



# Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

October 2014

## Calendar

\*\*\* NO Birding Class or Mini Program due to the Potluck\*\*\*

\*\*\*Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 PM: Vancouver Audubon Society's Fall Potluck

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

\*\*\*Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6:30 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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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

## PROGRAM: Global Warming

Speaker: Steven Clark, Biology Instructor  
Clark College

Understanding Global Warming means understanding carbon. Where does it come from? How does carbon cause warming?

It would seem like only the sun would cause climate warming, but that is not the case. The chemistry is simpler to understand than you might have realized.



As the earth warms, what are animal ecologists worried about with regard to birds?

\*Changes in migration; \* Disruption of prey species that birds depend on; \* Disruption of co-evolved bird dependencies (e.g birds arriving and a plant has already matured).

Join us to learn more and think more about this emerging significant issue that will become even more pronounced in the near future.

## FIELD TRIP

### Rare Bird Run



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872


When: Oct. 11, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM


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

This is an all day trip. Bring a lunch. The rule will be determined on Friday evening so call if you want to know where we will be going. **We will carpool.**


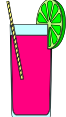
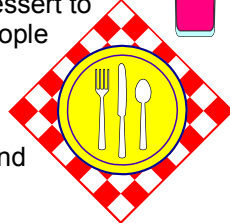
**Do not forget to pay your driver for gas.**



## ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK



**When:** October 7  
**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

## Ocean Shores Birding with Eric

Seven hardy birders withstood a long drive to Ocean Shores on Saturday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Our first stop was the jetty at Point Brown where we immediately found a Humpback Whale actively cruising the shallow water just past the breakers very near several surfers riding the waves. A walk to the jetty found Black Turnstone and several Wandering Tattlers.

Next we tried the water treatment plant near the Oyehut Game Range but found very little birdlife there, mostly Mallards and Northern Shoveler. We moved on to the game range where a Ruff had recently been seen. This spot can be teeming with shorebirds during migration but it was pretty slow on this day. We did find one Pectoral Sandpiper and had nice close-up looks at it. We found several other species there but they were mainly the usual suspects with nothing out of the ordinary.

A drive on the beach at Grayland produced little in the way of shorebirds but we did find a dead humpback that had washed ashore and had been reported on Tweeters. It wasn't too hard to find. . . just follow your nose! Big numbers of Sooty Shearwater were gathered off the shore. Late summer is a great time of year to see them close in as they gather in huge numbers in preparation for their migration. It can be a stunning site as thousands stream by so close that you can easily see them without binoculars. A stop at Tokeland rewarded us with Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Whimbrel, and Marbled Godwit, but again no rarities. In all, we tallied 46 species this day.

## Westport Pelagic Birding with Eric

On Sunday, five VAS members went on a pelagic trip with Westport Seabirds. The weather was good and the ocean was pretty darn smooth. The best bird of the trip was Scripps's Murrelet, a bird that has been very uncommon in the past but is possibly expanding its range. They are now being reported more frequently off our coast. Pelagic trips are great fun and a good way to expand your life list. Three of our birders picked up between 12 and 15 new species! We were also treated to several whale sightings, with one humpback breaching entirely out of the water. We also saw one Elephant Seal and numerous Mola Mola, or ocean sunfish. Sunfish are quite a sight and I liken them to a large floating fish head without the body. They're pale white and feed along the surface, often with several birds perched atop to dine on the many parasites that collect on their ghostly bodies.

I highly recommend going on one of these trips. It's another world out on the ocean and you can see some pretty spectacular things. On our return trip we stopped by North Cove with the hope of possibly finding an Elegant Tern but were surprised by a Franklin's Gull instead.

Eric Bjorkman

## The Columbian Flyway Renewal Notice

Next Month "November"  
is time to renew your  
Columbia Flyway subscription.

to continue receiving the flyway, see the coupon on the back page of this publication for mailing in your \$10 renewal plus any donation you wish to include.

Questions regarding your renewal?  
Call George Mayfield at (360) 687-0360 or  
email him at: [gomayf@comcast.net](mailto:gomayf@comcast.net)

OR

**GO PAPERLESS**  
with the VAS Newsletter (no charge)  
But we would still **LOVE YOUR SUPPORT**

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 version is also available on line at:  
[www.vancouveraudubon.org](http://www.vancouveraudubon.org)

**Welcome New Members:** Judith Blasé • Sharon Chriss • Enid Defina • Edward Gray • Jean Marie Hall • Donna Hooker • Gerri Kositch • T. Laderas • Michelle Maani • Tom Melanson • Laura & Michael Olsavsky • Julie Reiersgaard • Robert Reudink • Karen Romanelli • Mardelle Smith • Terry Ulvinen • John Vanzytveld • Kirstyn Walker  
**Transfer Members:** Jean Woody

## BirdFest & Bluegrass

Ridgefield NWR  
October 4th & 5th

Most Events are free.

