be Updated

The last time the parks and recreation plan was updated was in 2007, so it's time for an update. Legally, this is a requirement of the Growth Management Act. Practically, conditions have changed since 2007. The population of the county has increased, there has been the Great Recession, and the parks system is close to being broke (or, as the staff put it, "recent economic challenges and limited resources"). Special attention will be paid to park standards, park impact fees, and park maintenance standards. The parks system includes trails, greenways, natural areas, as well as the developed parks, urban and regional.

First comes the analysis to "identify community needs, assets, and opportunities." There is an opportunity to complete a survey that will be available to take until October 13. The survey is available at the website, <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/help-shape-future-city-county-parks-and-recreation-services>. Or, just google Clark-Vancouver park plan update. The new plan is to be adopted a year from now.

We have a number of concerns. First, making sure that a park system continues to exist and that Clark County and Vancouver continue to cooperate, whatever form that may take. Second, making sure that undeveloped parks do not get sold off; that is a real danger. We want more natural areas and trails and more opportunities for kids to get close to nature. And to be sure the parks department gets sufficient funding to do its job.

I'll keep track of what is going on. In the meantime, take the survey so that birds are not forgotten.

Gretchen Starke





Aug. 7-15. Barry Woodruff and I made a trip to North Carolina for two pelagic trips out of historic Cape Hatteras. Barry added 14 species to his life list and I added 9 to my list. Barry's first addition was a **FIELD SPARROW** at the Wright Brothers Monument at Kittyhawk. My most memorable bird was a **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL** on the pelagic trip, my 700th bird in the American Birding Association (ABA) area. Shortly after this a **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** flew by for my 700th bird seen in the Lower Forty-eight States. With Barry's flawless navigating and great company we managed to find all eight of the birds that I had targeted for the trip along with some great spots for local food.

Aug. 12. Shep Thorpe stopped at the Cape Horn Trail east of Washougal and was surprised to find the **Hooded Warbler**, first found on July 4th, still active in the area.

Aug. 13. Gene and Lyn Topinka spotted **7 ELEGANT TERNS** at the Hammond Boat Basin, in Oregon, along with few **WHIMBRELS** and **MARBLED GODWITS** sitting on the pilings. The terns, which nest in Mexico, have shown up by the hundreds along the Oregon coast, and now have made it as far as Puget Sound. This is only about the third time that they have made it to Washington.

Aug. 16. **HERMIT WARBLER** at the River S unit of the Ridgefield NWR, this first for the Unit sighting was by Al Larabee and Barry Woodruff. These warblers are denizens of the higher altitude conifer forests, so this was an obvious migrant in an unusual habitat type for that species.

Aug. 17, seven **RED-NECKED PHALAROPES** were found by Steven Clarke and Cheri Kearney in the Columbia River just east of Reed Island, near Washougal. They also mentioned finding an active colony of **BANK SWALLOWS** using the sand banks on the north side of Sand Island just off of nearby Rooster Rock State Park. This was a previously unreported nesting location.

Aug. 20. Lyn and Gene Topinka added the **ELEGANT TERN** to their Washington list by seeing them at Tokeland in Pacific County.

Aug. 25. Jim Danzenbaker counted night migrating Swainson's Thrushes at his Battle Ground yard by counting their calls. Audible peak seemed to be about 45 minutes before sunrise when there were about 100+ notes per minute



meaning about 33 birds per minute (assuming each thrush makes three discernible notes within his hearing range). During this time, he had two calling **WESTERN SCREECH OWLS**, **1 GREAT HORNED OWL AND 1 BARN OWL**. **1 PILEATED WOODPECKER**, **5 VAUX'S SWIFT**, **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLY-**

**CATCHER 1**, **WILLOW FLYCATCHER 3**, **12 WARBLING VIREO**, **VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW**, **120 CEDAR WAXWING**, **1 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**, **1 WILSON'S WARBLER**, **8 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, **4 YELLOW WARBLER**, **1 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT**, **4 PURPLE FINCH**, **5 EVENING GROSBEAK**, **1 LAZULI BUNTING**, **4 WESTERN Tanager** **6 BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** and **1 DARK-EYED JUNCO**.



Aug. 29. Randy Fortish and I explored the FR8040 Road in Skamania County, just north of Trout Lake, and had good luck finding woodpeckers. We found **WILLIAMSON'S SAP-SUCKER**. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER**, **HAIRY WOODPECKER**, **DOWNY WOODPECKER**, **NORTHERN FLICKER** and **PILEATED WOODPECKER**. The 2012 Cascade Creek Forest Fire has created perfect habitat for woodpeckers and it will really start to get good next year. We also encountered some nice mixed flocks of migrant birds including **NASHVILLE** and **MC GILLIVRAY'S WARBLERS** along with the expected **GRAY JAYS**, **CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS**, **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS**, **RED CROSSBILLS** and **EVENING GROSBEAKS**.

