



Columbia Flyway

VANCOUVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

vancouveraudubon.org

Chartered December 18, 1975

September 2013

Calendar

*** SORRY THERE ARE NO BIRDING CLASSES until further notice

***Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7:30 pm: Vancouver Audubon Society's General Meeting at the Genealogy Society at 717 Grand Boulevard (Grand & Evergreen) in Vancouver, WA

***Monday, Aug. 26, 6:30 pm: VAS Board Meeting hosted by Sydney Reisbick
806 N Main, Ridgefield 360-887-7880

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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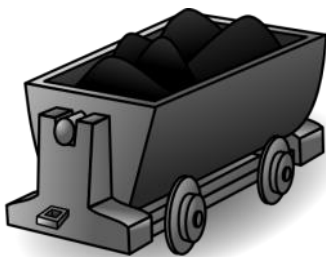
PROGRAM:

Fossil Fuels Exports

by Ryan Rittenhouse

Conservation Organizer, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Most of us have been following the multiple efforts of the coal and oil industries to make Vancouver a key stop in their plans to export coal to the Far East and oil to West Coast refineries. This is a unique moment in time to reflect on how our energy use and distribution is managed. The undeniable impact of global warming is convenient to ignore, but startling to face when more and more information about its impact is arriving. As conservation minded people we need to face the issues involved and hear them out. Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Sierra Club, Columbia Riverkeepers, and Rising Tide are conservation groups that have become active in opposing fossil fuel exports through the Columbia Gorge.



RYAN RITTENHOUSE will present about The Friends of the Columbia Gorge opposition to coal and oil rail and barge traffic to Vancouver and coastal ports.

He will also give us some updates on other gorge issues including the Towns to Trails program and the Whistling Ridge wind project proposal.

FIELD TRIP

Gray's Harbor



Leader: Arden Hagen, 360-892-8872

When: September 7, Saturday

Time: 8:00 AM

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

Do not forget to pay your driver

This is an all day trip looking for late shorebird and passerine migrants. Bring a lunch, water and dress for the weather and if you have a FRS two-way radio bring that too.

GO GREEN

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 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

Treasurer's Report – Joan Durgin

Revenue for June 2013: **\$1636.79**

Revenue for July 2013: **\$10.08**

Expenses for June 2013: **\$745.96**

Expenses for July 2013: **\$0**

Old Business

INTERNAL CONTROLS – Work continues on implementing internal controls.

New Business

1. BIRDFEST – Organizers are requesting help from VAS on leading bird walks at the Carty unit on Saturday, October 5th and on the Kiwa Trail on Sunday, October 6th. Volunteers are also needed for the scopes at the observation blind on Sunday.

2. MATURE LEARNING CLASS AT CLARK COLLEGE – Eric has agreed to teach the five-week course on birdwatching this fall.

Tammy Bjorkman, VAS Secretary

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.

Welcome New Members: Tammy Adams • Tony & Julie Adams • Orlin Allen • Jackie Andrewjeski • Lori Annenberg • Cameron Bennetts • Sam & Betty Harris • Jeanne Bort • Bernice Bungard • Roxanne Calvert • Gerald & Patsy Carlson • Ruth Chuprinko • Thomas Coleman • Claire Daniels • S. Davis • Carol Dewald • Heather Dojan • Phyllis Dunckel • Michael Dunn • Douglas Elsasser • Jerry Entrikin • Brenda Erwin • Barbara Espinosa • Cathy Fischer • I. Gable • Tom Gant • Sandy & John Geer • Robert Gordon • Eileen Graham • Brenda Grbac • Norma Grisso • Bev Groth • Audrey Hairston • Phyllis Hall • Nancy Handgraaf • Phillip & Ursula Harr • Winifred Heacock • Julia Heldman • Nguyen Huong • Marlene Jaskari • Mary Jones • Jeanni Kinden • Lawrence Lance • Lonnie Lane • Fred Larson • Phyllis Lauderbaugh • Terianne Lewis • Karen Lipkin • Doloris Long • Kristine Love • Johnson Luannia • B. Marinetti • Edna McClaskey • James McGaffey • Jeff McIlvenna • Mary Mengel • Ken Milligan • Felissa Mink • Chelinda Molyneux • Robin & William Mott • Diana Mulligan • Susan O'Hara • Thomas O'Sullivan • Carleen Pagni • Aimee Patton • Mike & Cindy Polehn • Andy & Elizabeth Rapp • Barbara Reed • Catherine Salek • Calvin Schurman • Susan Setterberg • Gilbert Shoemaker • Mehrdad Shojaei • Andrew Skinner • Cameron Smith • David Speicher • Todd Steckel • Ellen Stevenson • Shirley Stone • Paula Suthern • Wm Taylor • Paul Thomson • Carol Tocco • Leah Verdeyen • Darla Waltz • Geri Weitzel • Glenda White • Margaret Wilson • Mary Wynne • Christine Young • Aaron Ziegler