[www.RidgefieldFriends.org](http://www.RidgefieldFriends.org)

Lots of actives to check out

Audubon led Walks: Sunday 8:00 & 11:00

Family Audubon Walks: Sunday 10:30 & 12:30

Both meeting at the Kiwa Trail on the River "S" Loop.

## Audubon's Climate Change Report Has Been Rolled Out

... making news all across the country in media from *Bird Life International* to *The National Geographic* website to *The New York Times*. Even the White House got into the act when John Podesta, White House shared the release of the report on Twitter.

The news the report has to tell is grim, however. Half -- half -- of all North American bird species are at risk. The title, *314 Species on the Brink*, summarizes the situation. It is shocking the species that are at risk, species you would never think of as being in a lot of trouble. Some of our more common birds -- not the ones hard core birders celebrate sighting -- may disappear from North America.

By 2080, the year furthest in the future the study modeled, the osprey may lose 36% of its summer range. The northern shoveler is projected to lose 75% of its summer range with no prospect of range expansion. The ruffed grouse is projected to lose 36% of its breeding range, and its range may move so far north that, by the end of the century, it will no longer be seen in the lower 48 states.

Looking at birds found in Washington, the following species are projected to lose a substantial percent of their summer range: horned grebe (100%), California gull and merlin (98%), ring-necked duck (93%), hooded merganser (92%), American dipper (88%), northern harrier (86%), red-breasted nuthatch and varied thrush (82%), and double-crested cormorants (80%). Even common birds, such as Brewer's blackbird (72%) and the mallard (75%) are on this dreary list.

As for winter range loss, that doesn't look so bad -- comparatively. Still, Wilson's warbler (84%) and tundra swan (61%) are projected to lose a substantial portion of their winter range. And, oh, yes, the black-headed grosbeak is projected to lose 100% of its winter range.

The data Audubon scientists used in the study came from citizen science -- the Christmas bird counts and the breeding bird survey. From these data, the scientists were able to determine the needs of each species, describing what they called the "climate envelope" for each of the 588 North American species. Then, using climate models, which have been tested and have become most sophisticated, the scientists were able to describe future climate envelopes for each species. The report, a summary of which is on line (<http://climate.audubon.org/>), uses Baird's sparrow as an example. Because of shrinking habitat, the sparrow will be limited to a small area within the Bakken.

The Bakken that is being chewed up by oil extraction.

Please go to the Audubon website -- <http://climate.audubon.org/> -- and check out the report yourself. There are projections by state and by species. There are links to articles. And suggestions on what we can do about it. We must not just curl up with the covers over our heads. Nor can we simply grab our binoculars and ignore the future of birds and of would-be birders who are now just toddlers.

Locally, we must do what we can. Important local issues that affect the future of birds include growth and where it goes and fossil fuel transport. It will be important to keep track of the update of the growth management plan, for the more land that is paved over means that there is less land for birds. In addition, more compact development allows for more public transportation, reducing the need for driving. As for fossil fuel, our area has been targeted for coal export. Vancouver is in the bulls eye for oil transport. If we can put obstacles in the path of transporting Bakken oil, maybe we can help the Baird's sparrow survive. Which brings us to...



## The Election



Don't forget to vote. Even more important, before you vote, learn about the candidates and the issues. Offices that will impact birds, depending on who wins the election are county commissioner, all members of the Washington legislature House, PUD commissioner, and Southwest Washington's member of Congress. Check out the Sierra Club, as they can recommend candidates (we can't). Go to a candidates' forum. Read the paper. Learn.

There is an important local issue that will be on the ballot. That is the charter for the county. The charter has to do with governance and governance has much to do with saving birds. Under the current system of three commissioners acting both as a legislative body and administrative body, one commissioner needs to persuade only one other to go along with him to do what he wants, both in the passing of ordinances and in, well, meddling with the employees trying to do their jobs. The charter will provide for five councilors, similar to city councilors. Four would be elected by district and the fifth would be elected by the whole county. The commissioners would be charged with hiring an administrator, who would then do the hiring and firing seeing that the employees are doing their jobs properly. The employees would be insulated from political agendas of the councilors, which is not the case now. I plan on voting for the charter because, among other reasons, a better governed county would be better for birds and other wildlife.

Gretchen Starke



Aug. 11. At Frenchman's Bar Park, Bob Flores found 1 TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, 1 RED-EYED VIREO, 10 WARBLING VIREOS, 1 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 6 YELLOW WARBLERS, 8 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS and 10 WILSON'S WARBLERS while birding the riparian area along the river in the early morning.

