



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

Member of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

September 2010

Calendar

***BIRDING CLASS ... Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:45 PM before the meeting.

***Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 715 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Aug. 30, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Bonnie Bingle
8705 E 51st Ave. Vancouver 360-576-0330

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	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:

Vaux's Happenings

By Larry Schwitters

Larry has been instrumental in organizing observations and study about the migration of VAUX'S SWIFTS (pronounced: VAUWKSiz).

Several Northwest roosting sites have been identified including Monroe, Camas, Chapman School in NW Portland, and Oregon City for both spring and autumn migrations. Thousands of birds at a time enter chimneys at dusk to roost for the night. It makes quite a spectacle.

The Pilchuck Audubon Chapter in Snohomish County has taken the lead on this project and Larry will report on current findings. Check the website: vauxhappening.org



FIELD TRIP

Chapman School Vaux's Swift Roost

Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: September 15, Wednesday

Time: 6:30 PM (Evening field trip)

Meet at: Inn at the Quay (near the I-5 bridge) west side parking lot where we will car pool

In conjunction with this month's program, we will be traveling across the river to Chapman Elementary School in NW Portland to watch thousands of Vaux's Swifts enter the school's chimney for their nightly roost. There can be up to 30,000 or more swifts that use this site. Bring binoculars, a blanket to sit on (viewing is done on the hillside next to the school) and snacks if you want. Sometimes a Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk or Merlin uses this opportunity to "shop" for dinner as the swifts circle the chimney or as they try to enter. This event is amazing even to a non-birder.



Remember to Renew your Columbia Flyway subscription by November 1st. See coupon on back page.

VAS Upcoming Programs:

"Curious Gorge" by Scott Cook (October)

Show and Tell by Our Members (November)

Rare Bird Run

Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: October 23, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

Meet at: Inn at the Quay (near the I-5 bridge) west side parking lot where we will car pool

We will look for unusual migrants or rare birds showing up in our area.

Board Meeting June 7, 2010 at Joan Dugin's

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of May was \$595.17 (\$525 from Birdathon, \$60 from donations, \$10 from newsletter subscriptions). Expenses totaled \$282.86 from newsletter printing and annual post office fees. Net income was \$312.31.

Conservation: There was discussion on Vancouver/Clark Parks & Recreation's development of Daybreak Park along the East Fork Lewis River. The master plan can be found on Vancouver Clark Parks & Recreation's website.

Gretchen has been talking with other groups and there is some concern about the equestrian arena and how it will be managed by Parks.

Gretchen plans to devote a few hours a week to studying the Shoreline Management Plan.

New Business:

- VAS should have an activity or take home piece for children at next year's Home & Garden show. Ideas were discussed.
- Board agreed that socializing time before meeting is very important in making our members feel welcome.

Board Meeting July 24, 2010 at Dory Brooking's

Treasurer's Report – Joan Durgin: Income for the month of June was \$399.64 (\$279 Birdathon, \$45 donations, \$10 newsletter subscriptions, \$45 store, and \$20 National Audubon). Expenses totaled \$43.49 for coffee supplies, postage, and National Audubon fees. Net income was \$356.15. Balance of bequest fund at the Community Foundation was \$210,616.89 as of March 31, 2010.

Field Trips – Arden Hagen: Board helped brainstorm possible field trips for September, October, & November 2010, and February 2011. Some suggestions were: Grays Harbor County (with stops at Ocean Shores, Tokeland, and Bottle Beach), Bonney Butte for migration of raptors, Sisters, Oregon, The Nature Conservancy's Casmassia Reserve next May, and a pelagic trip out of Westport, Washington.

Newsletter – Sherry Hagen: The due dates for newsletter articles for the remainder of 2010.

October articles - due September 11 (Saturday)

November articles – due October 6 (Wednesday)

December articles – due November 3 (Wednesday)

Conservation – Gretchen Starke:

- Update on Vancouver/Clark Parks plan for Daybreak Park.
- There is a new open primary election system in Washington State which means the top two candidates can be from the same party. Gretchen urged all board members to stay informed about state politics.
- Whistling Ridge (wind power site in the Columbia

Gorge) decision has been postponed until August.