Transfer Member: Audrey & Gerald Ansell • Roxie Carpenter • Susan Caulk • Susan Fleming • Carol Foster • Barbara Mills

Backyard & Beyond

As I write this I am sitting in the living room of past VAS president, Jerry (& Jan) Beale's house in Hereford AZ. After getting off the plane in Phoenix & renting a car we stopped at Encanto Park. We pulled into the parking lot & immediately saw the bird we sought. The Rosy-faced (or Peach-faced) Lovebird which had been added to the ABA List last year and was now accepted so we had a lifer and I got photos for my photo ABA life list. That was easy. This would be rather laid back trip. No strenuous climbing and hanging out in the heat and all. We visited a new canyon for us called Montosa just south of Green Valley where Five-striped Sparrows have been discovered. A much easier place to see them than California Gulch where you have to drive a long way over rough dirt roads. This one is just a short way off the freeway on mostly paved road. We did not see the Five-striped nor the Black-capped Gnatcatcher but we did see the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher there. We had made this August trip in hopes of adding a couple other species that had been around earlier this summer but that would not be the case. One, the Plain-capped Starthroat (hummingbird) is still here but on private property. Last year it moved from the private property about this time in August to the Ash Canyon B&B where we were this morning viewing many hummingbird including several Lucifer's but the Starthroat had not shown up yet. We may read about it after we return home showing up at Mary Jo's. Oh well, maybe another time.

Sherry Hagen, Happy Birding



Oil at the Port of Vancouver

Last spring, the Port of Vancouver approached us and other groups about their plans to develop a terminal for oil brought in, by train, from North Dakota. The oil would be put on vessels and taken up to the Bellingham area for refining.

This presents a dilemma for us. We have had a good relationship with the port in the last several years. But, oil Should there be a spill from the train in the Columbia River Gorge, especially at the wrong time of year, it would be disastrous for salmon and other fishes. It could harm birds, also. Then, there is the problem of carbon emissions. If (or when) the oil is burned in a internal combustion engine, it will contribute to global warming. Also, the oil is extracted from the Bakken formation and requires fracking to get at it.

The Port held a couple of workshops, one on the safety of handling oil and another on the permitting process. I was unable to attend, but Sydney Reisbick did. It seems all optimistic. Then there was the accident in that town in Quebec, Canada, and it seemed that everyone was ready to pause for awhile. The Columbia Riverkeeper, an organization whose goal is the protection of the Columbia River, has appeared to take the lead in opposition to the oil terminal.

The Port had another workshop, open to the public, in July to hear a presentation by Tesoro, the company who had requested the oil terminal, on an overview of the project. The crowd overflowed the port's meeting room. Many of the people were from Oregon. All those who spoke that I heard opposed the project. Nevertheless, the next morning during its regular monthly meeting, the Port commissioners approved the lease to Tesoro. Which surprised a lot of us, because we thought there might be a delay in the decision.

At the VAS board meetings in June and again in August, we discussed the oil issue. In May, we decided on a position of cautious neutrality. That was before the Port commissioners voted to approve the lease. Approval of the lease is the first step, however. There will, of course, be environmental review on the state level. The proposal will go through the *Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council)*, which will make a recommendation to Governor Inslee, who will make the final decision. The VAS board thought we might make a statement during the

process (and at the final workshop, I wrote a short comment asking the commissioners to consider the Columbia River and global climate change), but would prefer to have the Columbia Riverkeeper take the lead. What do you think? If you have an opinion, talk to any member of the board.