Aug. 13. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was heard by Bob Flores at the Steigerwald Lake NWR. Bob Flores then went to the Ridgefield NWR looking for two BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS on Rest Lake that Jim Danzenbaker had reported in the morning and found three mixed in with dowitchers and peeps..

Aug. 14. There was a good shorebird mix at the Ridgefield NWR, with Bob Flores reporting 20 GREATER YELLOWLEGS, 20 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 3 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, 50 LEAST SANDPIPERS, 33 WESTERN SANDPIPERS, 3 SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, 2 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS, 1 DUNLIN, 1 BAIRD'S SANDPIPER and a CASSIN'S VIREO at the Observation Blind

Stuart Johnston found a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER at the mouth of the White Salmon River. This was only the third record of this species from Skamania County.

We had a flock of BUSHTITS in our Skamania County yard for several days, these were our first here since 2003, apparently we are at a higher than they prefer.

Aug. 17. In Ridgefield, Bob Flores had a good movement through their yard and neighborhood. Some large numbers were seen such as 35 AMERICAN ROBINS, 11 WESTERN TANAGERS and 26 BLACK-HEAD GROSBILLS. Also of note were 2 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 1 YELLOW WARBLER, 1 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER and a LAZULI BUNTING.

Aug. 18. A LEAST FLYCATCHER was spotted at Frenchman's Bar Park by Bob Flores, this is a species usually found east of the Rocky Mountains that is very uncommon in Washington State.

Aug. 21. A second Skamania County SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER was found by Stuart Johnston, this one was at the sailboard beach at Home Valley Park.

Aug. 22. Ryan Abe and Bob Flores had a good day at Frenchman's Bar Park, they had no unusual birds just good numbers of migrants. Their highlights were 1 PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER, 2 HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHERS, 32 WARBLING VIREOS, 4 BROWN CREEPERS, 4 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 4 YELLOW WARBLERS, BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS, 2 TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS, 6 WILSON'S WARBLERS and 6 WESTERN TANAGERS.

Aug. 23. Susan Setterberg went on a pelagic trip out of Westport and saw her life FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL.

While birding with some friends from Seattle at Rock Creek Cove in Stevenson, we saw four family groups of newly arrived migrant ducks, NORTHERN PINTAIL, NORTHERN SHOVELER, AMERICAN WIGEON and RING-NECKED DUCK. All of the birds were in eclipse plumage making it difficult to tell the sexes apart. Near Lyle, in Klickitat County, we were able to spot ACORN WOODPECKER, LEWIS'S WOODPECKER and LESSER GOLDFINCH.

Aug. 24. August is not only the time when the neotropical birds are moving through our area, it is also the peak of shorebird migration. Rest Lake at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is the best local spot to observe these birds as they pass through after nesting in the Arctic, Jim Danzenbaker counted 12 KILLDEER, 17 SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, his personal high count over 9 years of birding Ridgefield, 5 GREATER YELLOWLEGS, 8 LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 1 STILT SANDPIPER only Jim's second at Ridgefield over 9 years this bird was first found by Ryan Abe) 3 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, 125 WESTERN SANDPIPERS, 4 SEMIPALMATED 1 BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, 60 LEAST SANDPIPERS, 16 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER and 1 WILSON'S SNIPE.

Aug. 26. Randy Hill and Bob Flores were enjoying the migration at Frenchman's Park when 14 AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS flew across the Columbia River from Oregon.

Aug. 27. A LEAST FLYCATCHER in Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground yard was the second for his home in nine years

Aug. 28. It was an interesting night at Jim Danzenbaker's Battle Ground yard in the wee hours of the morning: SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were moving from about 1:15-3:15 and probably longer but he fell asleep as it was going on. A single SAVANNAH SPARROW flew over during this time and a WESTERN SCREECH OWL started calling at about 1:30 - the first he had heard this year. In addition, a single BARN OWL called twice while the local pack of coyotes conversed in the background.

Sept. 6. Ken Knittle and I showed Brooke Davies from Walla Walla some local birds. In Skamania County we located GREEN HERON, MERLIN, GRAY JAY and CLARK'S NUTCRACKER. Our best bird of the day was a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK at the Conboy NWR, in Klickitat County, where we also had 4 EASTERN KINGBIRDS.

Sept. 7. A COMMON NIGHTHAWK was spotted in Washougal by Steven Clark and Cherie Kearney, they have become very uncommon in western Washington.

The VAS pelagic trip out of Westport produced 4 SCRIPP'S MURRELETS, a species that seldom makes it this far north.