- Climate bill is weak and carbon tax was never seriously considered. It left the House months ago and appears to be dead for the year

Old Business:

- Bird Fest – Eric will contact Marguerite Hills to discuss what role VAS will play in this year's event.
- Hacking Grant – Eric requested Portland Audubon give the board a yearly update before grant is approved. Bob Salinger has offered to lead a field trip to hacking sites.

New Business: Board approved creating and mailing a newsletter renewal request to be sent to everyone on our mailing list. Tammy will write and have letter ready to mail in October. All people on our mailing list will then receive newsletter in November. The letter will also make a special appeal requesting donations to support VAS.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Bjorkman

Edited by Sherry Hagen

Thank You to all Birdathon Donators

Eric & Tammy Bjorkman
Gretchen Starke
Don & Sue
Karen Wood
Deborah Kapral
Bonnie Bingle
Arden & Sherry Hagen
Bob & Geri Rowe
Bill & Marilyn Feddler
Nancy Ellifrit
Les Carlson

Thank You

Total Donations:

\$854.00

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Members: Mariah Acton • Christine Allen • Les Baddgor • Donald Bede • D. Bennett • Janet Blair • Donna Blakely • Clint Blodgett • Patty Boyden • Susan Brown • Jayne Carpenter • William Casey • Edwin Connor • Bill and Linda Dygert • Nancy Gilliland • M. Gilman • Nadeen Gilmartin • Gene Grant • Joan Harshberger • Linda Hayden • Les Heffler • Teresa Kaufman • Patricia Kenck • Marion Klitza • Janet Lindgren • Rita Mahaffa • Jo Ann McMullen • Mehrun McNickle • A. Migas • Phillip Milner • Patricia Monette • Peter Olchoway • Peter Ramatowski • Louane Renner • Jackie Rubinelli • Leroy Spencer • Betty Thompson • Kathryn Thornton • J. Vickers • Katherine Welsh • Linda Wiener



Does Clark County Need More Parks or Houses?

County Commissioner Mielke thinks houses are more important.

Clark County has a program, called Legacy Lands (also called Conservation Futures), to buy land for conservation purchases -- trails and other passive recreation uses, open space and habitat. The money comes from various sources including grants and a real estate excise tax (called a REET), which is to be used for land purchases, but not development. The land that is purchased is always from a willing seller -- condemnation of land is not allowed through Conservation Futures. Through the Legacy Lands program, the county has bought riparian areas along Lacamas Lake and the Lewis River as well as along other major water bodies in the county. In total, through this program, the county has bought 3,800 acres.

But the job of conserving land before development covers the county is never done. The program is ongoing. Bill Dygert, who has been involved with this program for years, gave a presentation to us about the Legacy Lands program. Among the special lands that he told us about were Fallen Leaf Lake near Lacamas Lake and land near Whipple Creek that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has identified as a priority habitat corridor.

The county commissioners held a meeting last June on the most recent batch to be considered. In total, there are six projects from Washougal to Ridgefield. A total of 150.8 acres would be purchased. The lands to be considered for purchase included the Whipple Creek land and Fallen Leaf Lake. In addition, other lands of interest to Audubon include 50 acres on Tukes Mountain near Battleground. Tukes Mountain has a remarkable variety of plants. The slopes of the mountain are forested and the top is a bald with wild flowers. The WDFW has designated the site the county is interested in as biodiversity corridor. In addition, the site is adjacent to the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Regional Trail corridor. There could be trails there that would connect with Department of Natural Resources land and a City of Battleground park.

We want the county to buy the land for conservation and wildlife habitat. But, Commissioner Mielke has other concerns. The land that would be purchased could accommodate 130 units of housing. Mielke thinks that it is terrible that these lands would go off the tax rolls and become public. At the commissioner meeting, the commissioners considered and approved a resolution to proceed with purchasing the land. Several people, including myself, spoke in favor of the land purchase. After the commissioners discussed the land purchases and Mielke expressed his distress, all three commissioners voted for the resolution.