What Happened Since Last June

When last we left the doings of the county commissioners ... Like any soap opera, the story continues. Since the park parking fees were removed (leaving a hole in the parks budget, which was filled from the general fund, leaving a hole in the general budget), there have been stories in the *Columbian* about a perceived increase in vandalism and other unpleasant behavior. The commissioners, despite advice from the county auditor, treasurer, and assessor, as well as numerous citizens, the did suspend the traffic impact fees and planning fees. Any problems from that will be apparent later. The commissioners did not move the citizens' comment portion of their public hearings from the beginning to the end of the hearings. Too much citizen flak. The commissioners voted to start the process towards the county adopting a new charter. The proposal will appear on the ballot this November, as well as a very large number of people running for the position freeholders. The freeholders will develop the proposed charter that will be voted on later.

And, the commissioners have approved six measures to go on the ballot in November on an advisory vote, thereby spending another \$100,000 the county can ill afford. Five of the six have to do with transportation, and of course, anything to do with transportation can directly and indirectly affect birds. (The sixth advocates shortening the time that people can use personal fireworks around the Fourth of July -- not necessarily affecting birds unless decreasing the time in which there is a chance someone would set the woods -- or suburbs -- on fire is counted.) I will speak of the three bridge measures: one for each commissioner. Meilke wants a bridge west of I-5, and it could have a nasty impact on birds, depending on where it went. Madore wants one east of I-205 and that could increase sprawl, which would hurt habitat. Stuart wants simply to replace the old I-5 bridge. The resolutions for these measures have a lot of the quality of dreamland to them. M and M apparently believe we can build a brand new bridge for \$900 million, including obtaining the right of way through some expensive real estate, and without talking to Oregon. The other two measures are light rail and the proposed bus rapid transit corridor for Fourth Plain.

Gretchen Starke



Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2013

North Central Washington is home to some of the most amazing species in the northwest, but many people don't know it is also a major pit stop for hawks flying from Alaska to the southwest and Mexico. This September is a great opportunity to learn about this amazing migration, and get face-to-face with raptors of all shapes and sizes. Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International for the third annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This festival coincides with the peak of southbound raptor migration at Chelan Ridge—the best place in Washington to view this journey. This family event combines free activities in Pateros with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. Please join us for the 2013 festival!

Saturday Sept. 14, 2013
Memorial Park, Pateros
8 AM - 3 PM

- ✦ Activities for the whole family. Free!
- ✦ Environmental education and interpretation-- learn all about migrating raptors and the ecosystems on which they depend
- ✦ See live raptors up close, from the Okanogan Wildlife League
- ✦ Hands-on projects for kids, including owl pellet dissections!
- ✦ Shop vendors: arts, books, optics, birding gear, and more

Catch shuttles for field trips to the spectacular Chelan Ridge raptor migration site. Chelan Ridge sits 5,675 feet above sea level along the flyway for migrating raptors like the Broad-winged Hawk. Biologists who live at the Ridge during the migration season will tell how the birds are studied and tracked. See raptors like Sharp-shinned Hawks as they are banded and released. This is an amazing experience with environmental education and interpretation conducted by an on-site educator and Forest Service personnel. **(Please note: field trips are restricted to people ages 11 and above.)**

To reserve a spot on the shuttle to Chelan Ridge, please go to the [registration page](#) on the [HawkWatch International](#) website.

More Birding Opportunities:

Field Trip: Birding field trip to Wells Wildlife Area, located between Brewster and Bridgeport. We will walk through managed shrubby uplands and riparian habitat, on dirt

roads. Target birds include migrating warblers, thrushes, and waterfowl. Some highlights from last year include Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Lazuli Bunting, Orange-crowned Warbler and Palm Warbler! Please meet in Pateros Memorial Park, at 8:00 a.m. for a departure at 8:10 a.m. We will return to Pateros at 12:00 p.m. Participants will carpool (about a 15 minute drive) to the Wells Wildlife Area parking lot, where a Discovery Pass is required. Bring sunscreen, a hat and insect repellent.

Leaders: Jenny Graevell and Meredith Spencer

Group size limited to 20 people. Sign up by emailing Richard Scranton at rscran@aol.com

...and more CELEBRATION.....