Aug. 31. Jim Danzenbaker counted **SWAINSON'S THRUSHES** migrating overhead at his Battle Ground home. As in the past, the highest frequency of calls was between roughly 5:00-5:45am when he heard about 80-125 calls per minute which translates into ~27-42 birds per minute. Keeping him company during this time were one calling **BARN OWL** and his local **WESTERN SCREECH OWLS** making miscellaneous barking sounds and ping pong ball calls.

Washington's second record of a **SMITH'S LONGSPUR** caused Eric and Tammy Bjorkman and Susan and I to

# Vancouver Audubon

make the drive to Ocean Shores, Gray's Harbor County to add it to our life lists.

Sept. 2. While birding Frenchmen's Bar Park, Bob Flores found **1 WHITE PELICAN**, **1 BARRED OWL**, a **PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER**, **1 HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER**, **7 WARBLING VIREOS**, **3 ORANGE-CROWNED**, **2 YELLOW WARBLERS**, **24 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS**, **2 WILSON'S WARBLERS** and a **TENNESSEE WARBLER**. The last species is very rare in Washington and looks much like a brightly colored Warbling Vireo, but it has white or yellowish undertail coverts (feathers on the rump beneath the tail) that are always lighter than the breast.

Sept. 6. Shorebirds are very scarce in Skamania County and I was delighted when Susan and I found **4 WESTERN SANDPIPERS** and **3 LEAST SANDPIPERS** at Doetsch Pond, just east of Skamania Landing. I became ecstatic when we found a **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** at the mouth of Rock Creek in Stevenson, a new bird for my Skamania County list.

Sept. 7. Randy Fortish and I headed to Ocean Shores for a day of birding and met up with the VAS field trip and two other chapter couples, Carol and Don Kohler and Eric and Tammy Bjorkman. The best birds of the day were a **RED KNOT** seen by the VAS tour group at Bottle Beach and **4 ELEGANT TERNS** sitting on a dock with **300 MARBLED GODWITS** while a **MARBLED MURRELET** swam by in the Westport marina. **Biggest misses** of the day were a hunted for **Upland Sandpiper** that was seen after we left and a **Lesser Sand-plover** last seen at Bottle Beach State Park five minutes before Randy and I got there. While we were at the coast we had the best migration day



at our house in thirty years with large numbers of warblers and vireos including dozens of **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS** and **HERMIT WARBLERS** at a time and **BLACK SWIFTS** right over the house.

As we move into October the waterfowl will start arriving and will become one of the centers of attention for birders, following these ducks and geese will be the raptors. Short-eared Owls, Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, and falcons will once again return to the Vancouver Lake lowlands and the Ridgefield NWR in numbers. The large population of voles in the open fields along with wintering waterfowl provides a very attractive food source for a large number of raptors. Among the flocks of wintering birds there are always a few surprises, watch for Ross's Goose, Emperor Goose, Eurasian Wigeon or other wanderers from Asia. If you find one of these out of place birds please contact me, the Hagens and the Bjorkmans immediately.

Wilson Cady [gorgebirds@juno.com](mailto:gorgebirds@juno.com)



## Why Buy a Duck Stamp?

### Eight Great Reasons to Love the New Migratory Bird Stamp

- 1. \$850 million for conservation and counting.** Stamp sales have surpassed \$850 million and helped to protect 5.5 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat.
- 2. A 79-year tradition of beautiful wildlife art.** The Migratory Bird Stamp is a beautiful collectible and a great artistic tradition.
- A bargain at \$15.** Ninety-eight cents of each dollar spent on a stamp goes directly to land acquisition (and immediate related expenses) for national wildlife refuges.
- 4. It's much more than ducks.** The funds benefit scores of bird species besides Waterfowl including shorebirds, herons, raptors, and songbirds, not to mention reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, native plants, and more.
- 5. Save wetlands; save grasslands.** .... revenues protect "waterfowl production areas"—to the tune of 3 million acres. The same program also protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands.
- 6. The benefits are gorgeous.** Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges across the Lower 48 have been acquired
- 7. It's your free pass to refuges.**
- 8. As bird watchers, let's get in on the secret.** Though it's long been a fixture in hunting circles, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is one of the best-kept secrets in all of bird conservation.

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Vancouver Audubon  
believes in the wisdom  
of nature's design and  
promotes this through  
education, involvement,  
stewardship, enjoyment  
and advocacy.*



**October 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.

**VANCOUVER AUDUBON \*\* NEWSLETTER & DONATION COUPON**

**Help support Vancouver Audubon**

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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* \*\*\*

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