But -- later I heard that Mielke was going to try to talk the

landowners out of selling their land to the county. I asked Commissioner Steve Stuart about this and he said that it was true of at least one landowner, the owner of the parcel by Whipple Creek and the railroad. Stuart wasn't worried about the situation; one way or other, the county could obtain the land. Stuart also said that Mielke had intended to vote against the resolution to buy until people showed up and spoke in favor of it. This means that if Mielke is pressured, he could be influenced. It also means that showing up can sometimes be helpful.

Gretchen Starke

Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival September 25, 2010: 8 AM to 4 PM

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and Hawk Watch International for a **free family event** to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. See live birds and take a field trip to the spectacular Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Site. This amazing, interactive raptor event will take place at Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington.

The festival will have art projects for kids, hands on activities, and raptor exhibits. Attendees can also go on birding field trips with experts to identify waterfowl and migrating songbirds while exploring along the Columbia River. During the day, shuttles will run from Pateros to Chelan Ridge where families, bird lovers, and learners of all ages will be able to see raptors like Sharp-shinned Hawks up close before they are banded and released.

On Sunday, a festival sponsor, will be hosting a pancake breakfast with an expert speaker and then providing a guide for a field trip to Harts Pass, another excellent place to view migrating raptors.

This festival is scheduled to coincide with the peak of southbound migration of raptors at Chelan Ridge—the best place in Washington to view fall migrating raptors. To pre-register for the field trips leaving from Pateros and to reserve a space in the shuttle to Chelan Ridge, please call 509-731-4790. For more information about this free festival, please visit www.ncwaudubon.org/ or email festival@ncwaudubon.org.



message/fax (360) 253-5771

Everything for the Wild Bird enthusiast™

8101 N. E. Parkway • Vancouver, Washington 98662 • (360) 253-5771



May 29, Kevin and Carol Healy saw two **WESTERN KINGBIRDS** at the Steigerwald NWR. During the late Spring migration we normally get a few kingbirds on the west side of the Cascades, this year was a banner year for them in Clark County.

May 31, On Lower River Rd near the Ridgefield NWR Bob Flores found a female **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK**. This is the first record of this species in Clark County.

June 2, Ray Korpi heard a **COMMON Nighthawk** evening flying over his Vancouver home. These birds used to nest in the county but are now usually seen here only in migration. Jim Danzenbaker and Bob Flores went out to the refuge to look for Western Kingbirds and had a male **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** fly over them for another first county record. They did find **4 WESTERN KINGBIRDS** on Bachelor Island.

June 3, Susan Saul birded at the Conboy Lake NWR in Klickitat County with Portland Audubon's "Magpies" birding group and saw 54 species. The **SANDHILL CRANES** were visible in the marsh. They also had **COMMON NIGHTHAWK, CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD,** both **WESTERN and EASTERN KINGBIRDS,** and **PYGMY NUTHATCH**. The most unusual bird was a **NORTHERN BOBWHITE**, this is not a native quail and most likely was released by someone who had raised it from a chick purchased at a farm supply store. They are sometimes raised by hunters who use them for training bird dogs.

June 11, I attended the Washington Ornithological Society annual conference held in Wenatchee this year and had a great time on the daily field trips. I saw many great birds such as **DUSKY GROUSE, HARLEQUIN DUCK, NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL** and **BLACK SWIFT**. The 2011 conference will be held in Port Angeles during August. I would highly recommend that birders of all skill levels join this organization to attend their inexpensive conferences and participate in their free monthly field trips throughout the state.

June 13, Arden and Sherry Hagen visited the Conboy NWR. One good bird they saw on the way up was a **RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER** "flycatching". They then found a **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER** along the refuge entrance road. Other species seen on the refuge included **CASSIN'S VIREO, GRAY FLYCATCHER, EASTERN KINGBIRD, WESTERN KINGBIRD, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** and **NASHVILLE WARBLER**. Further east in the county they found **VESPER and GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS**.

June 27, At the Steigerwald Lake NWR, Joan Durgin photographed **LAZULI BUNTINGS** one of the most beautiful Northwest birds.

June 29, Bob Flores spotted **2 EASTERN KINGBIRDS** on Bachelor Island, Ridgefield NWR.