Sept. 9. A BREWER'S SPARROW, a species from the open east side of the Cascades, was the second for Bob Flores's Ridgefield area yard. There is a subspecies called a

# Vancouver Audubon

Timberline Sparrow that nests high in the Yukon mountains that might have been the source of this bird.

We had a great birding day at our home with 9 BLACK SWIFTS and six species of warblers including HERMIT WARBLER.

Sept. 10. Bob Flores found 14 SANDHILL CRANES on Lower River Road across from Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. In the park he spotted an early VARIED THRUSH and had surprising avian encounter when a BROWN CREEPER landed on his leg.

Sept. 11. 2 GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS were in Les Carlson's north Vancouver yard.

Sept. 12. Jim Danzenbaker was surprised to have an immature RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER briefly perch near his Battle Ground home, this is a sapsucker species from the east side of the Cascades.

By the time this period ended most of the summer species and the bulk of the shorebirds have moved through and our wintering species had started arriving. The focus of birding will switch to the waterfowl, raptors and gulls that winter here, both the Ridgefield NWR and the Vancouver Lake lowlands are excellent places to see these birds. As of the writing of this column 215 species of birds had been reported from Clark County in 2014 and 178 species from Skamania County, there is a link to the complete Cumulative County List report on the VAS website.

Wilson Cady

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## *The Backyard & Beyond...*

### Papua New Guinea (Part 2)

Last month I wrote about our July trip to PNG. It is on-line in the September issue. Now to continue the story.

Almost every day we were up at 4 or 5 AM to leave shortly after to get ahead start on the day. A lot of the hiking if done in the jungles was strenuous and often muddy as I mentioned before. Other times we walked roads but that was often with the displeasure of the noise and jumping out of the way (and dust) of large trucks. And at one spot, a pesky road "smoother" that kept going back and forth driving us crazy.

One of the guys carried a large Canon camera with a very large lens all mounted on a very large tripod. He was set up next to me and I saw him walk away out of the corner of my eye and the next thing I knew I thought a branch had fallen out of the tree and hit me on the arm and then my leg. It wasn't a branch but the whole tripod-camera-lens setup and it left a bruised sore leg. Ouch!!! I told him I sacrificed my leg to save his camera. At other times I had

the leader and another guy slip and land against me. I slipped once as Arden was helping me then he continued to drag me up hill over tree roots not knowing that I was on my stomach. A guy had grabbed my camera to save it. Then while looking up (at birds) some green slimy stuff fell into my eye. I didn't know if it was bird poop or tree goop. But we got it out with a handkerchief and clean water. Then I hoped I didn't get an infection or worse. So far so good. I told you this was a hard trip.

One interesting thing happen along the road while we were staying at Ambua. A fuel tanker had gone by while we were birding. When we came back down the road we saw a crowd of men where the fuel tanker had over turned off the road. Everyone was cell phoning each other and they were all coming with any container they could find to get "FREE" fuel. They were all smiling for photos when we went by. The military were there but only to maintain order.

Because the airline service isn't that great in the PNG highlands, we used a bus on a 9 hour drive on mostly a gravel road. Part way we hit a traffic jam. A steep hill had become muddy from a rain storm the night before and the bigger trucks and buses (like ours) were having trouble getting up the hill thus causing the traffic tie up. Nick our guide finally starting directing traffic and getting people down the hill and ones that could make it up. Finally some local guys got a tow rope-cable and were hooking it to the ones that couldn't make it all the way and pulling them the rest of the way up. Things were moving. But our driver was reluctant. After 3 hours, Nick said let's go & we too finally made it up part of the hill, were pulled the rest of the way, paid the 8 guys some money and were on our way. We had a policeman with us on this trip for our own protection and as we were going through one town he had to take off his police hat and turn his jacket inside out since they hated police and had recently killed 3.

TIPNG = This Is Papua New Guinea.

The cabin at Kumul Lodge had a lock on the inside & out side so Arden left to see if there was breakfast while I was in bed one morning because we had no electricity. He had to lock the door from the outside. It got lighter, I got dressed & was going to breakfast but I was LOCKED IN!!!

Along the coast, out of Port Moresby, we experienced the fire burning that we had seen in Australia. Fires are set all over the place. Why? Is a good Question. One of the ladies was wearing new hearing aides with some clips attached to her hat since they occasionally fell out. She was "using the bushes" near the end of our trip and her hat fell off. So a little later she mentioned one hearing aid was gone and could we stop and check the spot. So we did but a small fire was set there and just as she got to the spot, a big flare shot up in the air. End of hearing aid!!!

[to be continued]

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding ☺

**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 2014**

**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.

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 I wish to support Vancouver Audubon with an additional donations of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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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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