A guest speaker Saturday night, Sept. 14th, and field trip the following day at North Cascades Basecamp, Mazama, WA. For more information please visit the [North Cascades Basecamp](#) website. To register/RSVP for these events, call the Basecamp at 509-996-2334, or email info@northcascadesbasecamp.com.

Still have questions?

Please email: rscran@aol.com or call Richard Scranton: 509-421-3166.

BirdFest

Ridgefield NWR
October 5th & 6th

Most Events are free.

www.RidgefieldFriends.org



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My last column, written this Spring, was still mentioning the arrival of the last of our breeding birds that winter in the tropics. Many of these neo-tropical migrants had finished their nesting and were starting to wander in preparation of their journey back south by early August. Shorebirds are among the first migrants from the arctic to arrive here, with some appearing as early as mid-July. Violet-green Swallows and Rufous Hummingbirds will be gone by early September and by October, finding any vireo or warbler will be exciting. Timing and location are what makes a bird an unusual or rare sighting, any bird that has wandered out of its normal range or is present in the wrong season is fun to see. And these Fall and Spring periods of migration are when we can have some of our most exciting birding as the birds are actively moving and there is always the potential to find something unexpected.

Vancouver Audubon was the host chapter for the first National Audubon Society (NAS) Convention in about fifteen years. This meeting of over 360 people from all across the country took place from July 12 to July 15, at the Skamania Lodge. Our chapter members did a fantastic job of providing information to visitors, leading morning bird walks and field trips for this collection of movers and shakers from across the nation and several other countries. I received many thanks from attendees for the friendly and helpful interactions they had with our members.

July 3. Randy Hill reported a single non-breeder **BONAPARTE'S GULL** at Canvasback Lake, on the River S Unit at the Ridgefield NWR. Several **GREATER YELLOWLEGS**, **LEAST SANDPIPERS**, and a couple **WESTERN SANDPIPERS** were most likely southbound birds whose nests had failed in their Arctic breeding grounds. Two **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were at South Big Lake. And **BLACK TERNS** continued to be seen at West Lake off the Kiwa Trail where they were nesting.



July 26. several **BLACK SWIFTS** were seen in Skamania County by Carol Riddell. These birds are occasionally spotted during late summer in the county but are not known to nest in our area.

July 27. the continuing male **HOODED WARBLER** was seen by Cathy Flick and Stewart Fletcher on the Cape Horn Trail.

WILSON'S WARBLERS were among the early migrants being seen at lower elevations with birds reported in the Battle Ground yards of both Jim Danzenbaker and Bob Flores. We had also began to see them at our place on Mt.

Pleasant in Skamania County.

July 31, a mixed flock of migrants were moving through the fog at our place, we identified **1 DUSKY FLYCATCHER**, **1 WARBLING VIREO**, **5 BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS**, and **3 WILSON'S WARBLERS**. Thinking that this might be a good day to check for shorebirds, which are a tough group to find in Skamania County, Susan and I birded our way up into Klickitat County without even being able to find a Killdeer. We did have better luck at the Lyle-Balch Cemetery in Klickitat County, where we found **2 ACORN WOODPECKERS**, **3 ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS**, **2 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES**, **8 WESTERN BLUEBIRDS** and **6 LESSER GOLDFINCHES**.



Aug.4. At least three **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** were found on the Carty Unit of the Ridgefield NWR by Ron Friesz. He also had a single **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** in the pond below the Plankhouse there.

While scouting for some of the field trips for the National Audubon Conference, Eric Bjorkman, Les Carlson, Steven Clark and I visited the FR8040 Road several times. This road, north of Trout Lake, leads into the site of the 2012 Cascade Creek forest fire on the slopes on Mt. Adams. The fire burnt hot and sterilized the ground and there are huge areas without any vegetation coming up yet, but it is already a great spot to look for woodpeckers. We found **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER**, **BLACK-BACKED** and **THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS**, beginning next year this will be one of the VAS field trip destinations.



The 2013 Cumulative County Bird List for Clark County is at 209 species reported as of the first of August and for Skamania County the list was at 176 birds. To see the list go to the VAS website where there is a link to the Cumulative List Project. You can also view this newsletter online there several weeks earlier than the printed version. Please continue to send your sightings to me for this column and the cumulative check list.

Wilson Cady gorgebirds@juno.com

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.*



September 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.

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