July 3, Guy McWethy added 43 species to his Skamania County list reaching one hundred species in all 39 Washington counties. He made it up to Takhlakh Lake area which was still snow-covered and added birds like **HERMIT WARBLER, HERMIT THRUSH, THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, GRAY JAY, CLARK'S NUTCRACKER,** and **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**.

July 5, Ken Knittle and Tom Mansfield birded a very windy Skamania County where at the Little White Salmon Hatchery they had a **RED-EYED VIREO** on the hillside going into the hatchery and **1 SPOTTED SANDPIPER** on the road. A **MOURNING DOVE** was seen later in the afternoon, hard to locate species in Skamania County.

July 8, Carol Kohler, Barry Woodruff and I participated on a Washington Ornithological Society four day exploration of the Blue Mountains in Walla Walla, Garfield, Asotin and Columbia Counties. The scenery and wildflowers were matched by spectacular birding. Species seen included **NORTHERN GOSHAWK, GREAT GRAY OWL, SHORT-EARED OWL, NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL, WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER, AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER** and my first Washington State **GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE**.

July 10, Bob Flores and Randy Hill went to the NE corner of Clark County finding a **NORTHERN PYGMY OWL** on NE Healy Rd. They also did have a calling **SOOTY GROUSE** just into Skamania County.

July 30, Ray Korpi had a **MERLIN** at Grand and 4th Plain in Vancouver as he drove to work. He did have one summer Merlin here once before several years ago, but this was a surprise given that their known breeding range does not include our area.

Aug. 3, Eric Bjorkman invited Barry Woodruff and I to join him leading a bird walk at Trout Lake, in Klickitat County, for a Boy Scout group from Kent, WA. Eric spotted a **BLACK SWIFT** overhead almost immediately upon leaving the Trout Lake Ranger Station. As we walked towards the lake I found a **COMMON POORWILL** in the grass along the road. At the lake we encountered mixed flocks of warblers, nuthatches with the best sightings being of **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS** and **GRAY CATBIRDS**. After parting ways with the scouts we headed for the extreme north end of Skamania County where we picked up a **MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE** and an extremely close and cooperative **NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL**.

Aug. 5, A flock of **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were photographed at Rock Creek Pond in Stevenson for the first record of White Pelicans in Skamania County.

Aug. 6, Larch Mountain produced **SOOTY GROUSE, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, WESTERN BLUEBIRD, TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, HERMIT WARBLER** and **CHIPPING SPARROW** for Bill Tweit who was visiting from

("Afield" Continued on next page)

("Afield" Continued)

Olympia. We tend to overlook the higher elevations in Clark County where you have a chance of seeing many species of interest.

Aug. 10, Susan and I were sitting around watching the hummingbirds coming to our feeders and flowers after spotting a juvenile **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** when our first for our property **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL** landed in a cedar tree and began feeding on the cones. Three separate flocks of swallows containing a few **BLACK SWIFTS** passed over us.

Aug. 11, At the Steigerwald Lake NWR office building **VAUX'S SWIFTS** were seen entering the chimney that was left standing as a potential roost site during a major remodel project this Spring. I was surprised that they found the chimney within only a couple of months of it being decommissioned and the cap removed.

Aug. 12, **2 WILSON'S PHALAROPE** at the Ridgefield NWR were a new county bird for Jim Danzenbaker. He also saw **2 RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, 85 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, 45 GREATER YELLOWLEGS and 25 LESSER YELLOWLEGS.** Shorebird migration starts early

in the summer and can be very good at the refuge and Vancouver Lake.

Aug. 13, Jim Danzenbaker returned to the Ridgefield NWR and found a **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** at Rest Lake.

During mid-May we had the first WILD TURKEY on our property in at least thirty years. Some of the "wild" turkeys that are encountered in our area are not of the Merriam's subspecies which were the ones planted here. People buy turkey poultts at farm supply stores and raise and release them on their property but most of these are the "Rio Grande" subspecies. Does anyone know where you can regularly see Wild Turkeys in Clark County?

Shorebirds and migrant song birders will be the main birds of interest through September until the northern breeding waterfowl and hawks move into Southwest Washington. Please keep track of any arrival dates for the migrants as well as the last dates you see our summer birds before they leave for this column. The cumulative list of birds seen by anyone in Clark County in 2010 stood at 201 species on August 13th and the Skamania County list was at 162 species.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

WA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S "Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund Grant"

by Tom Mansfield, with permission from 'WOSNews'

Leah Rensel, 18, of Arlington, is the first recipient of a grant from the **WOS Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund (PSYBF)**. The award presentation was made by Ruth Sullivan, mother of the late Patrick Sullivan, and PSYBF chair Tom Mansfield during the WOS Conference banquet June 12 in Wenatchee.

Such a fund was first conceptualized by Andy and Ellen Stepniewski of Wapato to encourage and support young people interested in birding, and in 2005, the Young Birders Fund was formally established. Following Patrick's untimely death in 2007, the fund was renamed in his memory to honor his many contributions to Washington birding. During the past five years, fund trustees have concentrated on building up the endowment.

Leah exemplifies the type of young birder the fund seeks to assist. While completing an impressive list of field projects in her secondary school years (she was a member of Seattle Audubon Teen Birdwatch and attended banding camp, volunteered for WDFW scoter and goose banding, participated in the Dunlin Winter Movements Studies Program, and has been a hummingbird banding volunteer, among other projects), Leah demonstrated solid academic skills, graduating from Arlington High School last year in the top 1% of her class with a 3.95 GPA. She is now a freshman at Linfield College in Oregon. This summer, she is participat-

ing in three WDFW projects: Locating Black Oystercatcher nests in the San Juan Islands, and further scoter and goose banding.

Leah's birding experience and interest in ornithology and biology come quite naturally. Her mother, Ruth Milner, is District Biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in LaConner. With her mother's encouragement and participation in numerous avian programs, Leah has had not only the opportunity to handle and learn about a variety of species, she has also had the benefit of working with professional biologists as a volunteer.

The PSYBF request from Leah was for a \$750 grant to assist with a four-week course through Linfield College called Plant/Animal Interactions in Costa Rica. The course will commence in January 2011. Part of the course will be to develop an independent research project – and while Leah has not yet identified her solo project, she plans to focus on some aspect of birds – possibly the neotropical migrants that breed in Washington. When her Costa Rica studies are completed, Leah will be sharing the results of her life-changing experience with the WOS membership.

While the trustees continue their efforts to grow the PSYBF endowment, they **encourage young birders to consider this financial resource for such activities as attending a birding conference or related event, field trip, youth birding camp, bird banding school, research, or census work.**

Further details and the PSYBF grant application can be found on the WOS website (www.wos.org).

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1966
Vancouver, WA 98668-1966

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vancouver, WA
PERMIT# 976**

vancouveraudubon.org

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



September 2010

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.

*Renew
your Newsletter
Subscription
by Nov. 1st*

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 \$_____

**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* ***

C9ZY130Z

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

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

President.....	Eric Bjorkman	695-3116	bjorkmante@iinet.com
Vice-Pres	Marilynn Hall	253-6865	marilynnhall@comcast.net
Secretary.....	Tammy Bjorkman.....	695-3116	bjorkmante@iinet.com
Treasurer	Joan Durgin	834-5621	jdurgin1@hotmail.com
Education	OPEN		
Conservation.....	Gretchen Starke.....	892-8617	gstarke@pacifier.com
Membership	George Mayfield	687-0360	gomayf@comcast.net
Field Trips	Arden Hagen.....	892-8872	iambakerman@comcast.net
Publicity.....	Tracy Snow.....	503-335-5361	tracy.now@orport.ang.af.mil
Programs	Bob Rowe	254-8699	rowe9629@comcast.net
Sightings	Wilson Cady.....	835-5947	gorgebirds@juno.com
Editor.....	Sherry Hagen.....	892-8872	vas@pacifier.com
Mailings.....	Bonnie Bingle.....	576-0330	
Volunteer Co-or.....	OPEN		
Refreshments.....	Cindy Mayfield	687-0360	gomayf@comcast.net